

FAMILY INITIATIVE KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

*We used a good deal of space in our first three issues describing the planning process we've implemented to help us build the **jersey shore Q spot**. Now it's time to put some of that planning into action. Here now, an update on progress made by the Family Initiative and the steps to be taken by the Health and Youth Initiatives in the coming months.*

As noted by MaryAnn Vitiello in this issue's Message from the Chair, working to build the **jersey shore Q spot** can be very challenging. Not to mention time consuming, frustrating, and exhausting. But just when you begin to think you might have had enough; just when you begin to think perhaps none of the effort is really worth it, something surprising happens - something that reenergizes your spirit - something that refocuses your drive.

And so it was on the early morning of June 17th - the day Vitiello had invited anyone interested to meet and begin work on our Family Initiative, the **Q spot's** effort to create a supportive community network for GLBT families. You would probably expect that on an early Saturday morning in June everyone would have almost anything better to do. But not so - much to Vitiello's delight, eight volunteers showed up.

And as if their appearance wasn't surprise enough, to learn that they had come from as far away as Manchester in Ocean County and that they ranged in age from 14 to 55+, stopped Vitiello in her tracks. "But there they were," she said "the beginnings of what is sure to be a permanent **Q spot** effort - ready, willing and more than able to do their part for the cause."

In that first meeting, the group consisting of moms, dads, grandparents, step-parents, and a teenager identified a pair of co-leaders, Jamie Nappi of Ocean, and Liz Bennet, of Oakhurst, [Vitiello will serve a liaison to the Board of Trustees] and discussed a number of specific areas of interest and issues they'd like the Initiative to pursue. They also agreed on an initiative mission - to develop activities and programs that enhance relationship building and fellowship within the GLBT family community.

At its second meeting on July 1st, the group was joined by three additional volunteers (and three children who formed our first ad-hoc play group), who helped to identify specific activities that might be organized by the Initiative or in which the Initiative might participate in the coming months. "There is a serious lack of services of any kind for GLBT families in either Monmouth or Ocean Counties, so the ideas were flying," said Vitiello. "But for the immediate future, we are looking at participating in the Lambda Families Beach Party [currently planned to be held in Bradley Beach on August 13th] and organizing a children's and teen's Halloween event."

The Initiative is also actively exploring the establishment of a PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - www.pflag.com) chapter for Monmouth County. Representatives of the group have been invited to attend the August 9th meeting of the Ocean County chapter in furtherance of that goal.

In an effort to reach out to other, better-established GLBT
continues on page 4

Q spot - sponsored
GLBT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING

Sundays - 7:00 p.m.
beginning August 6, 2006

Trinity Church
503 Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 FAMILY INITIATIVE
- 2 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
CONTACT INFORMATION
- 3 REMEMBERING JOEY D.
- 4 HEALTH INITIATIVE UPDATE
A SUMMER OF QUESDAYS

OUR MISSION

The **jersey shore Q spot**, a program of the **Jersey Shore Community Center Project**, was established to address the unique needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals living in and around Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. Its mission is to foster the health, well being and pride of Monmouth and Ocean County's GLBT community. Through its provision of resources, referrals and general support, the **jersey shore Q spot** cares for individuals, groups and families in need and provides public education and outreach services that empower GLBT individuals and families to live their lives in freedom and dignity.

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

For the time being, our home is virtual. We're coordinating all our activities through our mailing address, our mailing lists and our website. For more information, or to volunteer or make a donation:

FOR U.S. MAIL:

57 So. Main St. #234
Neptune, NJ 07753

ON THE INTERNET:

www.jsQspot.org
info@jsqspot.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jersey Shore Community Center Project
MaryAnn Vitiello, chairperson
Jim Nappi, vice chair and acting treasurer
Donna Harrison, Trustee
Sue Henderson, Trustee
Christopher James, trustee
Brent Pawlecki, trustee

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THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES DONNA HARRISON

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the addition of Donna Harrison to its ranks. Donna has lived with her partner, Kathy, in Asbury Park since 2000. They share their home with 4 furry felines (Clara, Lucy, Ethel and Mr. Fluffy). In her spare time, Donna works as a consultant for a software company and she and Kathy own and operate Wish You Were Here, a coffee bistro and gelateria at 612 Cookman Avenue in Asbury Park. Donna will serve as Board of Trustees liaison to the **Q spot's** Senior Initiative.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Challenge – v. to invite someone to participate in a fight, contest or competition; to dare somebody to do something, call something into question by demanding an explanation, justification or proof; to stimulate somebody to produce; to test one's abilities.


The journey to establish the **jersey shore Q spot** has been filled with challenges in the most diverse sense of the word. Growing from just an idea to an organization has been an enlightening experience for all of us that share the **Q spot** vision. In April, the **Q spot** lost a dear friend and Trustee, Joe D'Andrea. Joe was passionate, community minded and tireless in his efforts to build not only the **Q spot** but several other community-based organizations. Joe challenged all of us to give our best and we remain committed to doing so. Our lead article in this issue highlights Joe and some of his accomplishments. He is missed by many.

The search for a **Q spot** "home" continues as our search committee is working daily with realtors who are generously donating their time and effort. In addition to our limited budget, there are other challenges to finding the right location for the **Q spot**. These include proper and adequate access for the physically challenged, proximity to public transportation, and a place that feels safe and one in which we can grow.

There are many challenges that we face as we develop the **Q spot** into the full service GLBT community center it is destined to be. As you will read in this issue, our special Initiative programs are launching, with volunteers coming in from all over the tri-state area, not just Monmouth and Ocean counties. They bring an amazing array of expertise in many areas and are committed to building the **Q spot**. This is an exciting time for us as we are finalizing plans to support a Gay AA meeting, and a parenting group, as well as working towards supporting a Monmouth County-based PFLAG chapter. We are also planning to provide meeting space for a teen rap group, and Latino youth group.

Though the challenges are many, we are moving forward daily and invite you to join us. The **Q spot** is looking for a few good men and women. Are you up for the challenge?

— *MaryAnn Vitiello, Chairperson*



**there's more to
japanese food
than sushi**

TAKA

lunch wed-sun: noon-3:30pm - dinner wed-sun: 5-10pm
632 mattison avenue - asbury park - (732) 775-1020

REMEMBERING JOEY D

*“Death comes to all
but great achievements raise a monument
which shall endure until the sun grows old.”*

- George Fabricius, 'In Praise of Georgius Agricola'



Joe D'Andrea - 1954-2006

On April 30, 2006, the Jersey Shore's GLBT community suffered a devastating loss when our own Joe D'Andrea died of a heart attack.

Joe was an integral part of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project. He was one of the first asked to participate and agreed to do so without hesitation. And until the very end his commitment to the Project never wavered.

Officially Joe was our corporate secretary. But the impact of his participation goes far beyond that simple title. Joe understood the need for thorough planning and the value of good organization. He was responsible for introducing us to Beth Applegate, the nationally renowned management consultant who is guiding us through our strategic planning process; he designed and administered our website, our main avenue of communication with the community; and he developed the concept for and produced every *Quesdays* program until his death. He also led the effort to publish the first three issues of *You and the Q* and he organized and managed our enormously successful needs assessment survey project.

Joe was clearly not afraid to “get his hands dirty”. And with his concern for diversity and his interest in understanding the needs of the community, he was equally willing to lead us in the development of corporate principles and policies that will forever shape the Project's character.

But that was not unlike Joe, for as much as he dedicated himself to the Project and our establishment of the **Q spot**, he was also running his own business, designing and administering his very popular GayAsburyPark.com, and



To honor his memory, friends of Joey D. took to the streets in the Jersey Pride parade in June.

devoting his energies to other community-based organizations, most recently Asbury Park Action Campaign, and the Center in Asbury Park. Joe was also a founding member of the Asbury Park Marketing Fund, the group responsible for the very successful annual Road Trip weekends, and he served a brief stint on the Board of Directors of Garden State Equality.

There is no question that Joe will be sorely missed. But those of us who knew and admired him will be forever grateful that we had even a brief time with him and we are certain that his numerous achievements will ensure that his spirit lives on for a long time to come. **Q**

IN HIS HONOR

Since his death, many people have asked how we can honor Joe D'Andrea. With the support of his partner, Will Elliott, the boards of four Asbury Park organizations Joe helped found or supported - the Project, Asbury Park Action Campaign, the Asbury Park Marketing Fund, and the Center in Asbury Park - came together and formed the Joe D'Andrea Memorial Fund, which will be the inaugural capital campaign to support our establishment of the **Q spot**.

Of all his many interests, Joe's biggest dream was to find the **Q spot** a home that would become the physical epicenter of the Monmouth and Ocean GLBT community. But that dream takes money. Lots of it.

That is where the Joe D'Andrea Memorial Fund comes in. We believe the best way to honor our remarkable friend and leader is to ensure that his final dream becomes a reality. And once opened, the wall of the **Q spot's** main meeting room will hold a plaque and picture dedicating that room to Joe as a monument to his contributions to our community.

**If you are interested in supporting the Fund,
please send your donation to
JSCCP - Joe's Fund
57 South Main Street, #234
Neptune, NJ 07753**

HEALTH INITIATIVE UPDATE

As noted below, at press time, the *Q spot's* Health Initiative had not yet held its formal kick off meeting. But that doesn't mean its Board of Trustees liaison, Dr. Brent Pawlecki, has been sitting idle. In addition to developing a detailed work plan for the Initiative, on the evening of July 10th, Dr. Pawlecki took to the podium at a *Quesdays* program focusing on the prospects of the coming flu pandemic and what we can do to minimize its impact.

The presentation fell directly in line with Dr. Pawlecki's duties as Associate Medical Director for Pitney Bowes, Inc., which include responsibility for directing the company's efforts to develop and implement, if necessary, a plan for continuing operations in the midst of a global medical emergency. In addition to the commonly recommended practices of getting a flu vaccination, washing your hands frequently, and concentrating on staying healthy now, Dr. Pawlecki strongly urged those in attendance to complete the Pandemic Influenza Planning Guide for Individuals and Families published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which can be found at www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/guide.pdf.

At press time, the Health Initiative was scheduled to hold its first formal meeting on Saturday, July 29th. We'll report more fully on the results of that meeting in our next issue, but the proposed agenda includes setting to work on establishing a *Q spot* Health Initiative website and establishing a *Q spot* health services provider referral network. **Q**

FAMILY INITIATIVE (continued from page 1)

family groups the *Q spot* has also become a member of The Family Pride Coalition (www.familypride.org), a Washington, DC-based, non-profit, advocacy group strictly dedicated to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) parents and their families, and the above-mentioned Lambda Families of New Jersey (www.rainbowfamiliesnj.org), a Maplewood-based advocacy and support group for GLBT parents, families and those GLBT individuals who seek to become parents.

"For me, this effort has been a revelation," said Vitiello. "I knew we wouldn't have a huge number of people turnout to help, but what we lack in numbers we definitely make up in interest and commitment."

The Family Initiative will meet again on Saturday, August 5th, 8:30 a.m., at Wish You Were Here coffee and gift shop, 612 Cookman Avenue, Asbury Park. **Q**

A SUMMER OF QUESDAYS

Our *Quesdays* program of workshops, seminars and panel discussions rolls on through the summer with a series of presentations and events meant to appeal to a variety of interests in our GLBT community.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Where: TAKA, 632 Mattison Avenue, AP
Time: Doors open at 7:00 pm for social time; program begins at 7:30 pm
Cost: \$5 suggested donation (more if / less if)
Refreshments: Coffee, soft drinks, dessert snacks.

August 14, 2006

The State of Gay & Lesbian Adoption in New Jersey

Speaker: Debra E. Guston, Esq. - Partner, Guston & Guston, Glen Rock

Synopsis: A review of New Jersey laws regarding adoption by gay and lesbian individuals.

August 28, 2006

Art Collecting and Appraisal: A Study of Works on Paper

Speaker: Rose O'Connor-Myer – Principal Fine Art Appraiser and Consultant, Art Research Associates, Allenhurst

Synopsis: A review of the processes employed to create works of art on paper, along with a discussion of what gives those works value. Attendees will be challenged to appraise various original works presented by the speaker.

September 11, 2006

Nutrition and Fitness: Keeping Your "Summer Body" All Year Long

Speakers: Tom Bilella - Founder and Director, Nutrition Treatment Center, Red Bank and
 Fred Fernicola - President and Personal Trainer, Premiere Personal Fitness, Asbury Park

Synopsis: A presentation of nutrition and fitness tips that can help you get and stay healthier, even if you are surrounded by holiday cookies!

September 25, 2006

Quesdays Author Series

Speaker: To Be Announced.

Unless otherwise noted, all *Quesdays* programs are open to the general public and take place in a wheelchair accessible location.