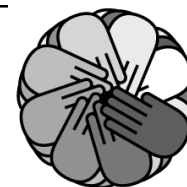


Insights



The Newsletter of the Discovery Community, Inc.

May 9, 2006

A Discovery Summer Retreat

Saturday, July 1 - Tuesday, July 4th

Stillheart Retreat Center, Woodside

Limited beds spaces available!!!

While we are saddened that Saratoga Springs was not able to host our retreat this year on Memorial day (they are doing a fundraiser for a local charity that weekend), Discovery is indeed very lucky to return to Stillheart this summer for a unique retreat experience. This will be Stillheart's last retreat of the season as they will close July 5th to begin construction for about 6 months. As we don't know what price structure they may have post construction, this may be our last opportunity to enjoy their magnificent facility.

Stillheart has 16 acres of hiking trails, a large indoor pool, an outdoor hot tub/spa, a small exercise facility, two massage rooms, two steam rooms, and two saunas. The accommodations are very comfortable and offer private decks/patios and baths. We have hired a new caterer for this retreat who has prepared a great and plentiful menu for us. It's important to register early because there's only enough space for 34 of us!

Throughout the weekend, you will have opportunities to hike in the beautiful redwood setting, take a workshop, play games, read a good book, dance the night away— whatever feels good for you. And don't forget our memorable Talent/No Talent Show. Remember, at Discovery, we promote a safe and non-judgmental atmosphere, personal growth, community, and friendship. With this in mind, all our events, including weekend retreats are drug and alcohol free. We look forward to seeing you at this retreat.

If anyone is interested in offering an activity or workshop at the retreat, please contact Joseph Coleman at joleman1@yahoo.com before June 10. Please watch your email for messages from "Discovery Community Announcements" for upcoming details about the retreat.

Registrations will begin May 9 on our website: www.discovery-community.org or go directly to <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=111108>.

See you there!

Presidents Day Retreat — “Jumping Your Hurdles” by Joseph Coleman

Whenever we go on these 3 day retreats, there is always high expectation of the fun and meaningful times we will share. Our 2nd year at Brooktrails Lodge for President's Day was no different. There were a ton of fun times, some meaningful ones, and some we wondered if they actually happened. First of all let me thank all twenty men who attended the sometimes chilly retreat. The memorable love and generosity of our members warmed our hearts and bodies.

Presidents day weekend started as most retreats do with a little bit of apprehension and funny little glitches that make us a unique men's group in our own right (nobody's perfect). This retreat was memorable for many reasons. Discovery bought and inaugurated a new sound system, which was a huge success for the talent/no talent show as well as the successful dance workshop facilitated by Barry Zeve. Now that we have it you can bet it will improve the quality of future retreats, events, and other occasions where we will use it to its full potential. One of the other memorable moments was when the retreat site ran out to propane to heat the lodge and cook our meals on Saturday morning. In true Discovery spirit the volunteers and members took it in stride and were quite resilient. Some volunteers ran into town to prepare a buffet of other breakfast foods. The facility had the lodge back up and running by lunch time, and we were glad we jumped that hurdle. Brooktrails was very apologetic and have offered us a discount for our next retreat there.

Hats off to Lee Robins who led a brilliant exercise based on the work of Kagen, which actually began on the trip/carpool up to the retreat, and then progressed into the first night's large group exercise with it's finale on Monday. This was truly eye opening for all who attended. Other workshop facilitators include David Hedden and David Brin, Mark Rumpler, Barry Zeve, Joseph Coleman, Bob Keveess, and Jerry Maynard. Thank you goes out to, Jon, Barry, John, Bill, Mark who got up extra early Saturday and Sunday to open up our breakfast café. The talent no talent show was of course funny and moving, and had two dance routines that can only be called mesmerizing. A special thank you goes to Jon Simunovich-Audron and John Melvin who co-emceed the show. One last thing that made this retreat most memorable for me was working with a retreat committee who gave so selfishly of their time and energy: Bill Stewart, Bob Keveess, Lee Robbins, and George Fuentes.

(Cont'd page 3)

A Message from the President

Dear Friends:

Each year, the Board of Directors of Discovery gathers for a full day of strategic planning where we set the goals for our year of work on behalf of the community. At the board retreat this year in January, the board set out some key tasks and principles to guide our work over the year. I want to report to you on the current goals of the board and ways all of us can be involved in achieving those goals for Discovery. Although these are listed, they are in no order of priority.

1. Board Recruitment – Discovery needs to find ways to enroll new board candidates in a more timely and effective manner. Oft times there are fewer candidates than there are positions, and recruiting candidates can be labor intensive for those involved.
2. Develop a system to promote leadership in Discovery – Are there ways or systems we can put in place to help promote new leaders within Discovery? How can we ease transition from one committee chair to another? This might include a mentorship program, assistant leaders on committees, etc.
3. Improvements to the Board election process – While the board did pass a comprehensive election policy in 2005, some changes will be needed to improve the transition from one board to another and the clarify some of the procedures.
4. Increase community involvement – Can we find ways to increase the number of ways people can be involved in implementing our activities? Are there ways to increase the number of people involved in carrying the load of work for Discovery? How can we increase the sense of ownership of our members for the success and health of the organization?
5. Develop more workshops and workshop leaders
6. Reexamine programming for Thanksgiving – Should we bring back the Thanksgiving retreat?
7. Develop volunteer coordination – Build a system that recruits, supports, and acknowledges our wonderful volunteers
8. Revise the By-Laws – Discovery's By-Laws need some minor updating to account for new ways of doing business (such as email) and to incorporate new policies as passed by boards since the inception of the non-profit organization.

President's Day Retreat (cont'd)

Working on a committee is hard work and can be a labor of love; when it's all over you've become closer, and more grounded with the men who attended and gave of their time. My love goes out to all who worked on and who made the "Jumping Your Hurdles" Presidents Day Retreat 2006 a success, including Ben T., Andrew W., Jim B., Mark H., Ernie H., Jack M., Mick P., Gary W. and of course Lorenzo. All of you guys made a difference.

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San Francisco CA 94114 (415) 419-3559
www.discovery-community.org

Message from the President cont'd

Needless to say, the current 7 board members will not be able to complete these tasks alone. So to begin we have recruited two special task forces to look at some of these broader issues. These task forces will meet for about 6 months and provide recommendations to the board for implementation. The Retreat Advisory Task Force will be headed up by Matt Scovern and includes David Hedden, and Bob Keves. This task force will look to codify for future committees how best to organize and produce a retreat, find new and better retreat sites for our use, recruit new workshop leaders and develop new workshops, and will examine the question of the Thanksgiving retreat. The second task force is devoted to Leadership and Participation and will be chaired by Gary Winter who has already done an extraordinary job recruiting members of Discovery into these and other committees. Gary will be joined by Howard Steiermann, Jerry Maynard and Andrew Wicker. This task force will work on a number of the goals listed above that center around volunteer recruitment and leadership development. Many thanks to all those who volunteer on these task forces as well as our regular committees.

Each committee of Discovery will also focus on these goals as well as others that didn't make the top 10. How can you be involved is up to you. There are opportunities to serve on all our committees, including the board of directors. We are currently recruiting for our Labor Day committee at Saratoga Springs. Come the fall, perhaps you would like to get involved with our holiday festivities on Halloween, Thanksgiving or our annual Holiday Party? Perhaps you have some other way to get involved? No problem. We aim to include everyone who is interested in making Discovery a better organization.

Many thanks again to all of you who volunteer with us or have done so in the past. You know Discovery is nothing without the inspiration and wonderful efforts of its community members. We, as a board, hope to build on your efforts and increase the ownership we all feel for this community. Please contact us if you have any questions about this work or to get involved at www.discovery-community.org or call us at 415-419-3559.

Sending much love to you all,
Mark — President, Board of Directors

Volunteer Corner

Discovery could not exist without its many volunteers who make it all happen. Thank you for all your contributions. Please contact Gary Winter if you can help out with any of these needs at garyxyz3@aol.com or call us at 415-419-3559.

- Labor Day Retreat Committee – Help plan the next retreat at Saratoga Springs
- Pride Fundraiser and Booth – We need lots of guys on June 25th to raise money and spread the word
- Newsletter Designer – Help give a face lift to our quarterly newsletter
- Workshop Leaders – Lead a workshop or fun activity at an upcoming retreat or event
- Any of our standing committees can use your help - Social Committee, Fundraising Committee, Board of Directors.

Pride Fundraiser—June 25, 2006

As many of you may recall, Pride last year was a very special one for Discovery. For the first time, Discovery was accepted as the recipient of a community grant for non-profits provided by the Pride committee. We are happy to say we have been accepted again to receive this grant.

Last year, over 20 of our members donned their sunscreen and Discovery t-shirts to aid the Pride committee in raising money. Monies raised at the beverage booths and gate donations are divided among all the grant recipients according to the number of volunteer shifts provided by each organization. We staffed over 30 volunteer shifts of 2 hours and Discovery were granted just short of \$2000. Many thanks to all of you who made it happen. I know they will welcome us back with open arms because Discovery did a great job at raising money at the event.

To be involved this year, simply contact Dennis Hasty (dennyhasty@aol.com) to sign up for a 2.5 hour shift. All you need to do is to show up, take peoples donations as they enter and you are done. It was fun and easy and was a great benefit to our and other non-profit organizations.

In addition to the fundraising, we will be staffing our outreach booth at the pride festival on Sunday. While we know it is a lot to ask, please consider providing a shift raising money at the gate and also staffing the booth at the festival. This is one of the main ways we get the word out about Discovery and we thank you in advance for your generous efforts.

Discovery Social Committee—A Season of Fun

Our small, but active social committee is proud to bring you fun events throughout the year. In months where there is no retreat, we plan activities that help bring us all together for fun and to keep our connections building between retreats. Here's a recap of our most recent events and a preview of things to come.

On Saturday, January 21, Games Night took place at the home of Lee Robbins, not far from Castro and Market. About 18 men enjoyed a great evening of Taboo, Guesstures, and Pictionary.

On Saturday, March 25, thirty men came out for bowling at the Yerba Buena Center lanes near the Moscone Center and Metreon in SF. Aside from our year-end Holiday Party, bowling is one of our best-attended and most enjoyable events. The dashing Elmer Go, event coordinator extraordinaire, greeted a number of men new to Discovery and then led a group of about seventeen to dinner afterwards in the food court of the Sony Metreon. Great job, Elmer!

On Saturday, April 22, about twenty men showed up at Castro and Market Streets for a guided walking tour of the Castro. Despite the planning and even re-confirming the event the day before, the guide from City Guides didn't show up. Making lemonade from lemons, most of the twenty men switched gears and hiked up to the top of nearby Corona Heights for an amazing 360-degree view and photo session.

Cont'd next column

Want to Donate?

As a 501(c)3 organization, all your donations to Discovery Community are tax-deductible. Your donations help us meet our operating expenses, provide sponsorships, and produce free social events. Simply fill out this form, enclose a check or put your credit card information below and send to:

Discovery Community
2215R Market Street, PMB#282
San Francisco, CA 94114

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Card Type: AMEX VISA MC DISCOVER

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Want to Volunteer?

Discovery can always use your help. Do you have a special skill we don't know about? Do you want to plan or throw fabulous events? Do you want to work on retreats? Fundraise? Let us know. Contact us at (415) 419-3559 or www.discovery-community.org

Discovery Social Committee—A Season of Fun cont'd

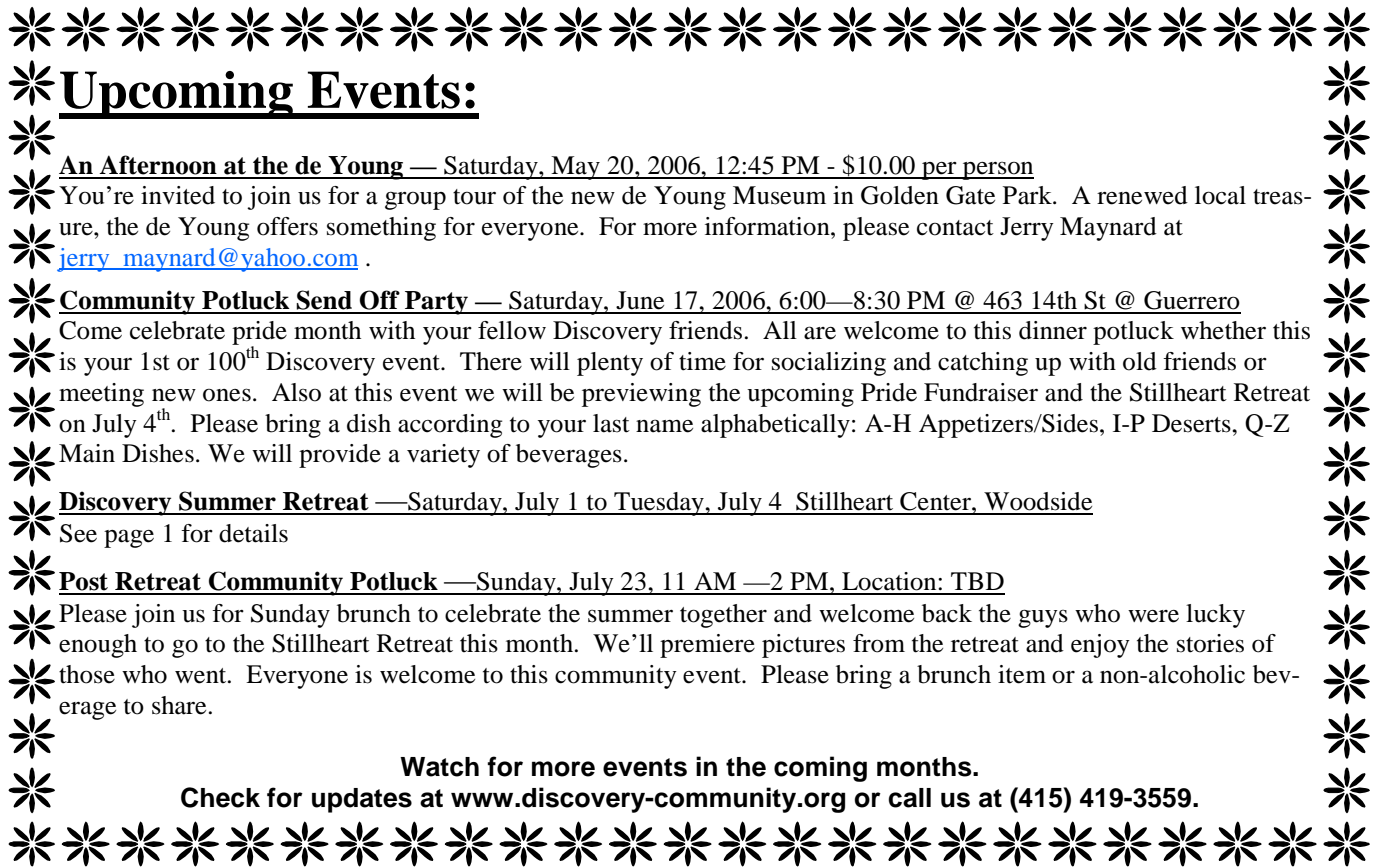
A delightful lunch followed at Asqew Grill in the Castro, complete with a shared gargantuan banana split for dessert. While all Corona Heights/Asqew Grill attendees reported they had a wonderful time, we apologize for any inconvenience to those who attended. We will examine whether to re-run this event in the future.

Future events include a tour of the spectacular De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, May 20, coordinated by our own Jerry Maynard. Stay tuned for more details. You won't want to miss this event. In June, we will gather for a Community Potluck on June 17 at the home of Mark and Matt to celebrate our Pride and get a preview of both our Pride Festival Fundraiser and the July 4 Retreat at Stillheart.

On SF Gay Pride Day, Sunday June 25, we'll be seeking volunteers for two reasons. We need men to take shifts to staff our Gay Pride outreach booth and to collect donations for the Gay Pride Committee at one of the designated admission points. Last year, thirty of us collected donations, for which the Pride Committee donated \$2000 to Discovery! Please email Dennis Hasty (dennyhasty@aol.com) or call and leave a message at (415)-419-3559 to volunteer and leave your contact info so we can get back to you. Many thanks in advance for your help.

We hope to see you at one of our many future events.

The Social Committee



*** Upcoming Events:**

*** An Afternoon at the de Young — Saturday, May 20, 2006, 12:45 PM - \$10.00 per person**
 * You're invited to join us for a group tour of the new de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. A renewed local treasure, the de Young offers something for everyone. For more information, please contact Jerry Maynard at jerry_maynard@yahoo.com .

*** Community Potluck Send Off Party — Saturday, June 17, 2006, 6:00—8:30 PM @ 463 14th St @ Guerrero**
 * Come celebrate pride month with your fellow Discovery friends. All are welcome to this dinner potluck whether this is your 1st or 100th Discovery event. There will plenty of time for socializing and catching up with old friends or meeting new ones. Also at this event we will be previewing the upcoming Pride Fundraiser and the Stillheart Retreat on July 4th. Please bring a dish according to your last name alphabetically: A-H Appetizers/Sides, I-P Deserts, Q-Z Main Dishes. We will provide a variety of beverages.

*** Discovery Summer Retreat — Saturday, July 1 to Tuesday, July 4 Stillheart Center, Woodside**
 * See page 1 for details

*** Post Retreat Community Potluck — Sunday, July 23, 11 AM —2 PM, Location: TBD**
 * Please join us for Sunday brunch to celebrate the summer together and welcome back the guys who were lucky enough to go to the Stillheart Retreat this month. We'll premiere pictures from the retreat and enjoy the stories of those who went. Everyone is welcome to this community event. Please bring a brunch item or a non-alcoholic beverage to share.

*** Watch for more events in the coming months.**
*** Check for updates at www.discovery-community.org or call us at (415) 419-3559.**