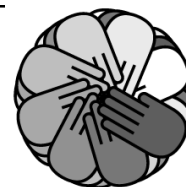


Insights



The Newsletter of the Discovery Community, Inc.

January 5, 2007

President's Day Weekend Retreat 2007

Friday February 16th - Monday, February 19th

Brooktrails Lodge—Willits, CA

Register Early for discounted prices!!!

"FINDING OUR WAY HOME AS GAY MEN"

In one of his novels, gay author Paul Monette states, "Home is that place you get to, not that place you came from." For many of us, finding a sense of belonging as gay men can be challenging. We invite you to join other Discovery men at cozy Brooktrails Lodge (www.brooktrailsloodge.com) to spend a weekend exploring what home means to us and where we find it. The retreat will include the usual heart circles, workshops, group experiences, good food, and plenty of time for rest and relaxation, spontaneity and hilarity. Please join us for a time of personal growth and community development.

Brooktrails Lodge is a wonderful site nestled in the redwoods. It features hiking trails, motel-style accommodations, and a large outdoor hot tub. There are great meeting rooms and even a dance hall with stage (for a great Talent/No Talent Show).

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 to you. Remember, at Discovery we promote a safe and non-judgmental atmosphere, personal growth, community, and friendship. With this in mind this event is drug and alcohol free. We look forward to seeing you at this retreat for a great kick-off to 2006.

The retreat committee is working to put together a variety of workshops and activities for the retreat. If you have a workshop idea or would like for the committee to consider an idea, please contact Don at retreats@Discovery-community.org or call the Discovery phone line (415-419-3559) and leave a message.

Registration opens Monday, January 8th. Simply go to <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevoid=125825> or visit our website, www.discovery-community.org and download a registration form and send it in. Early bird pricing is available through Jan 31!

Whether you are going on the retreat or not, don't miss the Send Off Party on Feb 11th!

A Season to Remember by Ed Tauscher

Our community had an awesome fall 2006, with three great and well attended events! Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful Halloween Costume Party held in October; the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner in November, and Discovery's annual Holiday Party held in December. Over 120 fabulous men from our community participated and contributed their time and talents to these three fall/winter events.

Discovery's last quarter of 2006 was a wonderfully fun time. It began with the Halloween Costume Party hosted by Matt Scovern and Mark Rumpel on Saturday Night, just before Halloween. The house was creepily decorated by a talented bunch of gay guys (who knew?) and looked amazing. Over 30 people attended, most in costume, and much fun was had during this successful event. Over 20 guys participated in the costume contest, with several winning prizes. Many thanks to all who made Discovery's 2nd annual Halloween Party a smashing success and especially to Mark and Matt for yet again, opening up their lovely home! Looking forward to this coming year's Halloween Party!

November brought Thanksgiving with Discovery which was hosted by long-time Discovery member, Tom Signore. Tom's beautiful Castro home was perfect for making this a truly memorable Thanksgiving. Thanks, Tom. 33 people attended and enjoyed fellowship, great food, and entertainment provided by the "Trio": Tom Signore, David Hedden and David Brin. Many thanks go to Mark Acampos and Lee Robbins for preparing the Turkeys and of-course to all attendees who brought fabulous side dishes. And thanks to the committee members Frank Burgoyne and Tim Covington.

Discovery's annual Holiday Party was held on the 9th of December at the home of Peter Galli and Ed Tauscher. Over 50 Discovery members attended our final event of the year. Many thanks go to Jerry Maynard who organized a successful silent auction enjoyed by all who attended the party. A gift exchange was organized by Randy Lowe where stealing of a few gifts brought many laughs from the crowd. Many thanks go to Peter and Ed for hosting this festive holiday event. Much gratitude too goes to those who contributed items for the silent auction and to those guys who purchased items. Together we raised over \$1000 for Discovery. A truly wonderful way to end Discovery's 2006! Here's looking forward to many happy fun times in 2007. Happy New Year to all!

Participation and Volunteer Corner by Gary Winter

One of the best ways to experience Discovery as a vibrant community of men, to forge closer ties with others, and to leave your own imprint on our community is by direct participation and volunteering. Fortunately there are numerous opportunities to get more involved. They range from one-time volunteering at a social or outreach event, to serving on a time-limited Retreat Organizing Committee, to being on a standing committee, such as a Social and Outreach Committee, to serving on the Board. Whatever your interest and time commitment may be, there is a place for you.

Currently, we are looking for men to help out in the following capacities:

- Members for the upcoming February 16-19 Retreat Planning Committee
- Members for the Social and Outreach Committee
- Men for the Memorial Day (May 25-28) Retreat Planning Committee
- Men to help out on Gay Pride Day (Sunday June 25, a one-time commitment) to staff the Discovery Information Booth and to collect donations at the Pride Festival site.

Please contact Gary at volunteer@discovery-community.org, or leave us a message at 415-553-4049 to volunteer or for other questions.

Special thanks go out to Jon Audron-Simunovich, Randy Lowe, Tim Covington, Ken Katen, and Lee Robbins of the Labor Day Retreat Planning Committee, to Ricardo Montero, Mark Rimpler, Jon Audron-Simunovich, Ken Katen, Randy Lowe, Ed Tauscher, Greg Sock, and Lee Robbins of the Halloween Party Committee, and to Tim Covington, Tom Signore, Lee Robbins and Frank Burgoyne of the Thanksgiving Day Committee.

Discovery at 20

2006 marked 20 years for Discovery serving the Gay and Bisexual men's community. Discovery has touched hundreds of lives over the years and it continues to play an important role in our community life. To mark this anniversary, a committee will be forming to create some events to celebrate Discovery for reaching this milestone and to help it reach ahead into the future. Please let us know if you are interested in joining this committee or if you have ideas about how to commemorate our anniversary. Write to Volunteer@discovery-community.org or call us at 415-419-3559. Keep watching the website for our events and updates.

Discovery Contact Information

Discovery Community, Inc.
2215-R Market Street PMB# 282
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 419-3559
www.discovery-community.org

What Makes Discovery Unique?

By Tim Covington

The Discovery Community is different from other gay organizations in many ways. There are certainly other organizations that cater to the gay and bisexual community, such as California Gay Men's Gathering, the Billy Club, the Body Electric and Flesh and Spirit among others. There are other organizations that offer event-specific personal growth content such as Esalen and Landmark. They are all successful organizations, but they do not offer what the Discovery Community does.

Discovery provides a welcoming environment in a range of activities, primarily its retreats (3 per year), but also its year-round social events. It is not an organization of walls and barriers and cliques but rather a group of men that makes it easy to feel comfortable and valued and easy to fit in.

Discovery's activities range from movies to plays to game nights to bowling and on. It is this very range of social gatherings that provides the kind of continuity needed to build community. Community building is part friendship building and part group building.

Discovery is more than a social club. Discovery's programs are designed to provide connection among men and to create enduring relationships, to one another and to the group as a whole. There are men who have been involved with Discovery since its beginning – 20 years ago. And there are new men joining the community all year every year.

Discovery is a "personal sized" organization. While hundreds of men have participated in Discovery events over time, the size of Discovery events is usually measured in dozens. We find that this is an optimal size to make introductions and form real contacts among one another.

Discovery provides a safe environment. Alcohol and drugs are excluded from its events. But at the same time, Discovery provides a playful environment that encourages person expression.

Discovery has a combination of traits that makes it unique among organizations promoting community among gay and bisexual men. Please consider joining us for one of our events. To attend one of our events, please visit our website at www.discovery-community.org or check out the events in this newsletter.

Discovery Member Events

In addition to Discovery sponsored events, you can now throw and promote a Discovery Member event for our community. Looking for guys to go to a movie with? Organize some Discovery guys to join you. Maybe meet for dinner. Whatever event you'd like other Discovery guys to join in on, fill out the form on our website and send it to our webmaster. If it passes our guidelines, we'll post it on our events page and include it in the weekly email. Let's increase the fun we are having, together!

New Board Elected—Jerry Maynard New President

Before we welcome new members, we must say goodbye to some old ones. Please join us in thanking Ricardo Montero for his tireless service on the Board as Vice President and as Social Committee Chair for the past 18 months. We will miss his warmth and keen intellect.

Please join us in welcoming the incoming board members: Ed Tauscher (incumbent), Jerry Maynard, Randy Lowe and Tim Covington. We are thrilled to welcome two new members, Tim Covington, a lawyer and a former board chair of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, and Randy Lowe, who has filled a host of duties for boards and non-profits over his career where he currently serves as Sr. Vice President and Diversity Officer for Union Bank. Members elect will be joining continuing board members: Lee Robbins, Gary Winter, Mark Rumpler, Joseph Coleman, and Don St. Louis. Officers were elected in December. Jerry Maynard was elected President. Please join together in welcoming Jerry, and wish him every success.

Please welcome the remaining officers for the new 06-07 board: Mark Rumpler, Vice-President; Ed Tauscher, Treasurer; Lee Robbins, Secretary

We are grateful to these guys for taking on these roles and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the community.

Many thanks also to outgoing officers who have just completed terms: Mark Rumpler as President, Ed Tauscher as Treasurer, Joseph Coleman as Secretary, and Ricardo Montero as Vice-President. We thank them for their service.

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 volunteer@discovery-community.org.



***Upcoming Events:**

* 1. Discovery Theatre Night - Join us on Friday January 19th, 7:15 PM, for a fun night of gay theatre. We've purchased a group rate of \$20 each for the tickets to see: **FARM BOYS**. Please meet at 7:15 at the New Conservatory Theatre (www.nctcsf.org), downstairs at 25 Van Ness Avenue @ Market. Please RSVP that you will be attending at Socials@discovery-community.org or call us at 415-419-3559. We have reserved 15 spaces.

* 2. President's Day Retreat 2007: "Finding Our Way Home as Gay Men"
February 16-19, 2007: Brooktrails Lodge, Willits.

* We invite you to join other Discovery men at cozy Brooktrails Lodge to spend a weekend exploring what home means to us and where we find it. The retreat will include a variety of workshops, group experiences, good food, and plenty of time for rest and relaxation, spontaneity and hilarity. Registration opens Monday, January 8th. Simply go to <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=125825> or visit the website and download a registration form and send it in. Early bird pricing is available through Jan 31!

* 3. Community Potluck: Send Off Party
Sunday, February 11, 12-3 PM Home of Matt and Mark, 463 14th Street @ Guerrero

* Please join us for Sunday brunch with your fellow Discovery friends. All are welcome to this brunch potluck whether it's your 1st or 100th Discovery event. This also serves as our send off party for those going on the President's Day Weekend retreat. If you are going on the retreat, this is your chance to sign up for a room, arrange carpooling, and get the scoop on some of the workshops. If you aren't going on the retreat, join us for a fun afternoon of socializing and help send off the guys for the weekend, see your old friends, and make some new ones. 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.**

