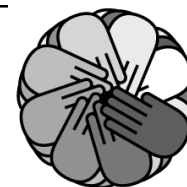


Insights



The Newsletter of the Discovery Community, Inc.

January 5, 2006

President's Day Weekend Retreat 2006

Friday February 17th - Monday, February 20th

Brooktrails Lodge—Willits, CA

Register Early for discounted prices!!!

President's Day Weekend Preview

"Jumping Your Hurdles; Taking Control of Your Life" will be the theme for the first retreat of 2006. For this retreat we will be returning to beautiful Brooktrails Lodge (www.brooktrailslodge.com) in Willits, CA.

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).

The retreat committee (Joseph Coleman, Bill Stewart, Bob Ke vess, Lee Robbins and George Fuentes) is working hard to put together a variety of workshops and activities for the retreat. The theme of the weekend centers on the fact that we all face hurdles in life. We can either choose to jump them and move past or we can let them become roadblocks to happiness. In our group activities we'll learn tools and techniques to understand our hurdles and get closer to our goals. Some of the topics to be covered will be self-exploration into life's challenges, appreciation, communication, spirituality, relationships, touch, and more. If you have a workshop idea or would like for the committee to consider an idea, please contact Bill Stewart (bill0070@hotmail.com) or call the Discovery phone line and leave a message.

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, all of our events, including weekend retreats, are drug and alcohol free. We look forward to seeing you at this retreat for a great kick-off to 2006. Register before February 1st for early bird pricing!

A Season to Remember

Our community had an awesome fall 2005, with three great and well attended events! Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful Halloween Costume Party held October 30th; the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner on November 24th, and Discovery's annual Holiday Party held on December 10th. Over 120 fabulous men from our community participated and contributed their time and talents to these three fall/winter events.

Discovery's first ever Halloween Costume Party, an idea that started in the Social Committee, was held at the beautiful Victorian house and office of realtor BJ Droubi in Noe Valley. This lovely venue was perfect for an exciting and fun-filled evening of "horror" and outrageous costumes, several of which were awarded prizes. Ed Tauscher, Mark Rumpler, Marty Soliz, Michael McDonald, Caloy Salvador, Elmer Go, and Mark Hartman did an outstanding job in organizing this event. Here's looking forward to Halloween 2006!

Giving Thanks with Discovery at our Thanksgiving dinner was an evening to remember! Jeff Chiu, Brett Garrett, Ed Tauscher, Frank Burgoyne, Marty Soliz, and Howard Steiermann created an elegant afternoon of socializing, singing and fun. Discovery provided the turkey, ham, stuffing and gravy, while attendees all brought a food or drink item to share, resulting in a great buffet dinner. This was followed by a sing-a-long around the piano, with much talent in evidence. Greg Sock traveled all the way from Portland, Oregon just to be with his Discovery "family"! Again, the beautiful home of BJ Droubi was the venue, elegantly complementing the warmth and cheer of Discovery's wonderful community of men who came together to celebrate a Discovery Thanksgiving.

Our 2005 annual Holiday Party was held at the welcoming and very festive home of Peter Galli and Ed Tauscher. Everyone brought delicious food and beverages to share, much holiday cheer and their friendly, warm personalities. A visit from "the Man in Red" topped off the event, with many wonderful gifts changing hands. The community once again showed its generosity with, among others, Jerry Maynard, Bob Ke vess, Elmer Go, Paul DiLeo, Peter Galli, and Matt Scovern all contributing items to the silent auction, which was a great success. Hats go off to Peter Galli, Ed Tauscher, Elmer Go, Mark Hartman, Gary Winter, Frank Burgoyne, Jerry Maynard, Matt Scovern, and Patrick Barresi for helping with this wonderful event – a perfect ending to a wonderful year with Discovery!

A Message from the President ***A Time For Reflection***

I have always enjoyed the turn of the New Year ever since I was a kid. It contains many rituals I like: bubbly beverages, kissing, staying up late, celebrating with friends, and starting anew. I also find myself feeling a sense of gratitude for the wonderful experiences of the past year and an excitement about what the future might hold. The turn of the New Year is always a contemplative time for me. It's not that I am into resolutions and all that. I see the New Year as an opportunity to reflect on what we accomplished in the past and to create new goals for the future.

As Discovery heads into 2006, I would like to pause to reflect on the past and to begin to predict what may be upcoming for our community in the future. 2005 was a strong year for our organization and our community. We held 3 wonderful retreats at 2 new sites which were embraced by the community. We were charmed by the coziness of Brooktrails Lodge, we had a fabulous luau at Saratoga Springs, and lavished ourselves at the idyllic Stillheart Center. Our Social Committee took us out bowling, walking the Golden Gate Bridge, touring historic Victorian houses, and picnicking in the park just to name a few. With the help of so many in the community, our Fundraising Committee was able to raise about \$6000 last year which helped offset losses of 03-04. We have a remodeled and interactive website now (many thanks to Michael MacDonald!) which is always a pleasure to visit. And the board worked hard on all these fronts as well as developing new policies to strengthen the organization. I hope you feel as proud as I do of all that we accomplished together last year. When you realize it was all accomplished with volunteers, it is even more remarkable. Discovery is a resilient, meaningful, and relevant community and one that I know we are all thankful to be involved with.

Discovery Contact Information

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(415) 419-3559

www.discovery-community.org

So what does the future hold for our community? What will be new in the upcoming year? My answer is that it really depends on all of us. This community is dependent on a high level of ownership of its members. If we want to see something done or produced, it can certainly happen, especially if we are willing to let people know about it and contribute in some way to helping it come to be. You don't have to be on the board or even sit on a committee to make a contribution to the life of this community. We want to make it easier for everyone to find a way to be involved and to see Discovery be a relevant and fulfilling place for them. Please let us know your ideas and how we can all make that happen. If you don't know who to contact, check out the contact information on the website at www.discovery-community.org.

There are some questions the board will be considering in 2006 at our board retreat in January and throughout the year. What are ways we can increase involvement in the organization? What are ways we can foster leadership among the community? What is Discovery's role in the gay community – are we playing the role we want? Are there more events, retreats, etc. that we would like to see and if so, how will they come to be? What more can we do to document what we do so that the next group of Discovery leaders will inherit an organization that is well organized? Perhaps there are other questions as well. We'll certainly keep you informed about our work, but feel free to check out all the news on the website in the Board files.

So, as we enter this new year, let me say thank you to all the community for making 2005 such a memorable one for Discovery. I look forward to the wonderful times we will share together in 2006 and to working with you to create a Discovery Community that is ever more vibrant and relevant for all gay/bi men.

With Love,

Mark
President, Board of Directors

New Board Elected

There have been some changes to the board recently, not only in makeup but also in its calendar. Board elections used to occur in September with officers elected in October. However, our fiscal year, based on our tax year, is December 1 to November 31. To align the board year and the fiscal year, directors will now be elected in November and will start in the new fiscal year in December. This way each board will be responsible for 1 complete fiscal year, not half of two separate years.

Congratulations go to new board members Lee Robbins, Gary Winter, Joseph Coleman and Walter Pedersen who are just beginning their two year terms on the board. Already they are hard at work to keep the organization thriving. Many thanks for their willingness to serve in this challenging position. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let us know.

Our thanks also go out to departing board members Jerry Maynard (VP), Patrick Barresi, Mick Pitash, Dan Douglas, and Peter Galli (Treasurer). These 5 men each distinguished himself in his own way in their service to Discovery. We are forever thankful for their generous efforts on our behalf and wish them a pleasant rest and good luck with their next projects.

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



Upcoming Events:

Games Night — Saturday, January 21, 2006, 7—10 p.m. - Home of Lee Robbins, 4433 17th Street

Join us for a night of games with your old friends or new friends from Discovery. We promise you a night of laughter and good times. We'll have a variety of games on hand, but bring your favorite if you don't think we have it. Please bring a snack or a non-alcoholic beverage to share with your fellow game players. Space is limited, so please RSVP to discoverysocials06@yahoo.com or call us at 415-419-3559 to reserve your space now.

Community Potluck Send Off Party — Sunday, February 12, 2006, 2-5 p.m. @ Temple Shaar Zahav, 260 Dolores

All the community is welcome to gather to reconnect for our 1st potluck of the year. Whether you are going on the President's day retreat or not, it's a great chance to reconnect with friends old and new. For those going on the retreat, there will be previews of the retreat as well as registration logistics. Please bring a VEGETARIAN snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share.

Discovery Bowling Night — Saturday, March 25, 6-8 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Bowling Center, 750 Folsom St.

It's quite a sight to be around 30 gay men bowling. The laughter, fabulous outfits, scoring and of course, balls, make for a great time. It does not matter if you haven't bowled before or if you already know how, come have fun with your fellow Discovery friends at the fabulous Yerba Buena Bowling Center. Space is limited, so please RSVP to discoverysocials06@yahoo.com or call us at 415-419-3559 to reserve your space now.

Watch for more events in the coming months.

Check for updates at www.discovery-community.org or call us at (415) 419-3559.

