

notes from SASG

Fostering Personal Development ~ Embracing Queer Identities ~ Cultivating Community Strength

winter 2002

volume 02, issue 01

strategic planning update...

As we all settle into 2002, there are some important things to acknowledge, ponder, and celebrate. Over the past several months a dedicated group of staff, volunteers, and board members have been working on the strategic plan for SASG. One of the group's tasks was to answer the first strategic question of "What is our vision and direction?" This work group, with board approval, wrote new vision and mission statements for the agency, both of which are reflective of how we are growing.

Vision Statement for SASG:

"SASG envisions individuals in communities connected by the shared values of health and well being, personal development, and compassionate support of one another."

Mission Statement for SASG:

"SASG builds community and cultivates powerful, healthy, and fulfilling lives by facilitating support, discussion, and skills-building groups; mentoring; and coordinating retreats and special events. SASG maintains its cherished tradition as the Seattle AIDS Support Group by continuing to meet the emotional needs of those affected by HIV/AIDS."

In addressing the second critical issue/question of "How can our marketed name and vision be in alignment?" this committee, with input from over one hundred group members and volunteers, submitted five name options for the board to consider. The decision to retain the name "SASG" was grounded in the following: sasg group member feedback, the power of name recognition, and a desire to honor our roots. These themes are also reflected in the new mission statement.

The most recent achievement of the strategic planning process was addressing the third critical issue of "What can we do about marketing to expand our programs and outreach abilities?" This work group came up with a marketing plan for the 2002-2003 year which details marketing action, who carries it out, and when it is done. This is a living document which will change and grow as the marketing needs develop.

A new tactic that this committee has pursued in addressing this issue is the identification of 40 to 50 GLBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizations with which to cultivate relationships by sending letters of introduction as to how SASG has grown and where we seem to be heading. Within this letter we offer to send speakers or representatives to these kindred organizations as a means to create healthy alliances, build community, and generate referrals to the multiple group offerings at SASG.

Presently this hardworking committee is addressing the final strategic planning issue/question of "How can we insure adequate funding to fulfill our mission?" Work will continue on this question, and also on marketing issues, during the winter and spring of 2002.

The tricky part about strategic planning is the implementation of the plan. This is most commonly done through the creation of timelines that are monitored, reviewed, and enforced. This implementation process will be a group effort, mostly by the many talented and hardworking members who have created this strategic plan.

I feel that SASG is very lucky to have such dedicated individuals who are willing to put forth their time, talent, effort, and patience for a process that has not always been easy but that does strengthen and build an organizational infrastructure so that SASG may continue to grow thrive and meet the needs of the GLBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities.

Chris Tolfree

SASG is currently seeking folks who are interested in joining our Board of Directors. Please see Susan for more information!

birthdays!

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 2/1 | Sue Mallaghan
Sunshine DeWitt |
| 2/2 | Mark Weiland |
| 2/22 | Chris Tolfree |
| 2/26 | Kenna Bristow
Winston |
| 2/29 | Michael Floyd |
| * * * * * | |
| 3/11 | Barry Benardout |
| 3/13 | John Withers |
| 3/19 | Naomi Hendricks |
| 3/23 | Susan Dunshee
Summer Dunshee |
| 3/30 | Caylee Richardson |
| * * * * * | |
| 4/4 | Al Mayer |
| 4/8 | Anna Swartz |
| 4/9 | Gretchen DeRoche |
| 4/18 | Scott Goodrich |
| 4/19 | John Koch |

Are we missing some birthdays? Please inform airen.

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“Hey, what’s this ‘Saturday Social’ thing, anyway?”

Last fall, SASG hosted a brainstorming meeting for lesbian, bisexual, and queer women in their 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, and older. We brought these women together to ask them what sorts of groups, events, and services they were hoping to see at SASG. Many wonderful ideas came out of this meeting, one of which evolved into our newest social event for LBQ women over 30 - “Saturday Social.”

This event, which is currently held every other Saturday between the hours of 5 and 8 pm at SASG, provides an opportunity for LBQ women over the age of 30 to gather and socialize in the relaxed and friendly setting of our house. Those attending the “Saturday Social” might play board games, share in the snacks contributed by all, or simply chat with a new friend. Plus, this casual event is hosted by SASG facilitators who can answer participants questions about other SASG groups.

The next “Saturday Social” for LBQ women over 30 will be held on Saturday, March 16th. For more information, call airen at SASG (206.322.2437).

SUSAN’S

SPOT



SASG’s Second Largest Fundraising Event

On October 20th & 21st of 2001, the Master Builders *Remodeled Homes Tour* marked its *seventh* annual installment by featuring 27 houses remodeled by top professionals in our region.

Among those professionals were Cathy and Rich Gaspar of Gaspar Construction. Cathy is a longtime SASG facilitator (Wednesday night’s “Multiple Loss” group), former board member, and, along with husband Rich, a generous and loyal supporter of SASG. As members of the Master Builders Association, it was Cathy and Rich way back in 1995, who convinced the creators of the first that they should have a beneficiary organization for the event. And then they talked the contractors into making SASG that beneficiary!

And so it has been for the past seven years. Each fall, somewhere between early September and mid-November, this event has called upon SASG to contribute two volunteers to serve as “hosts” on each house, each day of the tour. In 1995, with only 11 houses to support, this was almost entirely an SASG board-supported activity. But as the , and the number of homes on it, has grown, we have increasingly called upon SASG facilitators, phone volunteers, and group members to help us in staffing these homes.

If you haven’t previously been enlisted as a volunteer for the event, you might want to consider participating in the especially if you have remodeling plans of your own. Located throughout the greater Seattle and Bellevue areas, the homes offer examples of everything from kitchen and bath redesigns to complete additions and overhauls. It’s a great chance for homeowners who want to remodel to connect with the people who can help them. It’s also a terrific opportunity to donate to the SASG, as a portion of the tour proceeds, currently about \$10,000, come directly to us.

In past years, hours have been 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. 2001 tickets were \$15 in advance and \$20 the weekend of the tour. For more information, check out the website at *Remodeltour.com*. Plus, as the 2002 draws near, you can expect to see

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Tour,

Susan Dunshee SASG’s Executive Director

David’s Descriptions

SASG’s newest resource for young, HIV-positive guys

for HIV-positive, “20-something” gay and bisexual men. This group is open to any HIV-positive gay or bisexual man, age 18 to 30, who is interested in connecting with other guys who are also hoping to share their personal experiences of being young and HIV-positive. The group, which meets every Monday evening from 7:30– 9:00 pm at SASG (303 17th Avenue East on Capitol Hill), is facilitated, free-of-charge, and confidential. For more information, please contact David Clay, coordinator of HIV-related programming, at 206.322.2437.

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Queer Community Inclusive Programming at SASG!

Although individuals of a variety of identifications - gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer, etc. - have long found safe spaces in SASG support groups, as house volunteers, and/or by visiting our drop-in center, they have only recently had the opportunity to come together in an organized discussion series. *Queer Conversations*, our newest topical discussion series, is SASG's first drop-in discussion group open to *all* queer folks. We hope that this year 2002 series will offer many opportunities for each of us to challenge and support both ourselves and others as we share our personal connections to such topics as body, spirituality, relationships, wellness, community, and values. We are also still looking for co-facilitators for some of the series session; please see airen if you're interested in volunteering as a co-facilitator. In the meantime, spread the word to all your queer friends -bisexual, gay, queer, lesbian, trans, questioning, and more...we



mondays

**6:00 - 7:30
pm**

@ SASG

This on-going, drop-in series will be divided into six separate seven-week-long sessions, each focusing on a different broad topic. The final week of each session will be an informal social event. Stop by and join the conversations!

~ Queer Conversations ~

SASG's newest drop-in topical discussion series

◆bodytalk◆

march 4th— april 15th

weekly themes: ~power ~sex ~size ~boundaries ~changes ~assimilation

◆spirit, self, and exploration◆

april 22nd— june 3rd

weekly themes: ~humanity ~searching ~mystery ~religion ~individual expressions ~growth

◆connections and relationships◆

june 10th— july 22nd

weekly themes: ~attraction ~values ~compromise ~adventure ~patterns ~intimacy

◆life work◆

july 29th— september 9th

weekly themes: ~ideals ~goals ~employment ~money ~inspiration ~talents

◆being well◆

september 16th— october 28th

weekly themes: ~nourishment ~balance ~exercise ~stress ~healing ~chronic conditions

◆exploring queer community◆

november 4th— december 16th

weekly themes: ~differences ~support ~conflict ~identity ~cohesiveness ~evolution

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Can You Help Support SASG?

The members of SASG's strategic planning and vision committees are looking for those of you who would like to help support our house and programming. If you have any of these things: ideas, opinions, energy, time, creativity, or friends – you are especially asked to join us in creating the SASG Fundraising Committee.

even if -going
commitment...your wonderful brainstorm can always be passed on to others! Our initial gathering will take place in **Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 pm.**

This first meeting, and subsequent ones, will be lead by Deborah Witmer, SASG's financial consultant. Some of you might remember Deborah as a wonderful leader at Chicken Soup Brigade. Deborah is looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas at upcoming meetings!

For more information, please contact Susan or airen at

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sasg's new
volunteers!

on the phones...

- Raze Edmonds: 12 pm - 3 pm on mondays
- Robin Owsley: 3 pm - 6 pm on mondays
- Deb Harlow: 3 - 6 pm every-other wednesday
9 am - 12 pm every-other thursday
- Carol Tapert: 12 pm - 3 pm on thursdays

co-facilitating...

- Annee Fisher: not currently facilitating
- Becca Hutcheson: not currently facilitating
- *Saturday Social*
- Janie Worm: *Queer Conversations*
- *Gender Outlaws, Queer Writing Circle & Queer Conversations*
- Mark Weiland: *20-something HIV+ Gay/Bi Men*



Be the First to Welcome Newcomers to Our House

Interested in building community and providing support? Call today for more information on becoming a front desk volunteer at SASG. Our organization provides support, discussion, and skills-building groups; peer mentoring; and special events and social functions for the Queer and HIV-positive communities of Seattle. We're looking for friendly folks to answer phones, greet newcomers, and provide information as front desk volunteers in our drop-in center area. No experience is necessary; we provide training to all front desk volunteers. Current open shifts include the following: Mondays 6-9 pm, Tuesdays 12-3 pm, Tuesdays 6-9 pm, Wednesdays 3-6 pm, and Thursdays 9 am - 12 pm. We're also looking for folks who can volunteer as "subs" for our weekly front desk volunteers. Please call airen at SASG (206.322.2437) for more information on this and other volunteer opportunities with our organization. SASG needs you!

notes from SASG is our quarterly newsletter. issues will be distributed seasonally as follows:

winter (january-march), spring (april-june), summer (july-september), and fall (october-december).

The inclusion of persons' names in this newsletter in no way identifies their sexual orientations, gender identities, or HIV statuses. Please direct your ideas for, feedback on, and questions/concerns about the newsletter to *airen lydick* SASG volunteer/programming coordinator (206.322.2437, airen13@hotmail.com).