

notes from SASG

Fostering personal development - Embracing queer identities - Cultivating community strength

Winter 2003

Volume 03, Issue

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

. . . to all of you who recently gave us money!

In 2002, **SASG** held the first in-house fundraising appeals in our 18 year history. You may remember members of the staff or board speaking to your group about the reasons for this campaign. I would like to reiterate some of those reasons to allay any concerns that we are out panhandling as a last ditch effort to keep our doors open.

SASG is not in a financial crisis. Rather, we are in an intensive planning mode to be sure that we do not ever find ourselves in such a state. With the expert professional guidance of Deborah Witmer, we are finding new ways to market our programs, creating new alliances in the broader g/l/b/t/q community, and actively developing new revenue sources for the agency.

For years and years it was an unspoken law at **SASG** that we never ask group members for financial support. That was because nearly all our group members in the past were living with AIDS and, generally speaking, not in a position to make contributions. Nonetheless, the fact is that bequests from twelve former group members, all of whom died of AIDS, combined to create the reserve funds and investment accounts which are our financial cushion today.

One reason we felt more comfortable taking our appeal to each group meeting at the House is that we clearly specified that if some group members felt unable to give themselves, that they might pass our request on to someone in their lives who would be able to make a contribution in support of the work we do.

Those of you who made donations which included your name and address have been personally thanked. (Please let me know if you haven't!) For those of you who contributed anonymously, or with cash, please know that we are very grateful for your generosity and this tangible expression of your support.

Susan Dunshee,
SASG Executive Director

Wintertime Volunteer Birthdays

January

1	Steve Wilson
20	Naomi Hendricks
22	Cheryl Fontaine
24	Cathy Gaspar
25	Matt Durham

February

1	Sue Mallaghan
2	Mark Weiland
12	John Meehan
22	Chris Tolfree
29	Michael Floyd

March

12	Dan Hastings
13	John Withers
19	Naomi Hendricks
23	Susan Dunshee Summer Dunshee
30	Caylee Richardson

If you are an SASG volunteer and your birthday is missing from the above list, please inform Airen. Thank you, and happy birthdays to all!

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Support SASG and one of our volunteers!

Shopping for a new home? Putting yours on the market? There are folks in the SASG family who do this sort of thing for a living - sell real estate, that is. One such person is Jim Hagen who volunteers at the SASG front desk on Monday nights. Jim works with Coldwell Banker/Bain Associates which has a Community Partnership arrangement whereby their realtors select particular non-profits to be the beneficiaries of a portion of their commissions. Jim would love to generate some money for SASG. So, if you're thinking of talking with a realtor,

SASG is currently seeking new Board members. If you think you may be interested in such an opportunity, please speak with Susan, our Executive Director.

Did you hear?

The 2002 Tree Lot Fundraising Event netted \$48,000 for SASG!

Why is SASG talking about fundraising?

In recent months, you have probably heard talk in the House about new fundraising efforts. In-house donor appeals were recently distributed, and several special fundraising events are being planned for the coming months. Also, as was announced in the last issue of *notes from SASG*, I have been hired as a consultant to assist in developing more fundraising capacity at SASG.

As I told the Board at our first meeting together, I truly applaud their decision to undertake this work at this time – precisely *because* SASG is not in crisis. The Board of Directors, along with Susan's leadership, has taken a pro-active step to ensure the continued health of SASG for the future. Recognizing the changing funding climate and acknowledging the need to engage the community in supporting SASG's work, the Board and Staff have committed to building a volunteer-led fundraising program. Many of you have stepped forward to contribute time and money in support of SASG. It has been heartening to hear so many of you say that you are *happy* to help SASG raise money in the community – but not surprising that you are excited to share your support of SASG with the larger community. Our House members have always been SASG's greatest supporters.

On a personal note, my history with SASG goes back many years, as I began working in the HIV/AIDS community in the late 80's. This House and the people here have always felt like a home to me, and I have felt so warmly welcomed by friends both old and new. It is truly an honor to be a part of the growth and new directions, and I am anxious to help you give the community a chance to support this important work. I look forward to continued work with you!

Deborah Witmer

Witmer Consulting Services
dlwitmer@witmerconsulting.com
www.witmerconsulting.com

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What's happening at SASG nowadays?

Check out the variety of programming **currently happening** at SASG. We're offering many different formats (support, discussion, & skills groups; one-to-one mentoring; and social & special events) for many different folks (those affected by HIV; queer/gay/bisexual men; queer/lesbian/bisexual women; gender-

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
AIDS HIV/AIDS Queerly Spiritual Queer Writing Cir-	Hepatitis C Sex Talk SASG Facilitators	Mothers Bailey Alumns Gender Outlaws Multiple Loss HIV- Gay/Bi Men HIV+ Radical Gurls Reading	Long-term Survivors Grief & Loss Shoulders HIV- Gay/Bi Men Three Dollar Bills 30+ Women 'Coming	40+ Gay/Bi Men I 40+ Gay/Bi Men II 40+ Gay/Bi Men III

queer/transfolks; and LGBTQ folks inclusively). In addition to these current groups/events, we've got new stuff in the eyes on www.sasg.org or check out our in-house bulletin boards for programming updates.

works; so, keep your

Saturdays
Saturday Shindig Sissy Saturday

Friday Feast needs you! Sign up to help clean up today.

One of SASG's most appreciated traditions needs your support. "Friday Feast" has always relied on the dedication of SASG volunteers. Although we currently have enough cooks to sustain this treasured event, we are constantly in need of volunteers for the "Friday Feast" **Clean-up Crew**. Please take a moment to sign up for a clean-up shift the next time you're at the house. Check with the Front Desk Volunteer on duty for directions to the sign-up sheet. Also, don't forget to leave your **full name and contact phone number and/or e-mail address** for Airen, SASG's Volunteer Coordinator. He'll give you a reminder phone call and/or send you a reminder e-mail message as your shift approaches.

Thanks in advance for helping us to sustain SASG's "Friday

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Welcome T to SASG

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the SASG staff!

T Frazzitta joins us as a new Programming Manager/Facilitator Coordinator. He will be handling *both* SASG's programming for those affected by HIV/AIDS *and also* our programming for **Gay/Bisexual/Queer Men.**

Be sure to check out T's first newsletter article in the Spring 2003 issue of *notes from SASG*. Don't wait to meet T, though. Stop by the House and introduce

Volunteers joining us, returning, or branching out in 2002...

- ▼ Kerb Lydick -- Front Desk Volunteer, Mondays 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- ▼ Jim Hagen -- Front Desk Volunteer, Mondays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- ▼ Toby Langford -- Front Desk Volunteer, Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- ▼ Ryan Wilde -- Front Desk Volunteer, Tuesdays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- ▼ Rick Martin -- Front Desk Volunteer, Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- ▼ Thomas -- Facilitator, "Gay/Bisexual Men 40+ (Group #3)"
3 - 6 p.m. -- Front Desk Volunteer, Tues. 12 - 3 p.m. & Wed.
- ▼ Mykkah Herner -- Cookie Baker & "Friday Feast" cook
12:00 p.m. -- Front Desk Volunteer, Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- ▼ Matt Durham -- Front Desk Volunteer, Fridays 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- ▼ Steve Wilson -- Front Desk Volunteer, Fridays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- ▼ Niki Whiting -- Facilitator, "Queerly Spiritual: Our Personal Journeys"
- ▼ Kristi Taylor -- Facilitator, "Grief & Loss"
- ▼ Michelle Keech -- Facilitator, "Women 'Coming Out' After 30"
- ▼ Jeanne Sales -- Facilitator, "Women 'Coming Out' After 30"
- ▼ George Wheeler -- Facilitator/Host, "Saturday Shindig"
- ▼ John Primeau -- Facilitator, "HIV Negative Gay/Bisexual Men (Wed.)"
- ▼ Steve Frederick -- "Friday Feast" cook
- ▼ Mark Weiland -- "Friday Feast" cook
- ▼ Jeff Stevens -- Front Desk Volunteer, "Sub" status
- ▼ Marian DiPerna -- Administrative/Programming Intern, Winter 2002

Thanks to all of you who've joined us, returned to SASG, or expanded their volunteer commitments to the House. Without your support, we wouldn't be here!

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, or questions about the newsletter to **Airen Lydick**, SASG Programming Manager/Volunteer Coordinator: 206.322.2437, airen@sasg.org