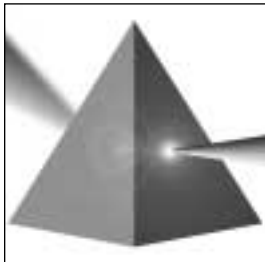

Pride Center News

Spring 2004
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Apr 2004
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North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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New Brunswick, NJ 08903
732.846.2232

info@pridecenter.org

www.pridecenter.org

.....

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FOR THE SENIORS

in new jersey



We have a new group starting for LGBTIQ (Lesbian Gay, Bi, Transgendered, Intersexed, Questioning) seniors. From this group The Pride Center hopes to develop a whole array of programs and services for LGBTIQ seniors, 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:30 P.M. at The Pride Center.

For further info call The Pride Center at 732-846-2232.

Come and help shape the future of your community!

Inside

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- 3 Pride Institute Sponsors Info-line
- 4 "All Roads to Justice" Town Meetings
- 6 Pride Center upcoming events
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Pride Institute Provides Grant for PCNJ Info-Line

The Pride Center has received a \$3,000 grant from the Pride Institute at Summit Hospital to enhance PCNJ's Info-Line. More on page 3.

Check out our **FUN** upcoming events:

Diva Review & Dance!
Meadowlands Racing!
Check out the details inside!

NEWS & info

from the pride center



Sally Nadler,
President, PCNJ

Message from the President

You may have noticed a new look beginning with last month's newsletter. Well, that's not all that is changing at The Pride Center. That's just the beginning. Our community has grown and changed since our inception over 10 years ago, and has expanded beyond a focus on gays and lesbians to a broader, more inclusive community. Over the past year, the PCNJ Board of Trustees has worked to reflect that expansion in a new mission and vision statement, which you will find below. We did this not simply to keep pace, but to allow for ever-increasing inclusiveness as our community and our rights continue to grow and progress. As with our hard fought recent legislative gain and our still pending legal issues, change doesn't happen over night or by magic. It is the result of tireless efforts and dedication demonstrated by our leaders, volunteers and advocates within and outside of our community. So, join us as we shape our future and the future of those to succeed us. Get involved. Lick envelopes, become a PCNJ member, attend a Town Hall meeting, volunteer your time and expertise. But most of all vote !!! The future of our country and our civil rights rests within our ability to exercise this simple freedom. Don't take it lightly.

The Pride Center of New Jersey, Inc.

Serving New Jersey's LGBTIQ Community.
A 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Not-for-Profit Corporation.

The mission of The Pride Center of New Jersey is to provide comprehensive programming which fosters the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexed and questioning (LGBTIQ) community, and to increase public acceptance and champion social change for the LGBTIQ community through education and outreach.

The Pride Center envisions a world where members of the LGBTIQ community are empowered as individuals, as citizens and as members of the larger community, enjoying non-prejudicial treatment under the law and in every aspect of their lives. We will encourage the creation of a society that celebrates the inherent worth, dignity and diverse characteristics of every individual. We will be a leader in New Jersey for the collaboration of LGBTIQ and allied groups, the media, and policy makers; a resource and service center for all persons and organizations who share our vision; and a place of safety and education.

The *Pride Center News* is a free quarterly publication.

ADVERTISING RATES: A business card ad is \$20 per issue. Ad rates are determined by how many "business card spaces" (3.5" x 2") an ad takes up on one letter-size page and is multiplied by \$20. A full-page ad (10 "business card spaces") is \$200.

Pride Center Receives \$1,500 Grant from Fleet



Ben Dineen presents grant to PCNJ's Ellen Gilio

The Pride Center has received a \$1,500 operating support grant from FleetBoston Financial Foundation on behalf of the Fleet Pride Resource Group. This grant was made possible through the much-appreciated efforts of Benjamin J. Dineen, Vice President and Community Development Officer of Fleet and PCNJ Board Member. The award was made as part of Fleet's Diversity Group Giving Program, which was created by FleetBoston Financial Foundation as an initiative to give each resource group, such as Fleet Pride, the ability to make contributions to nonprofits that benefit the community, specifically in their area of focus. Fleet PRIDE, the Diversity Resource Group that serves the LGBT community, effects positive change and initiates actions via education and awareness. The Pride Center thanks Fleet and Ben for continuous and steadfast support.

For New Jersey's Seniors...

The Pride Center is proud to announce a new group for LGBTIQ seniors. The Seniors Program, which meets twice monthly, is a social and supportive gathering for men and women, ages 45+. From the meetings, the group will develop an array of programs and services—such as support, advocacy, health, education, and legal advice—for LGBTIQ seniors.

Judith, the Senior Program's facilitator, hopes to create an atmosphere where seniors

can feel comfortable being who they are, and share skills and experiences. “I want to encourage seniors to come together to create. This is a place open to all groups of people, where people care about each other, have rich and warm conversations, share histories, and talk about what they are looking for. We maintain confidentiality as well as adhere to The Pride Center’s mission.”

Some program participants still work, some have retired, but all have a common desire to be part of a community. We invite all seniors to come on out, make new friends, and create change! When: 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7:30PM. Where: The Pride Center. Call 732-846-2232 for more information.

Pride Institute Sponsors PCNJ Info-Line



Pride Institute staff with Ellen

The number 732-846-2232 should be on everyone’s speedial. The Pride Center of New Jersey, with deep gratitude, acknowledges a \$3,000 grant from the Pride Institute at Summit Hospital to enhance PCNJ’s Info-Line, an invaluable source that provides comprehensive information on gay-friendly businesses, service providers, and organizations throughout New Jersey. From 7PM to 10PM, Sunday to Friday, volunteers answer questions and address concerns from callers. Typical inquiries include requests for information on LGBTIQ organizations, social venues and community services, and therapist referrals.

According to Ray Johnson, a PCNJ founding member, “When we first set it up we knew it was a valuable service to provide. We focused on providing information on The Pride Center itself, other organizations, bars, professionals and businesses.”

Indeed, with the helpful grant from the Pride Institute, which aims to provide affirmative treatment to GLBT patients with psychiatric and substance abuse problems, PCNJ will work to develop its services.

Chris Hannam, MSW, Pride at Summit’s Program Director who oversees both the clinical and administra-

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*A Support Group for
Lesbians With Cancer*

This support group for lesbians, bisexual or transgendered women with cancer and their partners was created to help improve education, promote mutual problem solving and facilitate coping.

These monthly meetings are run by licensed clinical social workers. For more information, please contact Ellen Levine at 908/245-4921 or at levine@sumnj.edu. Strict confidentiality will be respected.



The Cancer Institute of New Jersey NCI
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"If your home isn't becoming to you,
 how should be coming to me?"

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tive aspects of the inpatient program, remarked "Pride Institute sees PCNJ as a referral source both for individuals discharged from the program who need support from the GLBT community, as well as those calling our program for referral information." She facilitates groups—therapy, relapse prevention, 12 step meetings, therapeutic activities, nursery education, addictions and skill building—and finds it rewarding when she sees individuals grow and flourish in recovery.

"Many people enter treatment feeling hopeless and defeated. Pride's staff offers hope, knowledge and support which allows individuals to begin their recovery in an understanding environment where sexual orientation is not an issue, let alone a barrier."

The Pride Center thanks the Pride Institute for its dedicated support toward the Info-Line and our community. A piece of trivia: the 2232 translates to CCDC or Community Center Development Committee, which was the name PCNJ used for two years before The Pride Center officially opened in 1994.

To learn more, visit www.pride-institute.com, or email support@pride-institute.com. Call 1-800-753-5223 for information on the Pride Institute at Summit Hospital.

Youth Drop-in Program

Every 4th Saturday of the month is drop-in time for LGBTIQ youth and their straight allies ages 17 and under. Drop-in hours start at 1p.m. Parents and youth with questions about the program should contact Ellen at PCNJ: 732-846-2895.

Ellis Performs in East Brunswick on April 22

Who's Ellis? Only one of the hottest young folk singers out there. She hails from Minneapolis, but has over 150 gigs booked throughout the U.S. and is now headed to New Jersey. Ellis will appear at the Unitarian Society Church, 176 Tice's Lane in East Brunswick, on Thursday, April 22nd, from 8p.m. to 10p.m. Refreshments will be served. A \$5.00 to \$10.00 donation is suggested.

From the Desk of LAMBDA Legal

*Equal People, Equal Marriage:
 Continuing All Roads to Justice*

During these unbelievable times, the eyes of all New Jersey—of public officials, of the press and of other opinion leaders across the state—will be on our community. They want to see if participation at our town meetings will be as strong as it was last year, when 4,091 New Jerseyans attended the 13 town meetings and



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stunned opinion leaders by breaking attendance records everywhere. With the eyes of all New Jersey on us, please attend upcoming town meetings. Please bring with you everyone you can, reaching out to people who may not have attended town meetings before. Town Hall Meetings are sponsored by Lambda Legal, PCNJ and more than 100 other organizations. For more information, call (917)449-8918.

- Monday, May 17, 2004 at 7PM in Trenton, Trenton War Memorial, Lower Level Meeting Room, on Memorial Drive adjacent to the State Capitol. *Your Legal Options in a Changing Legal Landscape.* The program hundreds of you have requested. Monday, May 17th is also the first day Massachusetts' lesbian and gay couples will marry.

- Saturday, June 5, 2004 at 7:30PM in Asbury Park, Berkeley-Carteret Hotel, 1401 Ocean Avenue. *Dinner with the Paintiffs: New Jersey Pride Weekend.*

Valentine's Gala Raises \$8,000 for PCNJ

Our Second Annual Valentine's Dance at the Holiday Inn in Monroe Township drew more than 150 guests for a special night of dancing, romance and great fun. For helping us make this event such a success, we are incredibly grateful to our supporters: Cordials Bed & Breakfast of New Hope, PA; Dorothy Hanle; Diana Eagen; Joan Hervey of 1-888-JHERVEY Mortgage Consultant; Greg Costa of 10% Travel Club; and Monroe Medical Associates. *Thank YOU!*



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*"If you live in it,
 you should own it!"*



Health Education Evening at PCNJ

PCNJ Executive Director, Ellen J. Gilio, announces the first *Evening of Health Education* at The Pride Center to take place on Thursday, April 22 from 7PM to 10PM. Representatives from Hyacinth, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and UMDNJ's SmokeOUT Program will be on hand to discuss the latest health issues for the LGBTIQ community regarding HIV/AIDS, cancer (including breast cancer), and tobacco addiction. For further information, contact Ellen at 732-846-2232.

Feelin' Lucky?

PCNJ Raffle Tickets are on sale this spring! Win fabulous getaway trips! Florida! Vermont! NYC! Prize winners will be drawn and announced June 12th at the PCNJ Meadowlands event. Ticket sales info available soon on our website, e-news, and at PCNJ.

Diva Review & Dance—April 24

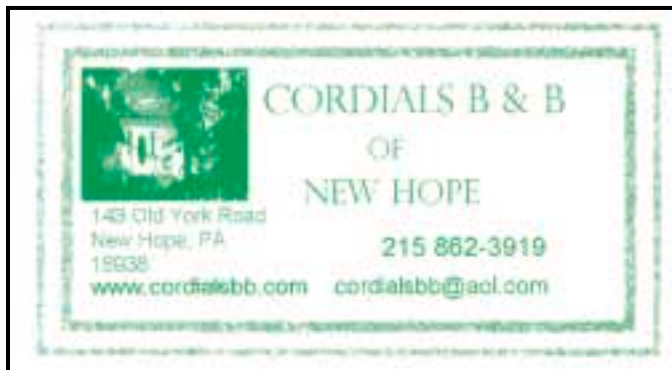
BiZone & PCNJ are co-sponsoring drag performances by "Diva Review" followed by an awesome D.J. dance party Saturday night, April 24 at the Woodbridge Hilton (Metropark). Music will be provided by Cosmic Entertainment, who also performed at the fabulous Pride Center Valentine's Day Dance. Doors open at 6:45PM, show starts at 7:30PM, dance starts at 9PM. Admission is \$15, or \$10 for those attending BiZone's Endless Possibilities Conference. The conference, which starts with a party Friday night, will fill your Saturday with social space, speakers, workshops, a film room, and plenty of opportunities to make new friends. The Diva Review and dance will be the perfect ending to an exciting day. Visit <http://www.bizone.org/con2004> or send email to info@bizone.org.

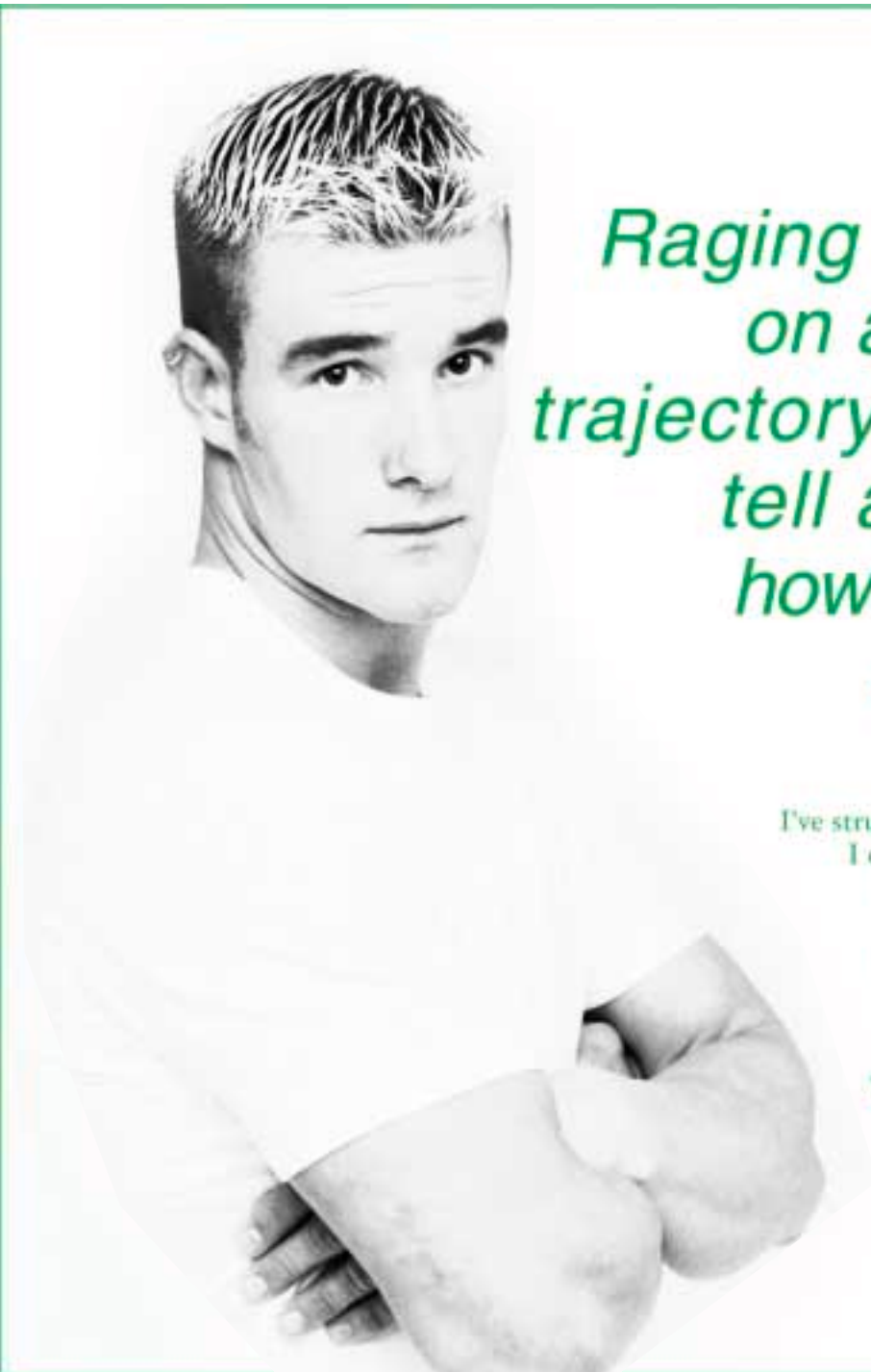
Hyacinth AIDS Walk—May 16

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation will be holding AIDS WALK NJ on Sunday, May 16, 2004 at the Woodlawn of the Eagleton Institute on the Douglass College Campus of Rutgers University. We are looking for individuals who are willing to recruit corporate and social organization teams to participate in the Walk. This year's Walk is more important than ever! With changes in funding priorities at the State and Federal levels and continued rates of new infections, we need your help so that we can continue to provide the same level of services to our clients! For more information, please contact Ametra Burton at 732-246-0204.

Intersex Movement Discussion

Spend an evening discussing the intersex movement with Betsy Driver, co-founder and director of Bodies Like Ours. While this evening will be geared towards creating a support group for intersex people, other interested people are most welcome to attend. The evening is scheduled for Thursday May 6 at The Pride Center. Bodies Like Ours and PCNJ are interested in filling the support needs of intersex people in NJ, as well as their friends, and families. This will be a planning meeting towards reaching that goal. We'll also talk about planning the first ever Intersex Awareness Day to be held October 26, 2004. Bodies Like Ours is an intersex peer support organization on the web at <http://www.bodieslikeours.org>.





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meetings & groups

at the pride center

African Asian Latina Lesbians United

Discussions focusing on health, educational, political, economical, social, and emotional issues.
Fourth Thursdays, 7:30PM

Al-Anon

Fridays, 7PM

BiZone

Open to all bisexual, bicurious, and bifriendly people and their partners. For full schedule of events, check website at www.bizone.org.
Planning meeting, first Wednesdays, 7:30PM

Center Outreach

Contact Ellen at PCNJEXECDIR@aol.com for meeting information.

GALY

First, second & third Saturdays, 2PM
Social support network of adult volunteers and young people aged 16-21.

Game Night

An opportunity to bring your favorite game and meet others in a fun environment.
Third Tuesdays, 7:30PM

GRAANJ — Gender Rights Advocacy Association of NJ

An advocacy group committed to securing full civil rights for transgender, intersex and people of non-stereotypical gender identity and expression.
First Sundays, 1PM

HIV Testing

Call 732-235-7114 for an appointment. Conducted at The Pride Center by UMDNJ staff.
First & third Thursdays, 4:30-6:15PM

Lesbians and BiWomen in Heterosexual Marriages

To offer the group members the necessary support and encouragement in order to remain in their present situation or change their present situation.
Third Wednesdays, 7:30PM

Lesbians & Gay Men of New Brunswick

Social, educational, rap, potlucks, for everyone.
Second & fourth Tuesdays, 8PM
E-mail: njrj@aol.com for more info.

Long Yang Club — New Jersey

For gay Asians and Pacific Islanders and their friends.
E-mail: newjersey@longyangclub.org for more info.
Second Saturdays, 7:30PM

Metropolitan Community Church

Services Sunday mornings, 10:30AM, choir practice Mondays, 8PM

Men's Coming Out Group

A moderated discussion group for issues related to coming out as gay or bisexual men. E-mail: njwarrior@aol.com for more info.
Every Wednesday, 7:30PM

Men's Peer Support Group

Open to men who are gay, bisexual, or questioning. Will meet to discuss a variety of topics.
Second and fourth Mondays, 7PM

NJBiWomen

A moderated social/discussion group for issues related to bisexuality and other interests.
Third Tuesdays, 7:30-9PM

NJ Education Association—LGB Caucus

A group for New Jersey's gay educators.
Meets one Friday per month during school year.
Call us to confirm meeting time, or see our website calendar.

NJRAD

New Jersey Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf.
Call PCNJ for meeting information.

Open Mic Night

Share your original music, poetry, or stories with a warm, friendly, and very diverse audience. Everyone is welcome—listeners and sharers alike.
Third Fridays, 8PM

OWLs — Older Wilder Lesbians

Group of mature lesbians who meet to socialize, plan group outings, and have fun.
Third Fridays, 7:30PM

Pride Center Youth Drop-In

Drop-In day for LGBTIQ youth and their allies for youth 17 and under. Fourth Saturdays, 1PM.

Republican Lesbians

Open to all declared and undeclared Republican Lesbians. It is a safe space to share with others of like mind and experience.
First Mondays, 7:30PM

Seniors Program

First and Third Mondays, 7:30PM

South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association (SALGA)

A group for South Asians to freely discuss their experiences as glbt and glbt-questioning individuals.
Third Saturdays, 4:30PM

Strategy Game Group

Bring your favorite strategic game. Games planned ahead of time. For time and location, e-mail strangertfiction@yahoo.com or leave a message at Center for Arthur, Groups Coordinator.
Once per month, varying Saturdays, 2PM

Team NJ

Gives New Jersey's athletes and recreationalists an organization that helps build sportsmanship, competition and team spirit through various activities: softball, volleyball, bowling, inline skating, swimming, hiking, tennis, running, biking and social activities.
Third Thursdays, 7:30PM

Together We Can

Facilitated by Alternatives. Open discussion group for persons dealing with emotional, mental and addictive problems.
Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7PM

Under the Rainbow

Discussion/social group for the 18 to 25 year-old gay and lesbian population.
Second & fourth Wednesdays, 7:30PM

Women's Coffee House

First Saturdays, 7:30PM

Womyn's In/Out and About Group

Meets various times. Contact Kathy at 732-342-9359 or kathycpr60@hotmail.com

Women's Peer Support Group

Social & support group for women
Second & fourth Thursdays, 7:30PM

Volunteer Spotlight

Getting to Know Darren Nye, PCNJ Webmaster



“If you have ideas and plans for change, figure out how to approach people before taking the plunge. This will help make it happen much smoother.”

Tell us about you!

My first volunteer gig was teaching a group of kids how to use a TI computer, held at the Manville Public Library, back when I was still in high school in 1982! Since then, I've run several free computer bulletin boards, but one of the more popular was Matchmaker Mecca. Running that led me to create PlanetOut.com in conjunction with Tom Reilly. Although I was a paid employee of PlanetOut, I was the Community Director and leader for about 200 volunteers who were helping us out on MSN, AOL and our PlanetOut.com website. That was probably my favorite position. While I was still at PlanetOut, I began volunteering at GAAMC as Program Director. Then I got involved with PCNJ, serving as President from '98-'99, and as webmaster ever since. I also started volunteering as a firefighter for my local firehouse - and later became President for the fire company in 2002, and now I'm in my third year as President.

What inspired you to become a volunteer?

Several things. A desire to help people and improve the quality of their life—hopefully better than mine was when growing up as a closeted gay person. A desire to mix/mingle

with other people. A desire to lead people to some goal or purpose. Having a team of people working with or for me, isn't something my full-time jobs always require. Yet I enjoy leading groups of people and volunteering at organizations have allowed me to do more of this.

As a PCNJ Volunteer, what do you find most rewarding?

All of the above. But if I were to pick some specific things, they would relate to the fact that PCNJ is specific to New Jersey. I wish that there had been local community centers like PCNJ when I was growing up. It's nice to help provide a place, primarily for people just coming out, young or old.

Any advice to fellow volunteers?

The success of PCNJ, as with any company/organization, will be based on whether or not it's an appealing place for the majority. If you feel it needs to change - step up and get involved! But take the process slow and be considerate of others. If you have ideas and plans for change, figure out how to approach people before taking the plunge. This will help make it happen much smoother.

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Center Spotlight



In 1991, Tom Merkle, Tom Limoncelli and Tina Mancuso attended the Boston BiFest and returned with a conviction to start a support group for bisexual, bi-curious, bi-friendly people and their friends/partners. From those earlier days of conducting rotational meetings in people's homes, BiZone became one of the first groups to base meetings at The Pride Center. Since then, it has welcomed an influx of volunteers interested in coordinating social gatherings and planning regular events.

Moving beyond a support group, BiZone has directed its attention to bringing together conferences that include both keynote speakers and social activities. In 1999, it launched an enormously successful Tri-State Bi Conference that drew 200 people. This year, BiZone will host the

2004 Endless Possibilities Conference on Saturday, April 24, at the Woodbridge Hilton in Woodbridge, NJ. (More information at <http://www.bizone.org/con2004/>) As a fabulous closing act for the conference, Bizone and The Pride Center will be presenting a Diva Review and Dance that Saturday evening at the Hilton. See page 6 for details. Don't miss it!

Bi-Zone is a member-based organization that fosters a visible community for bisexual, bi-curious, bi-friendly people, their partners and allies. Email bizone@pride-center.org or call 732-846-2232 to share your ideas and help develop bisexual support groups. For more information check out BiZone's web site at www.bizone.org.

Advertise Your Business in the

Pride Center News

for just \$20 per issue. Send in your business card and check today! Our newsletter circulates to over 1,800 people in the New Jersey tri-state region, so ads get noticed! If you would like to submit editorial articles, news and events listings, or paid advertising for the **Summer 2004 Issue**, the deadline for submissions is **June 15, 2004**. Contact rog3165@optonline.net for more info.

Community Phone Numbers

Board Members & Staff

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 Dignity/Metro 973-857-4040
 Dignity/New Brunswick 732-254-7942
 GAAMC (Morris County)/GALY 973-285-1595
 Gay People of Princeton 609-924-7322
 Havurah 732-650-1010
 Hyacinth AIDS Foundation 800-433-0254
 Jersey Pride, Inc 732-21 GAYNJ
 Lambda Families of NJ 973-763-8511
 Lavender Express 201-235-0585
 LEAGUE-AT&T 973-644-7904
 Lesbian Domestic Abuse Helpline 800-224-0211
 Lesbians & Gay Men of New Brunswick ... 732-247-0515
 Long Yang Club 732-247-0515

Metropolitan Community Church/CTL 732-846-8227
 NAMES Project-Central NJ 732-249-3933
 NAMES Project-Northern NJ 201-265-0600
 NJ Buddies 201-489-2900
 NJCRI 973-483-3444
 NJEA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Caucus 609-448-5215
 NJLGC /PLF 732-828-6772
 NJWAN 732-846-4462
 Ocean Co. Senior G/L Support Group 800- 621-0096
 Our Quarterly 201-893-0455
 Outbike 973-748-9368
 P-FLAG North Jersey 973-267-8414
 Princeton LGB Alliance 609-258-4522
 Rainbows on Cleveland Street 973-256-5936
 Rutgers G/L/B Hotline 908-932-7886
 The OASIS 973-430-9909
 Women Helping Women 732-549-6000

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Pride Center of New Jersey

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We're a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, which means that your donations are tax deductible. Whatever you can afford to donate, your support and generosity are greatly appreciated. Making an annual contribution in one of the following amounts will qualify you as a Member of The Pride Center:

- General**\$35: Entitles member to four newsletter mailings annually and discounts at select special events.
- Family**\$50: General membership benefits for one household.
- Silver**\$100: General membership benefits and one "Silver" admission discount to PCNJ membership brunch.
- Gold**\$250: General membership benefits, two "Gold" admission discounts to PCNJ membership brunch, listing as donor in newsletter's annual donor listing.
- Platinum**\$500: Gold membership benefits with donor's name engraved on Center's Platinum donor plaque.
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The Pride Center of NJ, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 5130, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.