



## *Me, My Family, My Jobs*

### **What You Don't Know About the Executive Director**

by Laura Thornton

If you had asked me 6 years ago if one day I'd be executive director of the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, I would have laughed at the improbability of it. It seems, now, that I may have been working towards it all along.

In 1987 I joined with a group of social service providers in CT to work together to create housing for homeless persons living with AIDS. I worked for an agency called Center City Churches and we created the state's first AIDS housing program. Later I went on to develop one of the largest housing and hospice programs in CT. It was one of the first programs in the country to be based on harm reduction principles.

In 1987, one of my cousins died from AIDS-related complications. In 1988, my sister's brother-in-

law also died from AIDS. Fear and discrimination ran wild in these years. My sister had been a stay-at-home mom and her 3 adult children were now out of the house. In 1990 at the age of 44, she decided she wanted to get involved in AIDS services the way she knew best. She and her husband applied to be foster parents for infants born HIV +. She asked me to write them a reference. I knew there was a little problem with her "foster care" plan: my sister would never give up a baby once she got him in her arms. My sister quickly moved from being a foster mom to being the adoptive mother of two boys, one who is now healthy and HIV+ and one who is healthy and negative. Later, my sister's adult son would also contract HIV.

In 2000, I worked for the CT AIDS Residence Coalition and developed

There are 193 countries in the world. All of them have people living with **HIV/AIDS**.



**You** can make a difference.  
Right here, right now.

**Give.**  
**Volunteer.**  
**Care.**

AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod • [www.asgcc.org](http://www.asgcc.org)

*Our new Donation Box art*

training and quality assurance standards for all of the housing programs in the state. In 2002, I moved to Provincetown and worked as a consultant in the AIDS field. In 2004, I became director of the Foley House. And in 2005, I took on my current role as executive director of the ASGCC.

On February 18 my sister died after a long and courageous fight with cancer. I spent the last 10 days of her life with her, telling her how much I loved her and easing her worries about her children who were the ever-present and final concern on her mind. My beautiful, selfless sister was a "first responder" to this health crisis and she responded in the most personal of ways—with love. We spent 20 years with AIDS being a large part of our family live. Whatever services I contribute as I continue in this role, I contribute in her memory and in her honor. ■

## ***CABARET!***

The wild and fabulous performers of our Cabaret will be entertaining folks on Thursday, April 19 at the Radisson Hotel in Hyannis.

**Tell everyone to come and enjoy the fun!**

We will be delighted to the sights and sounds of Pearlene (our hostess for the night), Teenie Tiny Tina Turner, Sandy Dunes, Lady Marmalade, Thirsty Burlington, Celine, and Anita Cocktail. Keep checking our web site to get the most up-to-date list of stars!



Entrance to the event will be \$20 with tickets available at the Provincetown or Hyannis Office. Or, with a credit card, you may purchase tickets by calling the office at (800) 905-1170. All money raised at the door, as well as all tips offered to the performers, will be donated to the ASGCC.

Remember, April 19 at 7 pm.

# Harm Reduction

The AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

*presents*

## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

A fun, free, interactive 1 day group experience for HIV positive gay men. The group will explore dating, stress reduction, coping skills and disclosure.

Saturday, April 7th • 9am - 3pm • in Provincetown

**Come chat with guys dealing in similar situations!**

WHAT FORMER PARTICIPANTS HAD TO SAY:

*I liked... "sharing feelings of isolation and conflict about disclosure, especially as it relates to dating and relationships"*

*"Knowing that I'm not alone—that others experience the same feelings."*

*"A forum to discuss amongst other HIV+ men about similar feelings. I was able to verbalize some feelings that I had bottled-up."*

*"I felt very comfortable. The facilitators made the experience very comfortable."*

We will serve a delicious breakfast and lunch.

**To register and for more information please contact your case manager,**

**David Goudreau LSW or Rick Shaw at 508.487.8311**

## The Hero Program

The AIDS Support group of Cape Cod has joined in partnership with Aid for AIDS in New York. The ASGCC is a registered drop off site for medications. As we collect Meds we send them to New York. The medications are then turned over to Doctors and Pharmacists who test

them to be sure they are safe to give to people in need.

This program has been in existence for several months now and has helped countless individuals who have no insurance and can not afford the medications they need.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed and asked that you continue to do so, as well as help spread the word. Once again the HIV/AIDS community has come to the rescue of people who are truly in need. Please remember that your old medications can continue to make a difference. Medications can be dropped off at either of the ASGCC locations in Hyannis or Provincetown or you can contact Michael at 508-487-9445 and arrangements can be made to pick them up.

*Thanks you again for you recent and future contributions.*

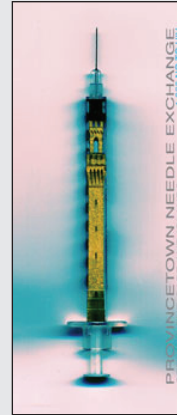
### *We have a winner!*

Actually, we have two winners.

Win Smith's suggestion of "Connections" resonated with us, with a twist offered by Ewa Nogiec.

"+ Connections" is the new name of our Client Newsletter.

Congratulations Win and Ewa and thank you to everyone who made fabulous suggestions!



## ASGCC

### Needle Exchange Program (NEX)

336 Commercial Street, Suite 101  
Provincetown 02657

508-487-8311 • 1-866-668-6448 (toll free)

- Anonymous
- HIV Counseling and Testing
- Confidential Hepatitis C and Syphilis Screening
- Referrals for Hepatitis A and B vaccines

Monday Closed  
 Tuesday 10am-6pm  
 Wednesday 10am-6pm  
 Thursday Noon-8pm  
 Friday 10am-6pm  
 Saturday Noon-8pm  
 Sunday Closed

To register for NEX in the Mid and Upper Cape, please call 508-274-5438.



## Foley House FACT & FICTION

**FICTION:** The Foley House is a hospice run by caregivers.

**FACT:** We are classified as permanent housing and some of our residents have lived here for many years. We employ a professional staff that includes a Director who is licensed by the state as an Independent Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

## Positively Social of New England

Spring Retreat, May 10-13, 2007

Thursday – Sunday \$55.00

Friday – Sunday \$15.00

A weekend retreat for the HIV+ community, by the HIV+ community. Positively Social retreats provide a place for people living with HIV/AIDS to socialize, learn, heal, and enjoy the company of others within a safe environment.

The retreat provides workshops and discussion groups covering the many issues that PLWHA face on a daily basis. Some of the topics presented at past retreats were: New Drugs, Mental and Physical Healing, Spirituality and HIV, Going Back to Work, Self-esteem, Relationships, Disclosure, and Medicaid and SSI.

We also offer various activities focused on fun and relaxation. These have included jewelry making, yoga, mask making, body painting, canoeing, swimming and hiking.

The evening at PS is filled with activity. Whether sitting around the fireplace making new friends, out on the porch in a rocking chair enjoying the sunset over the lake or meeting in the dining hall for a card game, there is always something to do. Saturday night brings our hit PS Follies and dancing.

Pilgrim Lodge is nestled on over 100 acres along the shore of Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardinier, Maine. Lodging is in one of the 17 cabins linked by a boardwalk to the main lodge building. Sleeping 4-16 attendees, each cabin has a screened-in porch, sleeping quarters with wood stove and a rest room. Women's and handicapped accessible cabins are also available.

The three day weekend starts on Friday and ends on Sunday afternoon.

The four day retreat weekend begins on Thursday and ends on Sunday afternoon.

## CAPE AND ISLANDS SERVICE COORDINATION COLLABORATIVE

Friday, April 6, 2007

Larusso Board Room, Cape Cod Hospital

12:00 Lunch, Welcome & Introductions

12:30 Presentations

1. Evaluation & Assessment of the Cape & Islands Service Coordination Collaborative

*Facilitated by: Paul B. Goulet, Massachusetts Department of Public Health AIDS Bureau Consumer Office*

2. National Harm Reduction Conference Update

*Presented by: David Goudreau, Director of Harm Reduction Services ASGCC*

2:00 Program / Committee Updates

Consumer Advisory Board

Service Utilization & Evaluation

Clinicians and Case Managers Reaching Out

Barnstable County Health & Human Services Advisory Council

2:30 Announcements

2:45 Meeting Adjourned

*For more information call Krystin M. St.Onge at ASGCC Hyannis 508-778-1954.*

17th Annual

## Night at the Chef's Table

Thursday, June 7

In 1991, Provincetown restaurateur Franco Palumbo and Brewster innkeeper Charles DiCesare rallied a group of local restaurants to host a gala evening of spectacular dining - to benefit the Provincetown AIDS Support Group (now ASGCC) - and *Night at the Chef's Table* was born.

Seventeen years later *Chef's Table* features more than 60 Cape-wide restaurants: the best, the most interesting, the cutting edge and old favorites; these restaurants have pledged to host dining parties and generously donate all food for this highly acclaimed event.

For \$75 you receive a memorable full course dinner and complimentary wine.

**Spread the word, come and enjoy!**

Check [www.asgcc.org](http://www.asgcc.org) to find out the complete listing of restaurants that will participate this year.

Both programs are all inclusive (with the exception of horseback) and include lodging, meals, workshops and materials. In order to keep the cost of attending the retreat low, we ask that every attendee "volunteer" to help out either in the kitchen, dining or dish room.

Positively Social has become known for its great meals and mealtime is a great time to get to know other attendees and make new friends. All meals are served buffet style and are designed to be well-balanced and offer a variety of choices.

Lake Cobbosseecontee offers a wonderful place to enjoy water activities. From the docks, you're able to grab a canoe and explore the lake or just jump in for a refreshing swim.

PS has a ZERO TOLERANCE for ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE. If you violate this request you will be asked to immediately leave and not return.

*To Request an application contact:  
Krystin M. St.Onge, Client Service  
Director Hyannis 508.778.1954  
stonge\_asgcc@yahoo.com.*

## Minutes

### CAB Meeting March 2, 2007

Called to order at 10:45 a.m. Five attendees, four from Hyannis, one from Provincetown.

#### Old Business

1) Internet access. Hyannis office should be able to get a connection up soon with existing equipment. Provincetown Office will take more time due to the complexity of connecting, the age of the computer. Protocols will need to be developed. A questionnaire will be handed out at April's meeting.

2) Newsletter. Positive comments about the look, content and mailings.

3) Hyannis co-chair. Win Smith has taken up this position with Jim Rann continuing as the Provincetown based co-chair.

Minutes for the 2 February and 2 March 2007 CAB meetings will be approved at the April CAB meeting.

#### New Business

1) Social Opportunities. Discussion of a network of social activity groups for gay men from Plymouth (plymouthmensgroup.com), Falmouth and Provincetown which may connect with a social activity group for HIV positive gay men in Boston (strengthinnumbers.org) and, perhaps, the Cape and Islands, if one forms there through ASGCC. For further discussion at the April meeting is the creation of a Yahoo group for all HIV positive men and women on the Cape and Islands (and beyond?)

so that anyone could contact anyone else for a group movie venture, a pot luck dinner or a game night as well as providing a forum for discussing issues of living with HIV in our area.

2) Volunteering Opportunities. For further discussion at the April meeting is an interior painting (kitchen/living room) at a Cape Abilities residence in Hyannis as a vehicle for reaching out/giving back to the community to bring positive press to ASGCC. Supplies, a meal would be provided. Anyone participating would be known as 'a volunteer' only.

Laura Thornton then discussed the ASGCC budget for fiscal year 2007, stating that federal funds to the state may be cut by three million dollars.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.



### Mark your calendar!

CAB/SCC	April 6	10:45	CCH Hyannis
CAB	May 4	10:45	ASGCC Hyannis
CAB/SCC	June 1	10:45	CCH Hyannis
CAB	July 6	10:45	ASGCC Provincetown
CAB	August 3	10:45	ASGCC Hyannis
CAB/SCC	September 7	10:45	CCH Hyannis
CAB	October 5	10:45	ASGCC Provincetown

## Didja know?

### Little stuff about ASG staff

DONNA MELLO: Rides a 750 Honda Shadow American Classic Motorcycle!

EDWARD PRETE: "The country of Libya told me to leave."

KRYSTIN ST. ONGE: *By night I am an abstract painter for St. Onge Studios. I rocked an amazingly high Afro in the 70's (Angela Davis would take a second glance).*

MAX SANDUSKY: Max has worked with three former Presidents of the United States!

*to be continued*

## Look Who's Knitting!

Not just grandmothers anymore! Julia Roberts, Russell Crowe, Madonna and Bob Mackie are on the list of celebrities who knit, and people you know are Laura Thornton, Madeline Miller, Pat Fecher, and Peter Kandola! They credit this fiber art with offering stress relief, a creative outlet, tactile pleasure, and of course, a sense of accomplishment.

If you'd like to learn the basics, we'll be offering lessons on April 10, after Local Flavor in the Ptown office.

For this introductory lesson we'll supply yarn, needles and ideas!



## AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

Administration: 96-98 Bradford Street, P.O. Box 1522, Provincetown, MA 02657 • Tel: (508) 487-9445 Fax: (508) 487-0565



Mid-Cape Office: 310 Barnstable Road, Suite 101, Hyannis, MA 02601 • Tel: (508) 778-1954 Fax: (508) 778-4501

Falmouth Client Services, Infectious Disease Clinical Services, 100 Ter Heun Drive, Falmouth, MA 02540 • Tel. (508) 495-7190 Fax: (508) 495-7191

Harm Reduction Services: 336 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 • Tel: (866) No To HIV (508) 487-8311

Foley House: P.O. Box 1522, Provincetown, MA 02657 • Tel: (508) 487-6440

[www.asgcc.org](http://www.asgcc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Knitting!</i>	2 Passover begins at sundown	3 Local Flavor <i>St. Peter's Church</i> 6:30-7:30 Parlor Night 7:30-11pm	4	5 SERVICE COORDINATION COLLABORATIVE <i>(see page 3)</i>	6 CAB/SCC Meeting 10:30am Hyannis	7 HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS <i>(see page 2)</i>
8  Easter	9 TAXES!	10 Local Flavor <i>Austin Knight</i> 6:30-7:30 Parlor Night 7:30-11pm	11 JOHN WATER'S FILM FESTIVAL <i>Ptown, 5pm</i>	12 Hyannis Food Pantry	13 Hyannis Food Pantry	14
15	16 Patriot's Day Offices Closed	17 Local Flavor <i>UU Church</i> 6:30-7:30 Parlor Night 7:30-11pm	18 Hyannis Congregate Lunch 12:30pm	19 CABARET Radisson Hotel Hyannis, 7pm <i>(see page 1)</i>	20 Come & help make SaferSex packages, watch "Female Trouble" and "Desperate Living," meet star Channing Wilroy <i>Complimentary Pizza &amp; Popcorn</i>	
22	23 BOD Meeting	24 Local Flavor <i>Fed. Church Orleans</i> 6:30-7:30 Parlor Night 7:30-11pm	25	26	27 Crystal Meth Anonymous Every Thursday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the AIDS Support Group at 96/98 Bradford Street in Provincetown.	
29	30	 <b>WHO IS THE BOSS?</b> Every Thursday Luca cooks from Staff recipes...				

## ASGCC Calendar Notes

**PROVINCETOWN DAILY LUNCHEONS:** Chef Luca makes sure the food is delicious and plentiful! You can see a monthly menu on our web site [www.asgcc.org/lunch.htm](http://www.asgcc.org/lunch.htm). 11:00am—1:00pm, Monday-Friday (not served when ASGCC Provincetown is closed). Clients eat free, guests and volunteers are asked for small donations.

**CAB Meetings:** All meeting dates will be on the first Friday. Locations will rotate between 3 sites. Meetings start @ 10:45am.

**BOD Meeting:** The Board of Directors typically meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Rte. 137, East Harwich, @ 5:30pm. Open to clients and public.

**Boston Van Ride:** No Friday or Holiday Service. No 2nd Thursday service.

## FREE TAX HELP!

Claim tax credits and get your returns faster through Community Action Committee's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Evenings, daytime, and weekend hours; by appointment only. Call 508-771-1727 x 146.