

Wanted: One (1) Gay or Lesbian

FREEHOLD - Check this out. Way back in 1948, in a world recently ravaged by war, the United Nations general assembly convened and unanimously adopted a resolution called the Universal Declaration of Human Right. The intent of the 30 article declaration was to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. End of story?

Hardly.

Because "promote and encourage" are the key words in the declaration. After all, after communism in Russia and beyond, the Civil Rights struggle in this country, and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia (and today in parts Africa) it's no secret that the recognition of basic Human Rights needs all the encouragement it can get.

And that's where the Monmouth County Human Relations Commission comes in. They're the local watchdogs when it comes to human rights.

The Commission recently celebrated their 10th anniversary. And they're still going strong - but in need of a few more troops.

A vacancy on the Commission for a member from the gay and lesbian community exists. Of course, triCity would love to see that slot filled by a member of that community from our community - Asbury Park. After all, our beloved little city's gay population is strong and proud, and has a history of civic duty.

The commission is also seeking out representatives of the Asian and Native American communities.

TriCity recently talked to Carolyn Schwebel, Chairperson of the commission's Communications Team, about the position.

Carolyn told us that anyone interested in applying for the openings should be a Monmouth County resident, should, of course, have an interest in promoting human rights and combating discrimination, and be in tune with the community they seek to represent. To apply, the interested candidate should send the commission a letter of application explaining to them why they want to join.

Carolyn's enthusiasm for the commission, and joy in

her work for it, was evident in our discussion with her. To put it plainly, it sounds like as well as being worthwhile, this could even be fun. Commission members meet once or twice a month, depending on the capacity in which they are serving, at the County's Human Services building in Freehold.

Outreach programs, such as holding discussions and talks in schools and businesses, are agreed upon and implemented. The commission also deals in various ways with raising youth awareness about hate and bias, economic issues related to hate and bias, and police and community relations.

So if you want to make a difference in the New Year, this might be the gig for you. For further information about applying for a position on the commission, contact Chairperson Janice Sweeney at 922-1804, or Carolyn Schwebel at 291-4257.

...and an Asian and a Native American, too!