

## Ann Maguire receives Swim for Life volunteer award

A wristwatch tells it all. When Ann Maguire left her political career and top job with Mayor Tom Menino in 1995 and moved to Provincetown, she removed her wristwatch. It was not about retirement for her, but a delightful change of venue for this quiet spoken activist. Within months she was chair of the beleaguered Provincetown Housing Authority and responsible for cleaning up the devastating fire at Maushope. She interrupted her Florida vacation and returned to make sure tenants were located in temporary housing and to begin the rebuilding process. She found that the building had no sprinkler systems or elevator.

Ann's community service roots are deep, including successfully running State Representative Sarah Peake's campaign. She is on the Provincetown Finance Committee, and the boards of PTV and Helping Our Women. And she and her wife, Harriet Gordon, deliver Meals on Wheels together every Tuesday. She will volunteer again at the Swim for Life on September 11 and receive this year's David Asher Volunteer Award, honoring those with a passion for the health and well being of this community.

It was in the trenches of the early gay and lesbian liberation movement in Boston that Ann perfected her modus operandi: say a few well-chosen words, and then stare silently and patiently. She got results. This style contrasted nicely with the verbose Barney Frank, who was pedaling the first state gay rights bill in 1972, with whom she worked. From there her visionary trajectory picked up like the beat of exuberant disco music, including opening her own bar, Somewhere, and hosting the first, national, gay and lesbian radio talk show, Gay Way. And on the side, she ran the successful campaign of Elaine Noble, the first elected, openly lesbian in the country.

Mayor Flynn soon took notice and appointed her his liaison to the gay and lesbian community in 1984, and then as chair of the AIDS Task Force. During the next decade she served as chair of the Boston Hunger and Homelessness Task Force and as Flynn's Neighborhood Services Director. In the meantime, while volunteering at Rosie's Place in her spare time, she met Harriet, a fellow volunteer and her wife, and began a twenty-five year relationship. They have two married daughters and four grand children who visit the couple often at their West End waterfront home. She is a big fan and supporter of her neighbors, the West End Racing Club.

Her lifelong interest in health care - she received her MA in health sciences from BU - put her in the forefront of women's health issues, becoming a founding member of both the National and Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalitions. With Mayor Menino, who is a close friend, she served as director of health and human services for the city of Boston before moving to Provincetown.

The 23rd Annual Provincetown Swim for Life & Paddler Flotilla will be held on September 11 at the Boatslip Resort, 161 Commercial Street, and includes the Mermaid Brunch, entertainment by Zoe Lewis and the awards ceremony. The Celebration of Life Concert will be held at the Meeting House on Friday evening, produced by John Thomas. Local community radio station WOMR 92.1 FM ([www.womr.org](http://www.womr.org)) will once again broadcast the event live and online from the Boatslip and the starting line at Long Point. Provincetown Community TV will also be present to interview swimmers and kayakers on the deck.

Swimmer, boater and kayak registration is from 8:30-10:00am at the Boatslip. The Swim begins at Long Point at 10:30am, and the public is invited to greet the swimmers around 11:00am. All events are free and open to the public including the Mermaid Brunch, which begins at noon. The awards ceremony will be held on the deck shortly after the last swimmer arrives on shore, approximately 1:00pm.

Top fundraisers will choose from dozens of prizes, including a week in San Miguel, Mexico, two VIP passes to next year's Provincetown International Film Festival, a Locman "Mare" Waterproof

Watch, two round trip tickets on Cape Air and gift certificates at local restaurants and guest houses.

The Swim for Life benefits: AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Helping Our Women, Outer Cape Health Services, Provincetown Rescue Squad, Lower Cape Ambulance, Soup Kitchen in Provincetown and the Academy at Provincetown High School. Business sponsors for 2010 to date include: Provincetown Banner, Paul Mitchell, Boatslip Resort, Far Land Provisions, White Porch Inn, Seamen's Bank, Lobster Pot Restaurant and Fanizzi's Restaurant. The event is also sponsored in part by the Provincetown Tourism Fund.

The 2010 Swim t-shirt by Varujan Boghosian (100% organic cotton) is available for sale at downtown Seamen's Bank, Venture Athletics and the Pilgrim Monument. For registration forms for swimmers, paddlers, security boaters, volunteers and sponsorship opportunities, or to make a donation, contact: Swim for Life, P.O. Box 819, Provincetown, MA 02657, 508-487-1930, email, [thecomact@comcast.net](mailto:thecomact@comcast.net), and at its website, [www.swim4life.org](http://www.swim4life.org).

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