

The logo for the LGBT Center Central PA History Project is a green speech bubble containing the text "LGBT Center Central PA History Project" in white. Below the speech bubble is the LGBT center logo, which features the words "LGBT center" in a green serif font and a stylized green figure with arms raised.

LGBT Center Central PA History Project

*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Fall 2013

Celebrate LGBT History Month in October!

The History Project is involved with three exciting events for LGBT History Month.

On Thursday October 3, from 7 PM to 9 PM, the LGBT Center's Women's Group will host a program on LGBT History at their regular monthly meeting at the LGBT Center, 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. Come hear Lonna Malmsheimer and Nancy Dares from the History Project, and Tameca Waid and Monique Pearson, former owners of Forever Books (an LGBT Bookstore that was located in Steelton), share their interesting herstories.

On Thursday October 24, from 6 PM to 8 PM, the History Project will host a Story Circle at the regular monthly meeting of Aging with Pride at the LGBT Center, 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. Come listen to our narrators about early LGBT organizing efforts through the creation of the PA Rural Gay Caucus and other organizations in central and eastern PA, as well as recollections of an owner of several gay bars in Harrisburg, and share your own memories.

There will be an exhibit of archival materials that have been donated to the History Project at the Dickinson College Archives, located in the Waidner-Spahr Library at 333 West High Street between College and Cherry Streets in Carlisle during the month of October. The Dickinson library is open to the public from 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and from 10 am to 6 pm Saturday and Sunday. Call 717-245-1399 or e-mail archives@dickinson.edu for more information. Details are being developed for an exhibit opening reception and we will send out an update to the mailing list when more information is available.

Interviewer training scheduled for Sept. 28

Would you like a front row seat to hear about the history of our local LGBT community? Discover stories of extraordinary lives as an interviewer of people who have helped create that history.

The History Project will hold training for new potential interviewer volunteers, and refresher training for current interviewer volunteers, on Saturday September 28 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the LGBT Center of Central PA, 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA.

The training will cover an introduction to the History Project, oral history interviewing techniques, a review of the updated interview questionnaire and other forms and documents we use in our project, selecting narrators (interviewees) off the waiting list and scheduling interviews, how to reserve, set up and run the video equipment for interviews, the process for documenting and receiving archival/artifact donations from narrators, and other related topics. Lunch, beverages and snacks will be provided. There is no charge for the training.

Our interviewers work in teams of two people - one person to conduct the interview and ask questions, and one person to run the video camera, monitor sound levels and create an interview log. You may volunteer to do either of these roles once you are trained.

Once you complete the training, we will ask for a commitment from you that you will participate in a minimum of three oral history interviews over a six month period following the training. Each interview takes on average approximately two to three hours, including equipment set up/take down, plus travel time to the interview location. We currently have a waiting list of more than 60 people who want to be interviewed, and more are being added all the time. Please do not sign up for this training unless you are prepared to make this commitment.

We also strongly recommend all interviewer volunteers view the documentary films *Before Stonewall* and *After Stonewall* before interviewing narrators to provide you with some national LGBT historical context for the interviews. We will be arranging for a showing of these documentaries on a date separate from the training session for optional viewing, or you may be able to obtain them from your local library or movie rental service for viewing on your own.

Please RSVP to baloveland@aol.com by September 24 to attend the September 28 training session.

History Project outreach efforts successful

The History Project made a very successful showing with a booth at the Lancaster Pride Festival and Central PA Pride Festival in Harrisburg. About 30 people signed up to be narrators and/or volunteer to help with various aspects of the History Project.

About 25 people attended another event, "Memories of Pride" on July 25 at the LGBT Center with refreshments, information and displays about the History Project. A few people did mini-interviews to share their first pride event memories, or their most memorable pride moments from the past, and several people brought in old pride t-shirts, buttons, photographs and other memorabilia.

Thanks to our volunteers who staffed these Pride events and represented the Project so well!

Lonna Malsheimer, Barry Loveland and Louie Marven were interviewed about the History Project on WITF's Smart Talk, discussing the mission, purpose, methodology and future plans for the History Project and answering questions from the moderator and callers. To hear the interview, visit their web site at <http://www.witf.org/smart-talk/2013/08/rst-lgbt-history-project.php>.

Barry was also interviewed by RainbowGray.com, a national web site for LGBT elders, about the History Project. To read the interview, go to <http://rainbowgray.com/questions-for-barry-loveland/>.

Barry will also be speaking to the Dauphin County Diversity Forum on October 17 about the History Project and what we are learning about local LGBT history through the project.

Lonna will be speaking at the October meeting of the Penn State Hershey LGBT group on LGBT history and the History Project.

John Folby, head of our Outreach Team, is currently working on getting our informational flyers and posters into central PA LGBT bars and other businesses, as well as at upcoming events such as the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and Central PA Womyn's Chorus concerts this fall.

Archival procedures finalized

Procedures have been developed for receiving archival and artifact donations for the History Project, to be documented, catalogued and housed at the Dickinson College Archives. An information flyer is now available to provide guidelines on how to prepare donations and a gift of deed/accession record form is now available and should be included with all archival or artifact donations.

As a reminder to interviewers, please ask your narrators if they have any archival or artifact materials that they wish to donate to the Project. We will be adding these flyers and forms to the camera kits.

If you would like to make a donation of archival materials, contact history@centralpalgbtcenter.org to receive the information flyer and form.

Summer fundraiser a big success

A successful fundraiser garden party was held at the beautiful residence of Larry and Jeff in Mechanicsburg on August 22. More than \$1000 was raised, including \$755 for the History Project and \$250 for other Aging with Pride programs.

The current balance of our funds available in account is \$1,918.67.

The Fundraising Team is working on a couple of grant applications and discussing a possible fundraising house party this winter.

Interns assisting with History Project

As we say goodbye and thank you to Sarah Radomsky, our summer intern from Georgetown University who assisted on several interviews, we welcome a fall intern, Mana Shaw, a student at

Dickinson College. Mana will be working on the exhibit at Dickinson College Archives for LGBT History Month, transcribing some of our completed interviews, and some outreach activities.

We also have sent internship availability notices to more than 250 contacts at colleges throughout Pennsylvania for fall or spring semester unpaid internships. We met recently with two professors at Elizabethtown College are strongly encouraging students to get involved with the History Project.

Narrator list progress

We completed interviews of 19 narrators (interviewees) while more than 60 narrators are waiting to be interviewed. We have 12 interviewers still on the active list. We no longer have an Interview Team coordinator, but are using Drop Box to facilitate the interviewer volunteers' access to the narrators list. If you are a volunteer interviewer, please be sure to access this Drop Box spreadsheet, and select the narrators you want to contact to interview by entering your name in the interviewer column. You should then contact other volunteer interviewers to find a camera person to work with you and contact the narrator to schedule the interview. Contact the LGBT Center to schedule the camera kit. Please complete these interviews as soon as possible to keep from having our narrators wait too long to share their stories, and update the Drop Box spreadsheet to let us know when an interview is complete. If you are having problems accessing the Drop Box file, contact Barry.

Volunteer meeting postponed

The volunteer meeting that was to be held in August has been postponed until after our interview training at the end of September. Watch for an upcoming meeting notice. We now have 58 volunteers and nearly 100 on our email list!

Support our allies

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and the Central PA Womyn's Chorus have been supportive allies to the History Project, welcoming us to be part of their information tables and providing free ad space in concert programs. Please support them in their upcoming events listed below.

Saturday October 26, 4:30-8:30 PM The Woymn's Chorus annual all you can eat spaghetti dinner at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 500 Devonshire Rd., Harrisburg. Cost: \$10; Seniors 62+ and students with ID \$8; Kids under 10 eat free

Saturday November 2, 8 PM The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus "HGMC Halloween Dance Party" COME IN COSTUME! at the Maennerchor Club, 221 North Street Harrisburg. \$10 tickets at the door.

Sunday December 8, 4 PM The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus "A WINTER WHIRL" at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane. Tickets \$15. <http://harrisburgmenschorus.org/>

Alder Health: Win one of the cutest cars on the road FIAT raffle. \$15 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$30, on sale until Nov 1st, www.alderhealth.org.

And don't forget upcoming events at the LGBT Center including FAB on November 9 at the Harrisburg Hilton and 3rd in the Burg at the LGBT Center Gallery every 3rd Friday evening: check out the full calendar of events at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project

history@centralpalgbtcenter.org

717-920-9534

<http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project>

facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa