

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Fall 2015

Come out and celebrate LGBT History Month

The History Project will be celebrating LGBT History Month all throughout October with a series of programs and exhibits.

Our annual History Comes Out exhibit opens October 1 at the Waidner-Spahr Library on the campus of Dickinson College, with a reception scheduled for Sunday October 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Refreshments will be served and the exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. One of our fall student interns will serve as curator of the exhibit. Come out and see some of our wonderful collection of local LGBT history and support our interns who learn valuable skills as well as gaining insight into the history of the LGBT community in central Pennsylvania. The exhibit runs through the end of October.



See related stories in this newsletter on these additional LGBT History Month programs:

Oct. 16: Opening of ART/history: a retrospective exhibit on the career of costume designer Paul Foltz

Oct. 18: Lecture by Dr. Michael Long on Frank Kameny

Oct. 22: Story Circle, A History of Lily White and Company

Program to focus on Frank Kameny October 18

The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project is presenting a program on Sunday October 18 from 2 to 4 PM, at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first of the gay rights demonstrations known as the Annual Reminders. The pre-Stonewall demonstrations at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the White House in Washington, D.C., were held on July 4 starting in 1965 and were organized by Franklin Kameny and other early gay rights activists. Dr. Michael Long will speak about Franklin Kameny, one of the leaders in the Mattachine Society and gay rights pioneer. Dr. Long is the editor of a newly released book, *Gay is Good: The Life and Letters of Gay Rights Pioneer Franklin Kameny*. This event was rescheduled from July due to a family emergency.



Dr. Michael Long

Contrary to popular notions, today's LGBT movement did not begin with the Stonewall riots in 1969. Long before Stonewall, there was Franklin Kameny (1925–2011), one of the most significant figures in the gay rights movement. Beginning in 1958, he encouraged gay people to embrace homosexuality as moral and healthy, publicly denounced the federal government for excluding homosexuals from federal employment, openly fought the military's ban against gay men and women, debated psychiatrists who depicted homosexuality as a mental disorder, identified test cases to advance civil liberties through the federal courts, acted as counsel to countless homosexuals suffering state-sanctioned discrimination, and organized marches for gay rights at the White House and other public institutions. *In Gay Is Good*, Long collects Kameny's historically rich letters, revealing some of the early stirrings of today's politically powerful LGBT movement.

These letters are lively and colorful because they are in Kameny's inimitable voice—a voice that was consistently loud, echoing through such places as the Oval Office, the Pentagon, and the British Parliament, and often shrill, piercing to the federal agency heads, military generals, and media personalities who received his countless letters. This volume collects approximately 150 letters from 1958 to 1975, a critical period in Kameny's life during which he evolved from a victim of the law to a vocal opponent of the law, to the voice of the law itself. Long situates these letters in context, giving historical and biographical data about the subjects and events involved. *Gay Is Good* pays tribute to an advocate whose tireless efforts created a massive shift in social attitudes and practices, leading the way toward equality for the LGBT community.

Copies of the book will be available at the Midtown Scholar.

Dr. Michael Long is an associate professor of Religion and Peace and Conflict Studies at Elizabethtown College. He has a B.A. from Geneva College, a M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary and a PhD. from Emory University. He is the author or editor of several books, including *Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*.

Exhibit to celebrate career of costume designer Paul Foltz

A new exhibit documenting the career of local costume designer Paul Foltz will open Friday October 16 and run until November 17. *ART/history: a retrospective exhibit on the career of costume designer Paul Foltz*, will be mounted at two venues. The exhibit at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center will feature a selection of about 25 costumes that Paul designed and produced throughout his career that spans more than 35 years working mostly for Theatre Harrisburg, but also for several colleges and other organizations. Historical photos showing the costumes as they were worn on stage, original design sketches and playbill covers will also be featured in the exhibit. Also included will be a photographic exhibit documenting the creative process that Paul follows when costuming a stage production, with photos by John Powl of Under the Bridge Productions of Lancaster.



Paul Foltz, (photo by John Powl)

Paul was also the founder and creative force behind Lily White and Company, a local organization of female impersonators and other entertainers that produced many shows and performances throughout the central PA region raising funds for HIV/AIDS and LGBT service organizations in the 1980's and 1990's. At the second venue, the LGBT Center of Central PA, the exhibit will include a series of black and white photographs of many of the performers from Lily White shows by acclaimed photographer, Jack Radcliffe. Also included in the exhibit will be memorabilia of Lily White and Company shows, and personal items documenting Paul's life. Paul also sat for a video oral history interview with the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project and portions of that interview will be played at the opening reception.



One of the costumes from the exhibit

The opening reception will be held on Friday October 16, 2015, 6-9 PM, at both venues in conjunction with Harrisburg's Third in the Burg. Visitors to the opening reception are encouraged to come in costume or mask and the event will feature refreshments and entertainment.

There will also be a special program on Thursday October 22, 6-8 PM at the LGBT Center Gallery, a Story Circle that will feature Paul and other members of Lily White and Company who will share memories and stories about how Lily White was started, what they did and the impact they had on the LGBT community and HIV/AIDS services in the region through their fundraising. Historical video clips of performances of the group will be shown.

Paul Foltz is well known to theater audiences in Harrisburg and throughout central Pennsylvania for his 35 years as the costume designer for Theatre Harrisburg. But there are many other dimensions to Paul's life and career. Paul has been an adjunct faculty member of Harrisburg Area Community College for the past ten years, developing their costume design classroom/shop; was an adjunct faculty member of the Bradley Academy for the Visual Arts in York for 19 years in fashion design and related subjects, creating the fashion design curriculum. He owns his own small business in custom costume and clothing design and fabrication and has done work for The Harrisburg Ballet, The Harrisburg Opera, Open Stage of Harrisburg, Hershey Entertainment and other clients in central PA, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. He was artist in residence in costume for the PA Council on the Arts in 1988 and 1989 and has won a national award for his work. He is a founding member of the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and founder of Lily White and Company and helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for local AIDS and LGBT community organizations. He holds a BA in English literature from St. Anselm College and a diploma in acting and design from the Drama Studio of London.

Jack Radcliffe is a photographer from Baltimore whose work has been exhibited in many museums and galleries throughout the U.S. and in Europe, including several exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. One of those exhibits, *Hospice: A Photographic Inquiry* was later published in a book of the same name and features Jack's photos of patients from Joy Ufema's York House AIDS Hospice. It also became a traveling exhibit to nearly 20 museums and galleries around the U.S. His photographs have been published all over the world in newspapers, magazines, books, catalogues and used in films and videos. He is the recipient of four arts fellowships and his photographs are in the permanent collection of five museums, galleries and libraries including the Corcoran. Jack started taking photographs in 1967 while in the marines. He later started and directed the photography program at Harford Community College in Maryland for 35 years. He has also been an adjunct associate professor of photography at Goucher College in Maryland. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from Grove City College and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Maryland. Some of his photographs of Lily White performers can be seen on his web site at <http://jackradcliffe.prosite.com/1353/28212/work/lily-white>.



Jack Radcliffe, (photo by Jeffrey Rollingner)

The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project and Historic Harrisburg Association have collaborated to produce this exhibit, with assistance from Theatre Harrisburg, The State Museum of Pennsylvania and the Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University. The exhibit and related events are part of a series of exhibits and programs in celebration of LGBT History Month in October. It is the second collaborative retrospective exhibit of the LGBT Center to focus on the entire career and body of work of an artist important to the region's LGBT history. The first was held last October and featured works of art spanning nearly 70 years of the career of surrealist artist Lawrence von

Barann. Portions of his oral history interview were shown at the opening reception and the artist also did a gallery talk to a very enthusiastic response.

The Historic Harrisburg Resource Center is located at 1230 North Third Street, and the LGBT Center of Central PA is located at 1306 North Third Street, both in Harrisburg.

Visit these web sites for more information: www.historicharrisburg.com and www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

Interviewer training workshop scheduled

We are pleased to announce the next training session to become an interviewer for the LGBT Center of Central PA's History Project. All of our volunteers must first go through a training program to be able to participate as interviewers for the History Project. Our interviewers have a front row seat in learning about LGBT history through the memories of our narrators. And it is fun to meet new people and hear their stories. **Note: if you have already gone through this training in the past, you may attend as refresher training.**

Our next interviewer training program is scheduled for Saturday September 12 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 interview questionnaire and other forms and documents we use in our project, obtaining names of 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 included.

There is a \$10 fee for the workshop and we must receive payment from you by September 8 to reserve your space. There are no refunds if you cancel after September 8.

We recommend that interviewers view the documentary films *Before Stonewall* and *After Stonewall* to have some context for the interviews. These are available at the LGBT Center or through local libraries.

To register, send your check for \$10 to the LGBT Center of Central PA, 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

We are also planning on offering a separate videographer training session soon. Contact us at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org if you are interested in video recording our interviews.

Penn State students to do interviews

We are once again partnering with Dr. Anthony Buccitelli of Penn State/Harrisburg's graduate program in American Studies. Dr. Buccitelli will be offering his students in his Ethnography course the opportunity to do oral history interviews and transcriptions for the History Project. We are looking forward to working with him and his students once again and getting some additional interviews completed this fall.

Welcome to our fall interns

We are bidding a farewell and thank you to our wonderful summer interns, Jennifer Ott, of Shippensburg University, and Karin Carthins, of Dickinson College. Jennifer did some original research into web posting and privacy policies of LGBT history projects and archives around the country in preparation for us drafting a set of policy guidelines on this topic. She also did research into the HIV/AIDS history collection, oral history interviews and transcriptions and work on an exhibit to open this October celebrating the career of Paul Foltz. Karin did several transcriptions of oral history interviews.

As the fall semester starts, we welcome three new interns, all from Dickinson College.

Sarah Goldberg is a sophomore majoring in history with a minor in political science. She has experience creating an online exhibit for the Dickinsonia Project, doing a curatorial internship with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and working as a teaching assistant. She will be curating our History Comes Out exhibit in October and doing oral history interviews and other projects.



Talya Auger

and gender studies. She has a strong interest in history and historic sites, with experience as a living history intern with Gettysburg National Military Park and a civilian living historian with the Liberty Rifles re-enactment group at Spangler Farm in Gettysburg. She also did historic site interpretation for a Reproductive Justice Walking Tour of Carlisle. She will be doing research into the collection to identify and assemble a list of potential LGBT historic sites in central PA for a survey that we hope to begin next year.

The History Project thanks Malinda Triller-Doran, Special Collections Librarian at Dickinson College for her help in supervising and working with our interns for the History Project.



Karin Carthins



Sarah Goldberg

Talya Auger is a senior majoring in women's and gender studies. She has worked for the Dickinson College Office of LGBTQ Services, and several non-profit organizations and has been a substitute teacher. She has studied abroad researching LGBTQ issues in India and Denmark, including research in LGBTQ archives in Sweden, Germany and Denmark. She will be working on oral history interviews and research work in our collection.

VJ Kopaki is a junior with a double major in anthropology and women's



VJ Kopacki

We have available work for students for unpaid internships during any semester from any college. Location is flexible. Contact us at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org to apply.

The History Project pops up in Lancaster

The History Project held a pop up exhibit at The Arch Gallery on First Friday in Lancaster in June. We focused on showing many of our collections that were from the Lancaster area, as well as clips of our oral history interviews. More than 100 people viewed our exhibit and we received many favorable comments.

We popped up again with an exhibit at our annual open house at the LGBT Center on July 23rd during Central PA Pride Week and featured many of our HIV/AIDS history related artifacts and documents, curated by our spring/summer intern Jennifer Ott, who spent a portion of her internship doing research into our HIV/AIDS collection.

Support the History Project

We are only about \$2,000 short of our fundraising goal for purchasing a trade show type exhibit infrastructure for our traveling pop-up exhibits. We have enough money to buy about half of the pieces we want to purchase.

This will give our traveling exhibits a more professional and polished look and attract more attention. We'll be able to change the printed fabric wrap on the backdrop with each new exhibit as new content is developed each year. And we'll be able to get into new venues with our exhibits throughout central PA reaching new audiences for the History Project.

Would you like to help? You can send a directed contribution by a check made out to the LGBT Center and write "history project" on the memo line. Send it to the Center at 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

The History Project just celebrated its 3rd anniversary last month. Wouldn't your donation make a great anniversary gift? THANKS!

Support our friends

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

<http://www.harrisburgmenschorus.org/>

<http://www.cpwchorus.org/>

And don't forget upcoming events at the LGBT Center including 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

Winner of the 2014 J. Franklin Jameson Award from the Society of American Archivists

history@centralpalgbtcenter.org

717-920-9534

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

facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa

Working in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>