

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Fall 2016

An LGBT History Month filled with events

The History Project has many ways for you to get out and learn about your history this October for LGBT History Month, including four exhibits and several programs.

The exhibit *"We're Here: Pioneering LGBT Rights in Pennsylvania"* (which opened in April) runs through October 30th at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. A program will be held on Friday October 21 noon to 1 PM at the State Museum with video clips of oral history interviews and a Q & A session with the exhibit curator. There is an admission charge, but the program is free to state employees. The exhibit focuses on early LGBT community organizing in central Pennsylvania in the 1970's including the formation of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus and Governor Milton Shapp's several LGBT civil rights "firsts" including the creation of the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities.



At the LGBT Center in Harrisburg, the exhibit "ART/history: a retrospective exhibit on the career of jewelry designer Jude Sharp" opens with 3rd in the Burg on Friday September 16 with a reception from 6 PM to 9 PM.

Governor Milton Shapp (left) meets with Tony Silvestre prior to appointing him chairman of the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities in 1976. This photo is one of many photos, documents and artifacts now on exhibit at The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Refreshments will be served. See a selection of photographs of Jude's jewelry creations from her nearly 50 year career as a jewelry designer and craftsperson, as well as a photo/text exhibit showing and describing the creative process she follows and her working in her studio/workshop. Mementos of Jude's life and career will also be on display. The exhibit runs through October 18.

In a program on Tuesday October 11 from 6 PM to 8:00 PM at the LGBT Center, we will show Jude Sharp's oral history interview and Jude will be on hand to answer questions about her life and career as a lesbian artist. Refreshments will be served.

Dickinson College in Carlisle will host the 4th annual "History Comes Out" exhibit in the Waidner-Spahr Library on its campus. The exhibit runs from October 1-31. The exhibit features a selection of artifacts and documents from the collection, curated by one of our previous student interns from Dickinson College. A reception will be held on Sunday October 9 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM with additional artifacts on display and refreshments served.

Our fourth exhibit is a new venue for us this year at the Stevenson Library on the campus of Lock Haven University. The exhibit opens on September 30 and runs through October 19. A reception will be held on September 30 from 2 PM to 4 PM with refreshments. The exhibit will feature a selection of artifacts and documents from our collection, including some from the north central part of Pennsylvania. Barry Loveland will give a presentation on October 19th from 12:30 PM to 2 PM about the History Project.

Book planned for History Project

One of the "dreams" of the History Project has been to write and publish a book based on research of the collections and oral history interviews in the History Project collection. That dream is one step closer to reality after a final book proposal was submitted to the Penn State University Press in August.

Penn State University Press contacted the History Project about a year ago expressing interest in publishing a book about the project. About the same time, Bill Burton, an historian living in Philadelphia, contacted the History Project wanting to do research and writing for a book. These coinciding events led to a chain of communications and meetings and a couple of draft proposals, to now a final stage of proposal approval which



Jude Sharp at work in her studio/workshop in Lancaster; photo by John Powl of Under the Bridge Productions



Ring, 14K yellow gold with amethyst, by Jude Sharp



Jennifer Ott, an intern last summer with the History Project from Shippensburg University, looks over one of the cases of the 2015 History Comes Out exhibit.

will lead to an agreement to publish. The working title of the book is *Out in the Hinterland: Creating a LGBT Community in Rural Pennsylvania*.

We are very excited to work on this project, which we anticipate will take about two years. We'll keep you updated on our progress. In the meantime, we ask everyone to continue to look through your closets, basements and attics for more documents and artifacts that will shed light on our region's LGBT history, and if you know of anyone whose story will be important to include, please have them contact us about being interviewed.

Meet our fall intern

We are always excited to welcome student interns to the History Project. Emily Armando is a sophomore Psychology/Sociology major at Dickinson College, and plans to also minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She has extensive experience in writing, photography and film, all of which she is excited to have the opportunity to apply to the History Project through conducting oral history interviews and possibly development of a short introductory video about the History Project. Welcome Emily!

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/. The LGBT Center is located at 1306 N. Third Street in Harrisburg.

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project

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

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Working in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections
<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>