

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Fall 2017

October is LGBT History Month

We will celebrate LGBT History Month once again with our 4th annual *History Comes Out*, an exhibit of artifacts and archival documents from the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project at the Waidner-Spahr Library at Dickinson College. The exhibit, which runs from Oct. 18 to Nov. 30, highlights recent donations to the project, including a collection of artifacts from the Altland's Ranch bar outside of York, which closed last year.

Dickinson will host a reception for the exhibit on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on the Waidner-Spahr Library's main level, 333 West High Street in Carlisle. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's reception will include behind-the-scenes tours of the Archives, a hands-on display of additional artifacts, and screenings of oral history interviews. Interested attendees will have the opportunity to sign up to contribute their story through an oral history. Project staff will also be available to receive donations of documents, images, or artifacts during the event.

The LGBT Center of Central PA in Harrisburg and the Dickinson Archives & Special Collections are collaborating to collect



Take a behind the scenes tour of the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections on October 29 to learn more about the LGBT history collection.

original documents that depict stories of LGBT history in Central Pa., as told by those who lived them. The documents include written accounts, video interviews, photographs and artifacts that illustrate and support those stories.

Exhibit hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, email archives@dickinson.edu or call 717-245-1399.

“This will be a great opportunity for people from the community to not only see many newly acquired items from the collection, but to get a sense of where and how we store and care for the collection here at the Archives,” said Malinda Triller Doran, special collections librarian who manages the collection. “We have students, faculty and researchers that often make use of the collection for research projects and classes, but members of the general public rarely get a chance to see behind the scenes at an archive.”

Book nears completion

Writing of our book, currently titled *Out in the Hinterland: Creating a LGBT Community in Rural Pennsylvania*, is nearing completion with 5 of 7 chapters finished and chapter six nearly complete. The final manuscript is due to our publisher, Penn State University Press, by December 15. It could take from a year to 18 months to complete the publishing process and release the book for sale.

Dickinson interns making a difference

We say farewell and thank you to Liam Fuller who was our intern for the summer. Liam just graduated from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and French and Francophone Studies. Liam did several oral history interviews, transcriptions, and research for our book this summer. Liam is transgender and was able to interview several transgender individuals and others.



Alette Kligman

We are welcoming two new interns for the fall semester, Alette Kligman and Yasmin Cooper. Alette is a sophomore at Dickinson College majoring in political science and education with an interest in LGBT civil rights advocacy. Yasmin is a senior at Dickinson with a double major in women's and gender studies and Africana studies. She has experience in ethnographic research, and working for college organizations and a community non-profit. Our interns will be assisting in planning and curation of our annual exhibit *History Comes Out* and exhibit reception, as well as doing transcriptions of oral history interviews and other projects.

Progress continues

We continue to make progress on many fronts with the History Project, including oral history interviews, transcriptions and exhibits. We currently have oral history interviews completed with 120 individuals (and transcriptions completed for interviews of 90 individuals). About 90 people remain on the waiting list. We have more than 75 linear feet of artifact and archival collections.

We have added a new member to our Steering Committee. Dr. Mary Libertin, professor emerita of English at Shippensburg University has joined the committee and will take charge of reviewing and finalizing our 90 draft transcriptions to get them ready to post to our web site.

Throughout the fall we will be featuring an exhibit in our display case in the LGBT Center of artifacts, documents and photographs celebrating the youth program of the LGBT Center known as Common Roads. The exhibit will run through the end of December. Common Roads will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year.

Support our friends

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus (celebrating their 30th anniversary this year) 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: 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

Founded in 2012, celebrating our 5th anniversary!

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

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<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/lgbt>