

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Spring 2014

Workshop trains new interviewers

The History Project interviewers training workshop, held on Saturday March 1 at the LGBT Center, had 13 trainees come out for a day of learning about oral history interviewing techniques, setting up and running the new video recording equipment and general information about the History Project. Ten of these were new volunteers, while three were returning volunteers seeking refresher training.

We have two new video camcorders, two sets of new sound equipment and tripods. For those previously trained interviewer volunteers who did not attend the March 1 training workshop, an instructional video and written instructions for the set up and use of this new equipment will soon be posted on the web site. The History Project thanks Dickinson College for the loan of video and sound equipment for the past year, and Dr. Lonna Malmshemer for conducting the training program.

Exhibit case to show off History Project

A new permanent display case has been donated to the LGBT Center of Central PA to provide a place to exhibit new donations of archival and artifact materials to the History Project, as well as the opportunity to develop special themed exhibits in connection with other events.

The History Project thanks Lindsay Snowden and Shaashawn Dial-Snowden for their generous donation of the display case.



Thanks to John Folby and Teddy Maurer who have volunteered to be curators of the monthly changing exhibits in the new display case.

Archives donations coming in

Donations of archival documents and artifacts continue to come in to the History Project. Pictured here are some representative examples of our recent donations.



Barry Loveland donated a collection of LGBT-themed t-shirts and playbills from several Broadway and off-Broadway LGBT-themed plays he attended. He and others also donated LGBT-themed buttons.

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Rose Chiango who has served as our Archives team leader for the last year and is moving to Pittsburgh to attend graduate school. We wish her all the best in her studies. We are seeking a volunteer who is interested in coordinating the Archives team and also serving as a representative on the steering committee for the History Project. This person coordinates the intake of new archival and artifact donations, makes sure that signed Gift of Deed forms are received from the donors, photographs or scans the donations, arranges for transport to the Dickinson College Archives, sends thank you letters to donors, and attends a monthly steering committee meeting to report on activities. Please send us an email if you are interested.

History Project outreach

Barry Loveland will be speaking to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) at their monthly meeting on March 17 at 7 PM at the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. If you are involved with a local organization looking for a speaker or program, suggest the History Project to them and put them in touch with us and we would be happy to make a presentation to their group.

Mark Stoner completed designs for business cards and post cards for the History Project and they look great. We will be distributing business cards to volunteers to carry and hand out when they meet people who express interest in the History Project. Post cards will be used at various venues and events as a convenient hand out. We are currently getting prices from printers and should have

these materials available soon. The History Project thanks Mark Stoner for the generous donation of his professional graphics and design skills.

An article on the History Project by Barry Loveland has been published in the spring 2014 issue of *Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine*. The magazine, published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, has a circulation of about 4,000 throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

Winter fundraiser held

A house party fundraiser was held at the home of Teddy and Cara on Friday February 21. Attendees enjoyed delicious hors d' oeuvres and beverages and some updates on the History Project and other programs of the LGBT Center. \$1215 was raised for the History Project. The History Project thanks all of our generous donors who attended, or were unable to attend but sent in contributions and thanks to Teddy and Cara for their generosity and opening up their home to us.

The LGBT Center also received a \$600 grant for the History Project from the Franklin GLBT Justice Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Cumberland Valley. This is the second year in a row that UUC-CV has provided a grant to the History Project. The Fundraising Team, led by Peg Dierkers, is working on a couple of other grant applications for submission this year. John Folby is researching potential corporate donors.

About \$21,000 will need to be raised over the next couple of years to implement the strategic plan, including the development of a content-rich interactive web site that will present the stories of the LGBT History Project to the public. The current balance of our funds in account is \$2,219.65.

Meet our spring interns

The History Project is fortunate to have two enthusiastic interns for the spring semester, both students at Dickinson College in Carlisle.

Sara Tyberg (class of 2016) and Chalise Saunders (class of 2014) are both working on transcriptions of completed interviews. In addition, Sara, who is majoring in Sociology, will also be doing some video editing to compile video clips of our interviews for the web site. Chalise, a Women's and Gender Studies major, will also be doing some processing of archival donations recently received for the History Project collection.

The History Project thanks Malinda Triller-Doran, Special Collections Librarian for Dickinson College for supervising these interns for the History Project.

We have available work for students for unpaid internships during any semester from any college. Location is flexible. Contact us



Spring interns Chalise Saunders (top) and Sara Tyberg

at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org to apply.

Penn State class partners with History Project

The History Project is working with a graduate level seminar class in Ethnography and Society at Penn State University – Harrisburg, thanks to Dr. Anthony Buccitelli, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Communications. Eight of the 11 students in the class chose the History Project as their mid-term project for the seminar. The assignment will include conducting a full oral history interview with one of our narrators and doing a written transcription of the interview. Dr. Buccitelli anticipates this class being offered once a year so there may be opportunities to work with his class again in the future.

Narrator waiting list progress

We have completed interviews of 24 narrators (interviewees) while more than 80 narrators are still waiting to be interviewed. Trained volunteer interviewers may now contact Pat Van Horn at the LGBT Center by email (pvanhorn@centralpalgbtcenter.org) to obtain names and contact information from the narrators' waiting list, as well as to schedule the camera equipment for the interview. We are asking all of our interviewers to commit to doing at least three interviews in the next 3 months to keep from having our narrators wait too long to share their stories.

We are also making progress on the backlog of transcriptions of the video interviews to text documents. Several have been completed and our interns are working on several more.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Rosemary Mirocco who has led our Transcription team for the past year and has additional job commitments that is requiring her to reduce her involvement in the History Project. We thank her for her help over the past year and wish her well with the new job. We are seeking a volunteer who is interested in coordinating the Transcription team and also serving as a representative on the steering committee for the History Project. This person coordinates the transcription of the video interviews, reviews transcriptions by volunteers and interns to ensure compliance with standards, and attends a monthly steering committee meeting to report on activities. Please send us an email if you are interested.

Story Circles add to the historical record

A Story Circle was held on Thursday January 23 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the LGBT Center for the regular monthly meeting of Aging with Pride. This was an "open mic" type of event and several of the participants shared stories and asked questions. It was a lively evening of discussion and discovery. In addition to making the History Project come alive to new people in our community, these Story Circles help us to discover new historical information and new leads for narrators and archival and artifact materials. The next History Project program will be on Thursday April 24 from 6 to 8 PM at the LGBT Center when we plan to show an historical film with an LGBT theme.

Virtual tours planned with HHA

The History Project is in the process of developing a new partnership with Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA) to develop virtual tours for the web and a mobile AP of sites important in local LGBT history. HHA is currently working on a mobile AP of several walking tours of Harrisburg and are interested in adding an LGBT tour. Plans call for developing a pilot project this year and adding more sites and locations in future years.

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 support them in their events.

May 3 and 4, Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus spring concerts, details at <http://www.harrisburgmenschorus.org/>

May 31 and June 1, Central PA Womyn's Chorus spring concerts, details at <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

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

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Working in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections

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