

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives

NEWS

Summer 2019

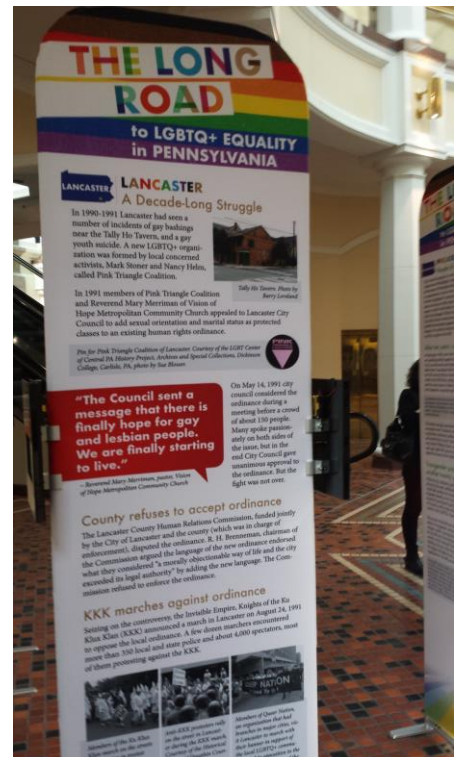
Happy PRIDE season, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall raid and riots

Exhibit commemorates Stonewall anniversary

The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania, our traveling history exhibit has been moving all over the state and meeting with enthusiastic response. So far, 34 venues have booked the exhibit.

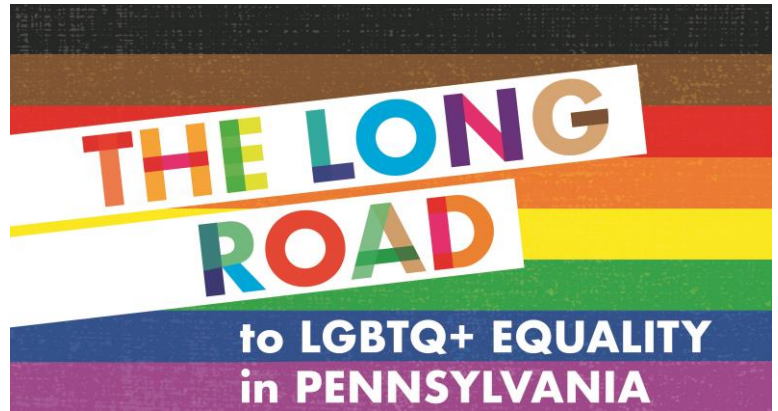
Upcoming showings in central Pennsylvania include June 28 at Pride Night at the York Revolution Stadium in York, and July 2-25 at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N. 3rd St. in Harrisburg.

This is a traveling history exhibit that chronicles the efforts that activists have undertaken in Pennsylvania to achieve full equality for LGBTQ+ people. With the lack of success in passing statewide legislative protections from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and education, activists have been working for more than five decades to obtain these



The exhibit includes case studies of several cities, including Lancaster.

protections one battle at a time, one municipality at a time. The exhibit uses case studies of several cities and townships to highlight not just the political struggles, but the personal stories as well. This exhibit debuts in the 50th anniversary year of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ movement toward equality.



Visit our web page at

www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/thelongroad to host a display of the exhibit, see where else it is going or get more information. The exhibit is sponsored by the PA LGBT History Network, a cooperative group of organizations, institutions and individuals that have collections and/or an interest in LGBT history. Become a part of the Network on Facebook, or join our Google Group at [the-pa-lgbt-history-network+subscribe@googlegroups.com](https://www.google.com/groups?group=the-pa-lgbt-history-network).

Artists View Equality

Artists View Equality, our series of collaborative exhibits with several arts organizations in central PA began on Friday May 10 with the opening of *Inspired: Contemporary Responses to a Legacy of Courage*, at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg. Barry Loveland, guest curator, will lead a tour of the exhibit on Sunday July 28 at 3 pm. The show will be on exhibit through Sunday August 18. This show will move to the Lancaster Museum of Art in November.



Opening reception of Inspired at the Susquehanna Art Museum drew a crowd of 175 people.

The Art Association of Harrisburg will host one of the shows, *Out of the Past: Artists View Equality*, October 18- November 21. If you are a member of the AAH, check their web site at <http://www.artassocofhbg.com/index2.htm> and Facebook page for the call for entries information with a deadline of August 15.

History Project receives grant

The History Project has received its third grant from the Schlegel-Deibler Foundation. The funds will be used to hire temporary staff at the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections to digitize the highest priority collections of the LGBT History Project and put them online so that they are accessible to the public through our web site. We are also submitting another grant through another funding agency to try to match these funds for additional work with the History Project collection.

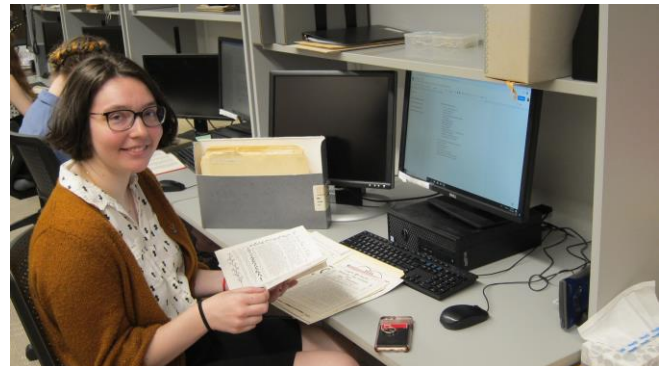
The Schlegel-Deibler Foundation previously awarded grants to the History Project for general support and for *The Long Road* traveling exhibit project. We thank them again for their generous support!

Digital exhibits planned

We currently have three volunteers and two interns working on four separate digital exhibits for the History Project. The topics will include a history of the local LGBTQ bars, stories of discrimination, the impact of religion on LGBT lives, and the military experience of LGBT service members. Our first digital exhibit, the local response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, was completed this spring by Dickinson intern Samantha Reiersen. We are currently working on a web page format to host these new digital exhibits on our web site and hope to have them online by this fall.

We welcome two new interns this summer, Kimberly (Kimi) Phillips and Kelsey Bell.

Kimberly, or Kimi, is a rising senior at Dickinson College with a major in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Creative Writing. She has experience in historical research, retail and gallery work, editing publications and writing. She is working for the History Project this summer on the digital exhibit on the military experience of LGBT service members in central Pennsylvania.



Kimi Phillips at work in the Dickinson Archives

Kelsey is a rising senior at Penn State University's main campus triple-majoring in History, International Politics and Advertising/Public Relations. She has experience in historical research, interviewing, archival work, social media and public relations. She is working for the History Project this summer on the digital exhibit on the impact of religion on LGBTQ+ lives of people in central Pennsylvania, as well as helping to process our LGBTQ+ collections at the Dickinson College Archives.



Kelsey Bell

LGBTQ+ alumni program at Dickinson

This June, Dickinson College hosted its first Rainbow Reflections reception for LGBTQ+ alumni and allies during its Alumni Weekend event. Attendees explored a pop-up exhibit of documents, photos, and artifacts from the College archives featuring LGBTQ+ activism at the college. History Project volunteers Ashley Famularo and Michael Fox conducted short oral history interviews with about half a dozen alumni. Plans are in the works to make this an annual event.



The History Project helped Dickinson College welcome back its LGBTQ alumni and allies during a recent event.

Walking tour of LGBTQ+ sites in development

History Project volunteer and steering committee member Ashley Famularo is leading a project to create a walking/driving tour of LGBTQ+ historic sites in Harrisburg.

Using research from our collection, we have identified nearly 30 potential sites. The final selection of sites will be made soon. Each site will include descriptive and historical information and most will include an historical photo or photo of an item or document in our collection related to the site. A printed version of the tour guide and map is expected to be available soon, perhaps by the end of July.

Ashley is also working with another volunteer through an organization called Girls Who Code to create an app for smart phones that will be an electronic version of the tour, including photos and interactive location mapping.



Site of the Clock Bar, the first gay bar in central PA, (shown here as The Dandelion Tree ca. 1978) at 400 N. 2nd Street will be one stop on the tour of LGBTQ+ historic sites in Harrisburg.

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 146 individuals (and transcriptions completed for all but four interviews). We have more than 100 linear feet of artifact and archival collections.

Visit our web pages at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project which features links to the full transcripts to our oral history interview collection, descriptive guides to the artifact and archival collection, a Flickr album with nearly 400 photos of artifacts, documents and historical photos in our collection and a Google map showing hundreds of locations of LGBTQ+ historic sites in central Pennsylvania.

Clean out your closets

We are always looking for historical materials pertaining to local LGBT history and many of you probably have such items buried in closets, attics, basements and in drawers you rarely look through. Please take some time to check for any items like organization newsletters, flyers, photographs, videos, newspaper clippings, t-shirts, buttons and other documents and artifacts that you may have that relate to LGBT organizations, events or other aspects of the life of the LGBT community here in central Pennsylvania. We are also always looking for people who would like to be interviewed for our oral history collection. Contact us to donate these materials or sign up for an oral history interview at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org. Thank you!

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: 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 7th anniversary!

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/lgbt>