

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Winter 2013

Volunteer holiday potluck/meeting scheduled

Our next volunteer meeting will include a holiday potluck dinner on Thursday December 12 at 6:30 PM at the LGBT Center, 1303 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg. Simply bring a main dish, side dish, dessert or non-alcoholic beverage to share. We will supply the tableware. We now have 60 volunteers and more than 120 on our email list! All our volunteers, narrators and supporters are welcome to attend. We will provide a brief update on the History Project, talk about our strategic plan, answer questions and listen to your comments and ideas to make the project better.

History Comes Out exhibit draws crowd

The History Project held three successful programs for LGBT History Month in October, including our first exhibit, History Comes Out, at the Waidner-Spahr Library at Dickinson College in Carlisle. The exhibit reception on October 27 drew a crowd of more than 70 people, including the new president of Dickinson College Nancy Roseman and her wife Lori van Handel.

Two other programs were held in Harrisburg on LGBT history for the LGBT Center's Women's Group on October 3, and a Story Circle at the LGBT Center's Aging with Pride group on October 24 were also well attended. A reception, sponsored by Larry Wilson, was held at Bar 704 after the Story Circle.



Nancy Roseman, center, talks with attendees at exhibit reception.

Archives donations coming in

Donations of archival documents and artifacts continue to come in to the History Project. The largest quantity of donations has come in during the past quarter. Pictured here are some representative examples of our recent donations.



Larry Wilson donated a large collection of artifacts related to two gay bars he owned and the Harrisburg Hustlers volleyball team.



Strategic plan developed

Barry Loveland, Lonna Malmshemer, and LGBT Center staff members Louie Marven and Pat Van Horn, held a strategic planning meeting for the History Project on November 12. A draft strategic plan was developed and presented to the History Project Steering Committee at their December meeting. The strategic plan will be made available to the volunteers for discussion at our December meeting. The plan is meant to serve as a road map for the History Project for the next couple of years.

The strategic plan creates objectives for all the major facets of the History Project, including interviewing, transcribing, archives and research, exhibits and programs, web site, outreach and fundraising. Specific implementation strategies were created for the objectives and the steering committee will soon begin developing a schedule for implementation of the plan.

History Project outreach

Barry Loveland spoke to the Dauphin County Diversity Forum on October 17 about the History Project and Lonna Malmshemer spoke at the October meeting of the Penn State Hershey LGBT group on LGBT history and the History Project.

Mark Stoner is designing business cards and post cards for the History Project. 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.



Laury McIntyre donated Lavender Letters from the 1995 to 2006. We are still seeking Lavender Letters from prior to 1995.

Transcribing guidelines finalized

We finally overcame some equipment difficulties and have begun converting our digital video tapes to electronic files for transcription. Guidelines have been developed for how to do text transcriptions of the video interviews and will soon be distributed to our transcription team volunteers and posted on our web page under the resources section.

Winter fundraiser planned

Save the date: A house party fundraiser will be held at the home of Teddy and Cara on Friday February 21 (with a snow date of February 28). Minimum donation is \$25 per person and higher donations are encouraged. Hors d' oeuvres and beverages will be provided by our hosts. More information will be sent out in January about this event.

The current balance of our funds available in account is \$1,918.67.

The LGBT Center submitted a grant application for the History Project to the Franklin Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Cumberland Valley and the Fundraising Team is working on a couple of other grant applications for submission later next year. The History Project received \$600 from the UCCV Franklin Fund early this year.

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.

Intern makes big impact with History Project

It is time to say goodbye and thank you to our fall intern, Mana Shaw, a student at Dickinson College. Mana served as the curator for our first exhibit at the Dickinson College library, processed incoming donations of archival materials, started a timeline of important central PA LGBT history milestones, transcribed one of our completed interviews, and did some outreach activities on campus. Mana made a very significant impact on what we have been able to accomplish with the project this fall – thank you Mana!

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



Fall intern Mana Shaw

Narrator waiting list progress

We have completed interviews of 23 narrators (interviewees) while more than 80 narrators are waiting to be interviewed. We have 13 interviewers on the active list. 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 interviews 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.

Story Circle to be held

A Story Circle will be 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 will be an "open mic" type of event where everyone will be encouraged to share their stories and bring in photos or other mementos to "show and tell."

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.

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>

facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa

Working in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections

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