

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Winter 2015

Record attendance for LGBT History Month events

An estimated 600 people attended events sponsored by the History Project in celebration of LGBT History Month.

Three exhibits drew the majority of attendance, including an exhibit at Dickinson College on HIV/AIDS history featuring documents and artifacts from our collection, curated by fall intern Sarah Goldberg; an exhibit at the LGBT Center of photographs by Jack Radcliffe of performers in the entertainment troupe, Lily White and Company; and an exhibit at Historic Harrisburg Resource Center of some amazing theatre costumes designed and created by Paul Foltz (about



Costumes on exhibit at Historic Harrisburg Resource Center (left, and right top and bottom), and photos of Lily White and Company performers at the LGBT Center Gallery (above, center) comprised a two-venue exhibit by the History Project honoring the career of costume designer Paul Foltz.

400 people saw this exhibit). A Story Circle shared memories of former performers in Lily White and Company and included a showing of historical video of one of their performances. A lecture by Dr. Michael Long provided interesting insights into the life of Franklin Kameny, early gay rights advocate.



Lily White & Company story circle at the LGBT Center



History Comes Out exhibit at Dickinson College

January to open new year of programming with film

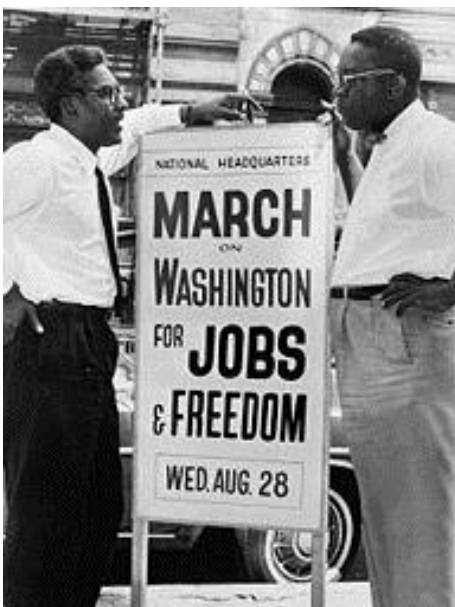
The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project is presenting a program on Tuesday January 12, 2016 from 6-8 PM at the LGBT Center, 1302 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, showing the film, *Brother Outsider*.

Brother Outsider documents the life of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, often called the “unknown hero” of the black civil rights movement. Forced out of the closet by circumstances early in his life, he lived as an openly gay African American man from the 1940’s until his death in 1987. He worked alongside other major leaders of the black civil rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., beginning in the 1940’s, but staying mostly in the background because of concerns by other activists that his being gay would be a public distraction to the goals of the movement.



Bayard Rustin at a news briefing on the March on Washington, August 27, 1963

Rustin, the visionary strategist and activist, is considered to be the architect and chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. King delivered his famous “I have a dream” speech. Later in the 1980’s, he became an advocate for LGBT civil rights. Rustin was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, by President Obama in 2013. It was accepted by Rustin’s longtime partner, Walter Naegle, whom Rustin adopted in 1982 because of the lack of legal marriage rights at that time. Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania in 1912 and attended Cheyney State Teachers College (now Cheyney University of PA).



Bayard Rustin, left, with Cleveland Robinson at the 1963 March on Washington

Since its debut in 2003 at the Sundance Film Festival, millions of viewers around the world have been introduced to Bayard Rustin’s remarkable life and achievements through screenings at film festivals, theaters and on broadcasts on PBS and Logo/MTV. The film is the recipient of more than 25 awards.

40th anniversary of Governor's Council to be commemorated with program April 12

The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project is presenting a program on Tuesday April 12, 2016 from 6-8 PM in the auditorium of the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Corner of Third and North Streets, Harrisburg, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities.

Created by executive order by Governor Milton Shapp in February 1976, the Council is the first governmental body devoted to LGBT civil rights and public policy advocacy in the US.

The Council was created with representatives of major state government agencies as well as representatives of the LGBT community throughout the state to discuss and advise state government leaders on LGBT issues affecting public policy through the various agencies and "to recommend ways in which discrimination against sexual minorities can be ended."

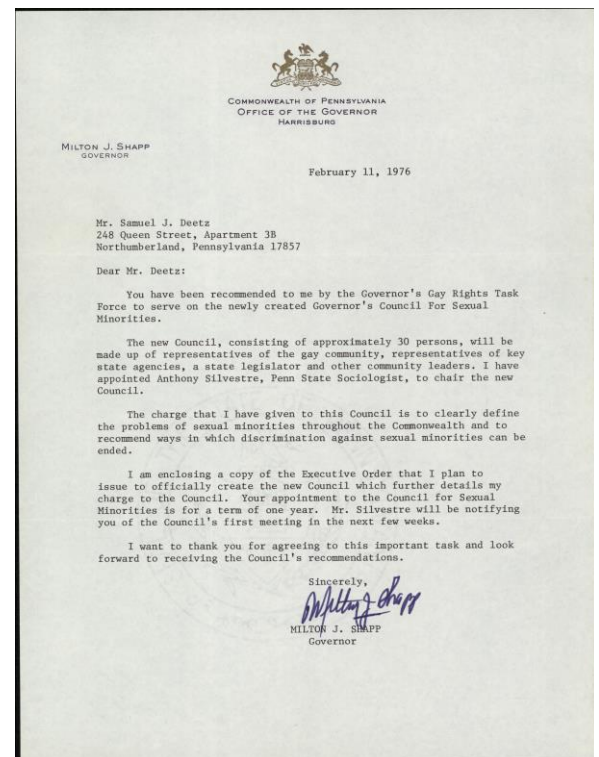
Dr. Anthony Silvestre, the former chair of the Council, will speak, along with a panel of several former members of the Council, including Samuel Deetz (whose appointment letter is pictured here), and Mark Segal, publisher of the *Philadelphia Gay News* (PGN), among others. Governor Tom Wolf will be invited, along with heads of state agencies and legislators. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

The event is co-sponsored by the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Equality PA.

Governor Shapp was also the first governor in the nation to hold an official meeting with LGBT activists in 1974, and the first to issue an executive order banning discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation for state employees in 1975.



Some of the members of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities gather for a photo in 1976. Pictured front seated: Barbara Gittings, Dr. Walter Lear. Standing Left to Right: Frances Hanckel, David March, Janet Cooper, Samuel Deetz, Tom Weinberg (aka Tom Wilson).



Letter dated February 11, 1976 signed by Governor Milton Shapp appointing Samuel Deetz to the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities.

Collection continues to expand

We have now exceeded 80 oral history interviews and 55 transcriptions in the History Project collection and more than 30 linear feet of archival and artifact collections. Some of the new collections coming to the project recently are the complete portfolio of photographs of Lily White and Company performers (including the negatives), donated by acclaimed Baltimore photographer Jack Radcliffe. Also, Paul Foltz and others have donated a significant collection of Lily White and Company memorabilia and videos of shows. Sam Edmiston donated a banner from Susquehanna Valley Gays United and other materials. Purchase donations include a show program from the Jewel Box Revue and photographs of Jewel Box Revue performers at the Balconades Club in Pittsburgh.



Sam Edmiston, left, shows the banner he donated, with help from his friend Sam Deetz, right.

Fall interns make important progress

We are bidding a farewell and thank you to our wonderful fall semester interns, all from Dickinson College, who made significant progress on our goals for this year.

Sarah Goldberg put together a very professional exhibit as the curator for our History Comes Out exhibit in October and did a couple of oral history interviews and transcriptions.

Talya Auger and VJ Kopaki did extensive research in both the oral history and archival collection to identify and assemble a list of potential LGBT historic sites in central PA for a survey that we hope to begin in the near future. These locations were entered into a spreadsheet and then mapped in Google Maps. Talya also worked with Sarah on a couple of oral history interviews.

The History Project thanks Malinda Triller-Doran, Special Collections Librarian at Dickinson College for her help in supervising and working with our 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 at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org to apply.

Hot History/Cold Night

We are hoping to have our annual Hot History/Cold Night house party fundraiser again this winter in either January or February, but as of this time we do not have any details to share on a date or the host/location. We will send out a separate email about this event once plans are developed.

Looking for outreach coordinator

John Folby, who has provided excellent service to the History Project for the past three years on the steering committee as our outreach coordinator, has decided to step down. We thank him for all his hard work and contributions over the past three years.

We are now looking for a new outreach coordinator to join the steering committee and take over the responsibilities of publicity for the History Project. You should be willing to attend a meeting every other month on a Monday evening and be willing to take the lead in doing a variety of outreach efforts through media, organizations, bars and businesses, events and social media. Please send an email with your interest and a little bit about your background and skills to Barry at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

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/

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project

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](https://www.facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa)

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