Discovering stories of extraordinary lives

Winter 2018

The Long Road traveling exhibit to debut

A new traveling history exhibit will soon be appearing around the state that tells an important part of the history of the LGBTQ community in Pennsylvania.

The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania 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 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 mid-February 2019, in the 50th anniversary year of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ movement toward equality.

This exhibit tells these stories through historical narrative, photographs and video of oral history first person accounts Members of Queer Nation, an organization that had branches in major cities, visit Lancaster to march with their banner in support of the local LGBT community, and in opposition to the KKK march, (courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, PA)

of activists involved in the struggles to achieve protection from discrimination. Along the way, they faced some of the very discrimination they were seeking to protect their community from, including harassment, physical assault, arson, a march by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and bombings. Case studies include Harrisburg, Lancaster and York in central PA and several other cities and townships in PA.





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. Administrative support is being provided by the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania on behalf of the Network, and Barry Loveland, chair of our History Project, is the project manager and curator of the exhibit.

Three identical copies of this exhibit will travel throughout Pennsylvania beginning in February 2019, including one that will debut at the Pennsylvania State Capitol



Rev. James Grove speaks against passage of a local ordinance to protect LGBT people from discrimination at a meeting of the York City Council, (courtesy of the York Daily Record/Sunday News newspapers)

building in Harrisburg. A special opening ceremony is being planned at the Capitol with speakers and a ribbon-cutting, but the exact date is still to be determined. Governor Wolf has been invited to speak.

You can see where the exhibits are scheduled to be displayed by visiting the online calendar on our web site at <u>www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/thelongroad</u>. If your organization would like to host and provide a suitable venue to display the exhibit, there is a request form on the web page.

This exhibit is made possible through the generous contributions of the Schlegel-Deibler Charitable Foundation, the Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld Fund, the Montgomery County LGBT Business Council, and individual contributors, as well as in-kind services from several organizations and individuals.

The PA LGBT History Network engages people in discovering Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ history, historic sites, history projects, artifacts and archival collections, and to facilitate collaboration between the organizations, institutions and individuals that provide stewardship of this heritage. Become a part of the Network on Facebook, or join our Google Group at <u>the-pa-lgbt-history-network@googlegroups.com</u>.

Re-imagined web site launched

We are pleased to now be able to show off our re-imagined web site thanks to Dre Ceja of the staff of the LGBT Center of Central PA who provided web design services. Once just a single page, we now have several pages of content to explore, including lots of new information about our various initiatives. There are also links to the web site of our partner Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections which also features expanded content including all of the transcriptions of oral history interviews, and more of the guides to our various collections and more photos of artifacts, documents and historical photos in the collection. Watch for more content in the future as we plan to make available on line all of the video files of the oral history interviews, except for a few that have narrator restrictions.

Visit our newly-redesigned web pages at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project.

Arts collaboration set for 2019

We are pleased to announce that the History Project has initiated a special collaborative project with several arts organizations in central PA during 2019 as part of our year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project is partnering with the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM), the Art Association of Harrisburg (AAH), the Lancaster Museum of Art (LMA) and the Dickinson College Department of Art and Art History for the initiative called Artists View Equality. Artists are being invited to use one or more of the artifacts, documents or historical photos in the History Project collection as inspiration to create a work of art for exhibition at one of the venues of the participating arts institutions. The first exhibit, called *Inspired*, opens in May at SAM in Harrisburg. It will travel to the LMA in November. We will provide updates in future newsletters about where and when these amazing exhibits will be on view. If you are an artist interested in creating a piece of work for these exhibits, you can see the call for entries for *Inspired* at

<u>http://www.susquehannaartmuseum.org/galleries/Inspired/</u>. If you are a member of the AAH, check their web site and Facebook page for announcements about the call for entries for their show which opens in October.

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 140 individuals (and transcriptions completed for all but a few interviews). We have nearly 100 linear feet of artifact and archival collections.

We had a wonderful exhibit this fall, History Comes Out at Dickinson College, guest curated by a Carlisle high school student volunteer, and a great exhibit reception and open house at the Dickinson College Archives with lots of additional collections on display giving our visitors a hands-on experience.

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 as you search for those holiday decorations this fall to check for any items like old 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 <u>history@centralpalgbtcenter.org</u>. 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 <u>www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/</u>. The LGBT Center is located at 1306 N. Third Street in Harrisburg.

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project

Founded in 2012, celebrating our 6th 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