

# LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of  
extraordinary lives*

# NEWS

*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 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.



*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)*



# 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 <http://www.susquehannaartmuseum.org/galleries/Inspired/>. 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 [history@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto: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/](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*

*Winner of the 2014 J. Franklin Jameson Award from the Society of American Archivists*

[history@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto: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>