



news

Fall 2019

Programs planned for LGBT History Month

The History Project has several programs planned for October to celebrate the 25th anniversary of LGBT History Month and the 50th anniversary year of the Stonewall raid and riots.

History Comes Out: LGBTQ+ Spaces and Places, our annual exhibit at the Dickinson College Archives will be held on the lower level of the Waidner-Spahr Library, 333 W. High Street, Carlisle. The exhibit runs October 1 - December 13.



From the Stonewall Club in New York City to Stallions Bar in Harrisburg, this exhibit highlights historically important spaces for the LGBTQ+ community. The exhibit features photos, programs, and artifacts from Central PA Pride gatherings, LGBTQ+ businesses and gathering places, spaces used for religious observances, and the evolution of the LGBT Center of Central PA.

Exhibit hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, college holidays excepted. For more information, email archives@dickinson.edu or call 717-245-1399.

Celebrate LGBT History Month with a visit to *The LGBT History Roadshow* in the atrium of the Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, on October 22, from 11 AM to 3 PM. See an exhibit of historical photographs, documents, artifacts, and video clips of oral history interviews from the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project collection that tells stories of LGBT history from right here in this region. This event also provides an opportunity for LGBTQ+ visitors, their families and friends to bring in their own personal LGBT history collections to have them scanned or photographed by staff of The State Library of Pennsylvania so that digital copies are made available to the History Project. Visitors may also keep their own digital copy by bringing in a USB thumb drive to download the files. Visitors may choose to donate the original items to the History Project or keep them. All photographs, paper documents or 3 dimensional artifacts need to have some connection to LGBT history in Pennsylvania. Visitors may also sign up for oral history interviews to be conducted by the History Project. This event is presented by The State Library of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Governor's Council on LGBTQ Affairs and the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project. Please

direct any questions about collections you want to bring to the event, to history@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

On Thursday October 24, 6 – 8 PM, Curtis Royer will deliver a lecture, “Rediscovering Early Queer America: A Celebration of Queer Historical Scholarship,” at the LGBT Center at 1306 N. Third Street, Harrisburg.

This presentation highlights established queer historical scholarship focusing on the stories of individuals who engaged in same-sex relationships and/or otherwise defied norms from 1620 to 1820. This presentation primarily focuses on indigenous tribes, enslaved people and Europeans who inhabited what is now the eastern United States. The presenter will utilize queer theory to explore romantic friendships, gender nonconformity, religious persecution and other aspects of queer life in early America.

Curtis M. Royer graduated with a Master of Arts in American Studies from the Pennsylvania State University in 2017. Curtis completed his thesis work on Representative Thaddeus Stevens’ pivotal role in politics and civil rights. He is a dynamic historian who has filled various museum positions in different capacities. He currently serves as a Weekend Supervisor at Rock Ford Plantation and volunteers with the LGBT Center of Central PA’s History Project, where he is currently working on a digital exhibit on stories of discrimination that will debut on our website this fall.



***Artists View Equality* series continues**

Our series of collaborative exhibits with several arts organizations in central PA continues on October 18 with the opening reception during 3rd in the Burg of a new exhibit at the Art Association of Harrisburg, *Hope, Memory and Pride: Artists View Equality*, running through November 21. The series wraps up on November 1 with the opening of *Inspired: Contemporary Responses to a Legacy of Courage*, at the Lancaster Museum of Art that will run for about 3 weeks. This is the same show that just closed its run at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg.

***The Long Road* exhibit enters new phase**

The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania, our traveling history exhibit has been moving all over the state from Philadelphia to Erie and many stops in between, with nearly 50 bookings so far.

This is a traveling history exhibit that chronicles the efforts that activists have undertaken in Pennsylvania to achieve full equality for LGBTQ+ people.

After January 1, 2020, venues will be responsible for picking up and returning the exhibit, or paying for the shipping costs. We will be reducing the number of circulating copies of the exhibit to one. The exhibit will continue to travel as long as there is interest. We also plan to create a digital version of the exhibit that will allow visitors to see the exhibit online through our website.

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.

New traveling exhibit in development

In January, the William Way LGBT Community Center in Philadelphia mounted an exhibit on the LGBTQ Cuban refugees who came to the United States as part of the Mariel Boatlift in 1980. Many of the refugees came to Fort Indiantown Gap, one of just a few processing centers set up to resettle the Cuban immigrants.

This groundbreaking exhibit, *With Open Heart and Open Arms*, is now being adapted to become the next traveling exhibit in a collaborative effort with our History Project through the PA LGBT History Network.

The exhibit will be similar in format to our current traveling exhibit, *The Long Road*, and will debut in April 2020 in time for the 40th anniversary of the Mariel Boatlift.



LGBTQ Cuban refugees pose at Fort Indiantown Gap in 1980, courtesy Lebanon County Historical Society.

Digital exhibits to debut

Four digital exhibits for the History Project have now been completed and await formatting and uploading to the web site. The topics include the local response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, stories of discrimination, the impact of religion on LGBTQ lives, and the military experience of LGBTQ service members. A fifth exhibit, a history of the local LGBTQ bars is also expected to be completed by the end of the year. 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 later this fall.

Intern returns

For the fall semester we welcome back a returning intern from this spring, Emmett Pagen, a student at Elizabethtown College. Emmett will be doing some minor editing of our video oral history interviews and posting them to You Tube, except for a few that have restricted access. He will also be assisting with doing the videography for some new interviews and working on other projects for the LGBT Center.

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 151 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.

AIDS exhibit will be tribute to John Folby

An exhibit of History Project collections related to HIV/AIDS, donated by John Folby, will be on display at the LGBT Center, 1306 N. 3rd Street in Harrisburg, beginning December 2 through the end of the month. On December 2, from 5:00 PM to 7 PM, there will be a reception and showing of John Folby's oral history interview. John passed away on July 11 and was an HIV/AIDS activist, state AZT program administrator and consultant for more than 35 years. Planning is still in process for a celebration of his life following the reception at a nearby venue.

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!

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>

