

# Archival InQueeries



Society of American Archivists  
Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter  
Number 32, Fall 2007



<i>In this issue:</i>	
From the Co-Chairs	1
Editor's note	2
LAGAR Announcements	2
SAA Announcements	4
Archive news & announcements	5
Call for papers / proposals	6
News bits and bites	10
International news	16
Upcoming conferences	16
For your consideration	18

## From the Co-Chairs:

LAGAR's annual meeting was a successful blend of business, socializing, and information exchange. The approximately 30 people who attended the meeting enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Gerber/Hart Library, Chicago's oldest community-based LGBT library and archives, and elected a new female co-chair, Bonnie Weddle. They also shared news about LGBT collections, heard about LAGAR's work on the Lavender Legacies and Information for Community Archives guides, and got the chance to chat with pioneering LGBT historian John D'Emilio.

The meeting's main program, a panel discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing community-based LGBT archives, was superb. Mark Bowman of the LGBT Religious Archives Network detailed how the organization uses its Web site to create a "virtual archive" that brings together records held by many different institutions. Chuck Renslow of the Leather Archives outlined how his repository raised funds and found space for its rapidly growing collections. Finally, Karen Sendziak of the Gerber/Hart outlined strategies for addressing the fiscal and logistical constraints faced by a small, volunteer-dependent, non-profit repository. Audience members asked many questions and outlined their own experiences regarding fund-raising, public relations, and working with volunteers.

The panel discussion highlighted the enduring importance of community-based LGBT archives, the ongoing benefits of establishing connections between all types of repositories holding LGBT materials, and LAGAR's role in helping to create these links. Your new female co-chair did quite a bit of thinking about these things in late September, when she attended the annual meeting of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). She received a warm welcome from AMIA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interest Section, which represents the interest of LGBT film archivists and promotes the preservation of film documenting LGBT people and groups and diversity within its parent organization. Several members of the LGBT Interest Group work in community-based archives, and the group itself is compiling a guide to repositories that have archival LGBT film holdings.

LAGAR's hard work has been of great use to AMIA's LGBT Interest Section. Several members of the group are compiling a guide to repositories that hold archival LGBT film and videotape, and they have used the Lavender Legacies guide to identify repositories that hold such materials. Other members work in community-based archives or assist community-based archives that have archival film and videotape. Those who didn't know about our new Information for Community Archives guide were excited to learn about it, and those who had already looked at it gave it glowing reviews. It's both gratifying and humbling to learn that LAGAR's work is so deeply appreciated, and as co-chairs we once again wish to extend our thanks to Steve Mandeville-Gamble for his work on the Lavender Legacies guide and to Paula Jabloner and all of the LAGAR members who contributed to the Information for Community Repositories guide.

AMIA's LGBT Interest Section also expressed interest in collaborating with LAGAR in the future. Given that both groups are committed to preserving archival documentation of LGBT people and groups, representing the

interests of LGBT archivists, and promoting diversity within their respective professional organizations, this makes a lot of sense!

LAGAR members interested in the work of AMIA's LGBT Interest Section can find more information about the group on AMIA's soon-to-be-redesigned Web site, <http://www.amianet.org>. Those who have access to *Cinema Journal*, either on paper or via Project Muse, can also check out "Collective Effort: Archiving LGBT Moving Images" in the Spring 2007 issue. This article, which was written by former LGBT Interest Section co-chair Lynne Kirste, details the group's work to date.

Bonnie Weddle and Steve Novak, Co-Chairs

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*From the Editor:*

I know you will all be disappointed that this issue's "From the Editor" will short and not of a personal theme. I know, I know – and I'm sorry, but sometimes I just have to think about our LGBT history, our LGBT repositories and collections, and our LGBT archivists.

In light of that, just to remind you all, October was LGBT History month as well as Archives month, yet few things [if any] came through our own LAGAR listserv on our own history and what our archival repositories did to celebrate and chronicle the long, hard and continuous fight that creates our LGBT history. So, I would like to ask members of LAGAR to become more active on our list. What did you or your repository do to celebrate LGBT history and / or Archives month? Was their anything done in your community, at your institution, at your local library, etc to acknowledge, celebrate, or even just mention either issue?

Please send all stories, past announcements, etc to the LAGAR list at [lagar@lists.archivists.org](mailto:lagar@lists.archivists.org).

Thanks and have a great rest of the year!  
Maggi Gonsalves, your friendly newsletter editor

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*LAGAR Announcements*

LAGAR Roundtable Meeting – August 29, 2007 – SAA Chicago

Welcome and Reception

-- The meeting was opened and brought to order by Female Co-Chair, Mary Caldera.

Business Meeting

-- Attendance of this meeting = 33 people were in attendance to this Roundtable meeting for LAGAR.

General Announcements

-- 2008 R/Evolution & Identities, SAA 2008

- **Jim Cartwright** briefly spoke of the next SAA conference in San Francisco, R/Evolution and Identities, which will focus on diversity within our profession and collections. Jim noted that many Pacific Rim and Pacific Basin communities could be part of the proposals submitted to SAA for sessions. LAGAR can only endorse two proposals but proposals can come from individuals as well. The deadline for submitted session proposals is October 12. When suggesting a proposal, prospective speakers must be in place. Jim also mentioned that the focus on proposals will be on technology, diversity and public awareness issues within archives. The conference will again be held the week prior to Labor Day, August 26th through 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Hilton San Francisco.

-- Election of Female co-chair

- With one nomination submitted by Maggi Gonsalves for **Bonnie Weddle** for the position of our next Female Co-Chair, Bonnie was voted in with a unanimous verbal vote.
- LAGAR Newsletter Renaming Contest
  - With 7 out of 8 votes from the Steering Committee the winner of the LAGAR Newsletter Renaming Contest is our own Steve Mandeville-Gamble. The new newsletter name is "**Archival InQueeries**" and will appear on the next interim, post-SAA newsletter.
- **Paula Jabloner**, regarding the **Information for Community Archives**, the LAGAR community resource manual for archivists, announced the continued need for volunteers to author brief articles on the following topics: how to start an archive, including a quick and dirty look at archives; accessioning; audio repositories; user or reference services; basic archival web sites and illustration. Each of these topics should be roughly 1 – 3 pages in length, consist of basic archival methods and include resources used.
  - Paula also stated that the sooner these articles were written and submitted to her the sooner the manual will be completed.
- **Bill Landis**, from the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, addressed the meeting regarding contributing articles to the *American Archivist*. Bill stayed focused on the strategic initiative of SAA that is on the topics of diversity in the workplace, repositioning research, etc. He announced that the journal will now be an on-line publication and that thanks to a \$48,000 donation this will be possible as well as making digitally available publications from the earliest date, 1938, of the journal to the present.

## New Business

- Paula Jabloner announced that the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco is looking for archivists
- Greg Williams gave a brief report on the progress and project of the ONE Project which began in 2007 and will conclude sometime in 2008.
- Ben Primer, the SAA Council Liaison to LAGAR encouraged all SAA members to attend the Saturday morning Business meeting which would discuss and vote on a 10 to 20% dues increase. Ben noted that the membership is expected to pass the 5000 member mark within the coming year and he pointed out that students were the group illustrating the largest growth. The last time dues were raised was in 1999 and Ben noted since that time the cost of living has increased 20%. Also Ben noted that less than 25% of the overall support for SAA comes from dues; most coming from book sales and workshop fees.
- Briefly discussed were the new section and roundtable guidelines. It was also noted that if archivists receiving the LAGAR Newsletter were not yet members of the LAGAR Roundtable, they were strongly encouraged to become so. Membership is crucial for the validation of our LAGAR Roundtable to continue to exist.
- LGBT Religious History Award
  - This is an award given for papers on LGBT issues, people and happenings in the religious community. It does offer a monetary award and papers for consideration must be postmarked or submitted electronically by October 19, 2007. For further information consult the website at [www.lgbtran.org](http://www.lgbtran.org) .

## Panel Discussion

- For our panel discussion we were honored to have Chuck Renslow, founder of the Leather Archives in Chicago; Karen Sendziak of the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives; and Mark Bowman of the LGBT Religious Archives Network.
  - Chuck Renslow discussed how the Leather Archives was started in 1990 and now sends exhibits and displays to places for exhibition around the world.
  - Karen Sendziak is President of the Board of Directors of the Gerber-Hart Library and Archives, which provided our meeting space and a wonderful spread for our reception and post-meeting social gathering. Karen told us how the Gerber-Hart collection began in 1981 as a joint project and noted how this repository holds the "strongest of early gay political history in Chicago."
  - Mark Bowman briefly discussed the background and continued work of the LGBT-RAN Religious History archives and stated that it is not a tradition archives repository and noted it is actually "a resource center that enables the preservation of history and makes historical information accessible" through their website. The mission of LGBT-RAN is to preserve history and encourage scholarly study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movements around the world.
  - Following the presentations of our speakers there was a Q & A session.

At the conclusion of the Q and A session a motion was presented to the floor to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded.

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SAA Announcements

**SAA J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award**

**Purpose and Criteria for Selection:**

Established in 1989, this award honors an individual, institution, or organization that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archival activities or programs. The individual's or institution's contributions may take the form of advocacy, publicity, legislation, financial support, or a similar action that fosters archival work or raises public consciousness of the importance of archival work. Contributions should have broad, long-term impact at the regional level or beyond. Up to three awards may be given each year.

**Eligibility:**

Individuals directly involved in archival work, either as paid or volunteer staff, or institutions or organizations directly responsible for an archival program are not eligible for this award.

**Sponsor or Funding:**

The Society of American Archivists, in honor of J. Franklin Jameson, a noted American historian, former president of the American Historical Association, and long-time advocate for the establishment of a U.S. National Archives.

**Application Deadline:**

All nominations shall be submitted to the Awards Committee by February 28 of each year.

**For More Information and Nomination Forms:**

<http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-jameson.asp>  
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**CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS**

SAA seeks nominations for the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Awards no later than Wednesday, February 28, 2008.

Established in 1993, the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award recognizes minority undergraduate and graduate students, such as those of African, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA. The Pinkett award was developed to encourage exceptional minority students to consider careers in the archival profession and, in turn, increase minority participation in SAA by exposing minority students to the experience of attending national meetings and encouraging them to join the organization.

To be eligible, minority students, with preference given to full-time students, must possess a minimum scholastic grade point average of 3.5 while enrolled in a graduate program focusing on archival management during the academic year preceding the date the award is given. Full complimentary registration to the SAA Annual Meeting and related expenses for hotel and travel for attending the SAA Annual Meeting. Next year's SAA Annual Meeting, themed Archival R/Evolution & Identities, will take place at the San Francisco Hilton from August 27-31, 2008. The Award is jointly funded by the SAA Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable and is presented in late summer during SAA's annual meeting.

For more information and nomination forms please see:  
[http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Awards\\_Pinkett.htm](http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Awards_Pinkett.htm)

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[Archive news and announcements](#)

**National Gallery of Art Summer Internship Program**

Since 1964 the National Gallery of Art has offered professional museum training to candidates from all backgrounds through a variety of internship programs. Nine-week summer internships provide opportunities to work on projects directed by a Gallery curator or department head. Biweekly museum seminars introduce interns to the broad spectrum of museum work, and to Gallery staff, departments, programs, and functions.

There is one internship opening in the Gallery Archives Department. The intern will work directly with materials relating to the history of the National Gallery of Art, including files, photographs, and architectural drawings for the museum's buildings. He or she will organize, preserve, and describe a group of documents and undertake related digital imaging and database development for them. The intern will be introduced to archival principles and the work of museum archives as well as practical issues associated with the transition to the digital environment. Preference will be given to current graduate students (e.g., MA, MLS) with an interest in the digital imaging of archival materials and 2008 graduates with such a degree.

**Dates for the internship will be** June 16 to August 15, 2008. Interns receive a stipend of \$4,500 and are subject to all applicable taxes.

Applicants from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. This is an international program.

For application and additional information, please visit:  
<http://www.nga.gov/education/internsumm.shtm>

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***HNN Article: How Museums and Libraries Lose Stuff***

[from History News Network, 11-05-07 edition. <http://hnn.us/articles/44357.html> ]

**By Samuel J. Redman**

Mr. [Redman](#) is a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. He studies the history of museums in the United States. As a museum employee in Chicago, St. Paul, and Denver, he was frequently asked to find missing objects.

On Wednesday, October 24th, the *Washington Post* published a [story with the headline](#), "Materials Missing at Library of Congress." Like many readers, I dashed to my computer mouse, thinking that an *Oceans 11* style heist had taken place in our nation's capital. Perhaps a robotic device remotely operated by terrorists had stolen Thomas Jefferson's handwritten draft of the Declaration of Independence. Or maybe a machine gun wielding Russian spy had lifted Alexander Graham Bell's lab notebook.



No such luck for excited museum geeks, lovers of action-adventure movies, or *Washington Post* beat writers hoping to sell more newspapers. In fact, museums, libraries, and archives in the United States lose items in their collections on a regular basis. Why? The simple answer is that many of these institutions are grossly underfunded and understaffed. The more frustrating answer for those of us who care deeply about these collections is that they are cared for by human beings who are capable of making mistakes. Though certain members of congress would love to blame the incompetence of museum and library administrators, it is more likely that the incompetence of congressmen is to blame.

The congressional hearing which examined the results of the inventory at the Library of Congress, which examined books, monographs, and bound periodicals, noted that 17 percent of the materials requested could not be found. Many in Congress would perhaps love to pin these results on poor management, holding the librarians themselves directly and fully accountable for the status of the collections. Indeed, the *Washington Post* article notes that the ranking Republican on the committee, Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers (MI) said in a statement that the number of missing objects, “is unacceptable, and a clear indication that we must reassess how we manage this Nation’s priceless collection that exceeds 130 million items.”

Those working outside of museums, libraries, and archives, have been shocked at similar findings in the past. In 1990, when the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) passed, it required that museums in the United States conduct an inventory of collections potentially falling under the guidelines of the law, which included sacred objects and human remains. This was, however, essentially an unfunded mandate. Museums struggled to complete their inventories on time (many applied for extensions). Upon the completion of these massive inventories, many learned for the first time what those working with collections already knew, a significant number of museum objects had gone missing.

Often 100 years plus of poorly designed filing systems, constant movement of collections, and a trail of human errors had taken their toll on museum collections. An intern in 1980 could place a Cheyenne necklace on the wrong shelf, and nobody would notice the error until a scholar twenty years later arrives at the museum to conduct a study on Cheyenne jewelry. Perhaps the object was traded to another museum and the appropriate curator forgot (or neglected) to write it down. These things happen, unfortunately. Computer filing systems, even the most advanced, can point a librarian, archivist, or collections manager in the wrong direction if the original data is entered incorrectly in the first place.

Government officials need to understand the monumental task assigned to those caring for collections in museums, libraries and archives. Collections managers, librarians, and archivists are often combating a long history of limited funds, in addition to a long history of human error and outmoded systems. Before pinning the blame on the librarians and archivists who work at the Library of Congress, congressional officials themselves should examine their own record of caring for our nations’ heritage.

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[Call for papers / proposals:](#)

**The Canadian Queer Reader: Call for Submissions**  
**Dr Maureen FitzGerald, Dr Andrew Lesk, Dr Scott Rayter, editors**  
**Mark S Bonham Center for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto**

Essays are welcome for an interdisciplinary reader on queer Canadian issues and topics, to be published by Women’s Press / Canadian Scholars’ Press, Fall 2009. The editors welcome critical essays that would appeal particularly to students in the field of sexuality studies. We seek engaging and studious voices in queer discourse that discover or rediscover the literary, social, historical, and political developments of what is considered queer in (or about) Canada.

Essays may wish to address the foundations and problematics of queer history, diversity, engenderment, socialization, identities, bodies, pedagogy, social change, cultures, and global positioning. A non-exclusive list of subjects include

- ✓ Censorship and its (ongoing) battles
- ✓ Transsexuality and other "trans"gressions
- ✓ The history of cultural production (including literature and theatre)
- ✓ Diaspora and cross-culture impact
- ✓ Governmental policy and anti-discrimination measures
- ✓ The efficacy of human rights
- ✓ Underground press / periodicals / magazines
- ✓ Commix and zines
- ✓ Intersections with other movements
- ✓ Quebecois literatures and sociopolitical movements
- ✓ The regulation of normative bodies
- ✓ Aboriginal, Two-spirited and First Nations
- ✓ HIV / AIDS
- ✓ Definitional shifts, from "gay" to inclusive terminology
- ✓ Marriage and changing socio-cultural values
- ✓ Graphic, pictorial, and filmic representations
- ✓ Race and ethnicity
- ✓ Geographies and space
- ✓ Pedagogical concerns
- ✓ Sex culture, erotica, pornography
- ✓ Criminology and social impact (e.g. bathhouse and pussy-palace raids)

Proposals should be 400-500 words and must clearly indicate significance, the line of argument, principal texts considered, and relation to existing scholarship (or originality). One email copy of the proposal, along with a 100 word abstract and 50 word bio note must be included, as an attachment in MS Word. Final papers should be 2 – 7,000 words (not including any artwork), and copyrights to pictures/artwork etc must be secured in advance.

Deadline for proposals is **30 September 2008**. Please send queries and submissions to [andrew.lesk@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.lesk@utoronto.ca)

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**From H-NET:**

Title: Who Claims the City? Thinking Race, Class, and Urban Place

Location: Wisconsin

Date: 2007-12-01

Description: Proposals from all disciplines are invited for a conference at Marquette University on May 2-3, 2008 exploring "the city" as the locus of social conflict, representation, law, ideology, desire, policy, planning, and imagination, all inflected by lived realities of race, class, gender, sexuality, and movement. Possible issues for consideration include:

- ✓ How has racial discourse changed as a result of shifting patterns of immigration and migration?
- ✓ How have historical and contemporary labor and immigration debates aligned and disaffiliated African American and Latino/a workers in U.S. cities?
- ✓ What are the routes and cultural politics of black urban youth culture in relation to new immigrant neighborhoods and social movements?
- ✓ What are the consequences and effects of black middle class exodus and white "re-colonization" of city centers?
- ✓ What impact has segregation or the "new" segregation had upon the nature of American urban communities?
- ✓ How have laws (zoning, tax) and law enforcement inscribed inequities of race and class into urban geography?
- ✓ What role does foreign policy play in determining domestic urban realities?
- ✓ How have education or the arts challenged or sustained ideologies of privilege in American cities?
- ✓ What is the relationship between racial politics and economic globalization?

Please submit 250 - 500 word abstracts and a brief c.v. to [artsnscience@marquette.edu](mailto:artsnscience@marquette.edu) by December 1, 2007. Please include "conference proposal" in your subject line.

Contact: [artsnscience@marquette.edu](mailto:artsnscience@marquette.edu)

Announcement ID: 158605, <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=158605>

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### Call for Contributions

#### **"Bisexuality and Queer Theory: Intersections, Diversions, and Connections"**

A special double issue of *The Journal of Bisexuality*; edited by Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio, PhD, University of Puerto Rico, and Jonathan Alexander, PhD, University of California, Irvine.

This special double issue of *The Journal of Bisexuality* invites scholarly and research-oriented essays that explore potential theoretically or empirically understood connections and intersections between bisexuality and queer theory.

Queer Theory has emerged in the West as one of the most provocative analytical tools in the humanities and social sciences. Scholars in fields as diverse as literary studies and anthropology to women's studies, gender studies, and legal studies have benefited greatly from queer theory's call to scrutinize identity and social structures as they are organized by heteronormative relations and suppositions. At the same time, queer theory has its own blind spots in its examination of sexualities, sexual cultures, and the movement of the erotic between and among people. In particular, queer theory has been quite silent about bisexuality. This elision strikes us as odd given the many ways in which bisexuality has been mobilized in literature, popular culture, communities, and subcultures to query heteronormativity, as well as monosexual expectations and constructions of sexual identity and amorous practices.

This special issue of *The Journal of Bisexuality* seeks to explore this elided territory by bringing together a variety of scholarly articles, drawing on multiple disciplinary methodologies and research practices, including approaches based in the social, political, and psychological sciences, in literary and cultural theory, in economics, philosophy, the arts, and other broadly humanist endeavors.

It is also our hope that contributors will connect their scholarly work to the lived experiences of sexual beings, and reflections thereof, intellectual or otherwise. To that end, we also invite essays that take a rigorous, theoretically nuanced approach to understanding and exploring intersections among queer theory and bisexuality in terms of the lived experiences of individuals, communities, subcultures, and other agents of cultural formation. For instance, we know that on today's university campuses, LGBTI activists call themselves queer and by and large consider occasional sex between queers quite ok, regardless of gender. This also largely applies to many progressive milieus in today's post-modern, transcultural, and largely globalized societies. But for the women and men who were students on these same campuses even as late as the 1980s and 1990s, confessing that one had "slept with the enemy" in a lesbian or gay man's discursive context was anathema, and could get one bashed. How did this change occur? What are its theoretical, historical, and cultural underpinnings? And why is this change significant? What is the epistemology of bisexuality and how can it help to theorize a new politics of love? What can bisexuality teach us about inclusive practices of love beyond Oedipal traps? Navigating the cultural, theoretical, embodied, and energetic space between bisexuality and queer theory, is, we believe, a productive way to sort out these complex



and interlocking thematics. In its special-topics issue on "Queer Theory and Bisexuality," The Journal of Bisexuality will host this debate.

Queries can be directed to Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio and/or Jonathan Alexander. They should be sent to Dr. Jonathan Alexander at [jamma@fuse.net](mailto:jamma@fuse.net) and to Dr. Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio at [serena.anderlini@gmail.com](mailto:serena.anderlini@gmail.com). Proposals and abstracts for articles should be submitted by February 18th, 2008. Complete though revisable drafts for articles will be needed for review by July 21st, 2008.

Also from H-NET

### **Transformations in Community**

**Location:** Florida **Call for Papers Date:** 05/01/2008  
**H-NET announcement ID:** 159236

This is a call for papers for the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association to be held in Estero, Florida, at The Koreshan State Historic Site on October 2-4, 2008. The conference theme is "Transformations in Community," but we papers on any topic concerning intentional communities (sometimes also referred to as utopian communities or communal societies), both contemporary and historic. We especially welcome paper and panel proposals from members who live in communities.

Proposals for papers and sessions should include your presentation title, a 150-word maximum abstract, and a brief 100-word biographical statement for each paper or presentation, and contact information. Please send these by May 1, 2008 to:

Dr. Lynn Rainard  
Tidewater Community College  
1428 Cedar Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23322-7108  
Email: [Lrainard@tcc.edu](mailto:Lrainard@tcc.edu)

Another H-NET announcement:

### **Gender & Age(ing) (e-journal issue)**

**Publication date:** 01/15/2008 **H-NET Announcement ID:** 159106

For an upcoming special issue, the multidisciplinary online journal "gender forum" [<http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de>] seeks articles discussing age and ageing from a gender perspective. Proposed topics include but are not limited to the different implications of ageing for men and women, age and sexuality, the change of gender identity over different stages of life, the problems and/or opportunities of early or late childbearing, gender and ageism/youth mania, as well as explorations of literary or filmic representations of male/female age and ageing.

Completed manuscripts should be submitted via email to [gender-forum@uni-koeln.de](mailto:gender-forum@uni-koeln.de) by January 15, 2008. Articles should conform to the "gender forum" style sheet (available for download at <http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de/stylesheet.pdf>) and should not exceed 8,000 words in length. Please include a bio-blurb of 5 to 10 lines and an abstract of 10 to 15 lines. Use endnotes and fully documented references at the end to the article. For further information on the journal, please visit our homepage at <http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de> or contact us via email at [gender-forum@uni-koeln.de](mailto:gender-forum@uni-koeln.de).

And yet another H-NET announcement:

### **The History of Sexuality of Childhood and Youth**

**Publication Date:** 01/19/2008 **H-NET Announcement ID:** 159224

Call for papers for a Special Issue of Historical Sociology: The History of Sexuality of Childhood and Youth.

Few other topics manage to raise anxiety to the same extent in our western culture than our fear over a child's proximity to the sexual realm. Prevailing discourses on the sexual child manifest ambivalence at best, and at worst exemplify something approaching moral panic. As a result, the historical, cultural and ideological underpinnings of such discourses are often rendered invisible. We believe that a critical deconstruction of historical discourses, stories and material objects can illuminate the complex and often contradictory assumptions upon which such cultural narratives are built.

The special issue of Historical Sociology on the history of sexuality of childhood and youth is intended to illuminate these historical traces and their resonances. We recognize that this is a challenging empirical endeavor since the status of children, both historically and contemporarily make it difficult, if not impossible, to know what children and youth were doing or thinking with regard to their sexuality. With this in mind, this issue seeks to offer insight into historical discourses produced about children and the material consequences of such adult intervention.

The editors are seeking papers which provide examples of the historical origins of the problemization of the sexuality of youth and childhood. We welcome work that draws on cross-disciplinary as well as comparative scholarship, and encourage authors who are exploring continuities between the past and present.

Finally, since the majority of work done on sexuality and the young tends to focus on adolescence, the editors especially encourage contributions from scholars whose focus is on the pre-adolescent age group.

Submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- » Medical Intervention and Pathologization
- » Advice Manuals or Parent Training
- » Permissive or Sex Positive Discourses
- » Developmental Psychology
- » The management of girls' sexuality
- » Feminist Movements
- » Sex Education
- » Religious Mandates
- » Psychoanalytic Discourses
- » Children's /Adolescent Literature
- » Queer Youth
- » Resistance
- » Reform Movements
- » Legal Reform
- » Biological Discourses
- » Colonial/Neo-Colonial Relations
- » Cross Cultural comparison

Abstracts are due no later than January 20, 2008. Accepted papers will be due no later than June 2, 2008. Please email abstract submission to:

R. Danielle Egan  
[degan@stlawu.edu](mailto:degan@stlawu.edu)

Any questions or quires should be addressed to either R. Danielle Egan [degan@stlawu.edu](mailto:degan@stlawu.edu) or Gail Hawkes [ghawkes@une.edu.au](mailto:ghawkes@une.edu.au).

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[News bits and bites](#)

**Gay-Positive Program Attracts Negative Press**

Breaking News, November 2, 2007, American Libraries Online <http://www.ala.org/ala/online/>

The October 31 headline in the York (Maine) Weekly read: "Controversy Erupts over GLBTQ Program at York Public Library." The coverage told of a community flap over a York Diversity Forum program scheduled to take place November 2-3 in the library meeting room because of its focus on tolerance for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or who are questioning the nature of their sexuality. As proof of the controversy, the story quoted former library trustee Julie Edminster, who had resigned in

protest, as saying, "This is the type of program and tactic that was used throughout Massachusetts that enabled gay marriage to become legal."

York Public Library Director Robert Waldman acknowledged that "there were indeed a couple of members of the community," including a few library Friends, who "shared concerns about the subject [of the program] and the library being the appropriate venue" and fretted briefly over fiscal support of the program from either the library or the Friends until realizing it was a non-issue. Waldman nonetheless maintains that the article was misleading as to the scope of the dissent. Explaining that some individuals "felt it was important to publicly express" their opposition to the press, Waldman told American Libraries November 2, several hours before the program was slated to begin, that he had "no reason to believe [audience participation] won't be kept considerate and civil."

He went on to explain that the York Diversity Forum emailed him June 2 asking him to approach the board about collaborating. The request motivated trustees to reexamine YPL policy and clarify between the library sponsoring, hosting, and collaborating on a program. The modified document, which was adopted in August, differentiates sponsorship ("programs developed by the board . . . and those who are acting on the board's behalf") from collaboration ("programs not developed by the library that are educational and promote the library's mission statement").

"I'm excited in one way because, while there is some controversy, my commitment is to providing a very safe and wonderfully community-oriented space in which ideas and thoughts, a variety of points of view can be expressed and talked about," Waldham mused to AL. "That seems very consistent with democracy and the role that the library can play in that democracy."

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**NY Times, October 30, 2007**

## **Gay Enclaves Face Prospect of Being Passé**

By **PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN**

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 24 — This Halloween, the Glindas, gladiators and harem boys of the Castro — along with untold numbers who plan to dress up as Senator [Larry E. Craig](#), this year's camp celebrity — will be celebrating behind closed doors. The city's most popular Halloween party, in America's largest gay neighborhood, is canceled.

The once-exuberant street party, a symbol of sexual liberation since 1979 has in recent years become a Nightmare on Castro Street, drawing as many as 200,000 people, many of them costumeless outsiders, and there has been talk of moving it outside the district because of increasing violence. Last year, nine people were wounded when a gunman opened fire at the celebration.

For many in the Castro District, the cancellation is a blow that strikes at the heart of neighborhood identity, and it has brought soul-searching that goes beyond concerns about crime.

These are wrenching times for San Francisco's historic gay village, with population shifts, booming development, and a waning sense of belonging that is also being felt in gay enclaves across the nation, from Key West, Fla., to West Hollywood, as they struggle to maintain cultural relevance in the face of gentrification.

There has been a notable shift of gravity from the Castro, with young gay men and lesbians fanning out into less-expensive neighborhoods like Mission Dolores and the Outer Sunset, and farther away to Marin and Alameda Counties, "mirroring national trends where you are seeing same-sex couples becoming less urban, even as the population become slightly more urban," said Gary J. Gates, a demographer and senior research fellow at the University of California, [Los Angeles](#).

At the same time, cities not widely considered gay meccas have seen a sharp increase in same-sex couples. Among them: Fort Worth; El Paso; Albuquerque; Louisville, Ky.; and Virginia Beach, according to census figures and extrapolations by Dr. Gates for The New York Times. "Twenty years ago, if you were gay and lived in rural Kansas, you went to San Francisco or New York," he said. "Now you can just go to Kansas City."

In the Castro, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society held public meetings earlier this year to grapple with such questions as “Are Gay Neighborhoods Worth Saving?”

With nine major developments planned for Market Street, including a splashy 113-unit condominium designed by Arquitectonica, anxiety about the future is swirling. Median home prices hover around \$870,000. Local institutions like Cliff’s Variety, a hardware store selling feathered boas (year-round) are not about to vanish from this storied homeland of the gay rights movement. But the prospect of half-million-dollar condos inhabited by many straight people underscores a demographic shift.

“The Castro, and to a lesser extent the West Village, was where you went to express yourself,” said Don F. Reuter, a New York author who is researching a book on the rise and fall of gay neighborhoods, or “gayborhoods.”

“Claiming physical territory was a powerful act,” Mr. Reuter said. “But the gay neighborhood is becoming a past-tense idea.”

In the Castro, the influx of baby strollers — some being pushed by straight parents, some by gay parents — is perhaps the most blatant sign of change. “The Castro has gone from a gay-ghetto mentality to a family mentality,” said Wes Freas, a broker with Zephyr Real Estate. The arrival of a Pottery Barn down the street from the birthplaces of the AIDS quilt and the Rainbow Flag is a nod to change.

Sakura Ferris, a 28-year-old mother of a toddler, moved to the Castro because she liked its new eclecticism. At the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, a parent hot spot rife with Froggie pull-toys, Ms. Ferris’s tot mingles with infants in onesies that read, “I Love My Daddies.”

The Castro remains a top tourist destination for gay and lesbian visitors. But Joe D’Alessandro, president and C.E.O. of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, and a gay parent who lives in the Castro, predicted that eventually the neighborhood would go the way of North Beach, “still a historic Italian neighborhood though Italians don’t necessarily live there anymore.”

The Castro became a center for gay liberation in the late 1960s and early 1970s in a declining Irish Catholic and Scandinavian neighborhood. At its helm was Harvey Milk, the first openly gay city supervisor in San Francisco whose slaying in 1978 by a disgruntled former supervisor, Dan White, galvanized the community and set off riots when White was convicted of manslaughter instead of murder.

Decimated during the AIDS epidemic of 1990-1995, the neighborhood rebounded in the boom economy of the late 1990s. But the social forces that gave rise to the Castro and other gay neighborhoods like the West Village and West Hollywood may be becoming passé.

While the state’s Eighth Congressional District, which includes the Castro, saw an increase of about 20 percent in the number of same-sex couples from 2002 to 2006, surrounding districts had a 38 percent increase in same-sex couples, according to Dr. Gates.

In West Hollywood, another traditional gay haven, the graying of the population and the high cost of real estate has resulted in once-gay watering holes like the Spike and the I Candy Lounge going hetero. A new kind of gentrification is under way in which young gay waiters and school teachers move instead to Hollywood and other surrounding neighborhoods. “We often clamored for equality where gay and straight could coexist,” said Mayor John Duran of West Hollywood, who is gay. “But we weren’t prepared to give up our subculture to negotiate that exchange.”

While the Castro has been the center of a movement, it is also home to “an important political constituency,” said Elizabeth A. Armstrong, an associate sociology professor at [Indiana University](#) and the author of “Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco 1950-1994”

“When people were angry about Dan White they were able to assemble quickly, spilling out of the bars,” Professor Armstrong said. “Physical location mattered.”

The Castro still has the city’s largest progressive Democratic organization, the Harvey Milk Club. A survey of registered voters earlier this year by David Binder, a San Francisco political analyst, found that 33 percent of the Eighth District identified themselves as gay or lesbian, compared with 13 percent citywide.

The Castro’s activist legacy continues to exert a strong emotional pull: the corner of 18th and Castro Streets, where Harvey Milk; [Diana, Princess of Wales](#); and [Matthew Shepard](#) were mourned and where gay marriage was fleetingly celebrated, is for many a mythic homeland.

Amanda Rankin, a 40-year-old tourist from Hamilton, Ontario, was taking a “Cruisin’ the Castro” walking tour with three lesbian friends the other day.

“In America there still seems to be a lot of sexual repression left over from Puritanism and the pilgrims,” Ms. Rankin said. “Then there’s San Francisco.”

But its legacy has not prevented the neighborhood from harsh urban realities. As San Francisco real estate skyrocketed in the 1990s, the Castro had the city’s highest concentration of evictions, as speculators “flipped” buildings, many of them

housing people with disabilities and AIDS, to convert to market-rate apartments, said Brian Basinger, the founder of the AIDS Housing Alliance.

Even before Halloween, the Castro was grappling with violence and crime. Allegations of racial profiling at the Badlands, the neighborhood's most popular bar, led to a widespread boycott in 2005 and intervention by the city's Human Rights Commission.

The highly publicized rape of a man in the Castro in September 2006 led to the formation of Castro on Patrol, a whistle-wielding citizens' street brigade. In that attack, Mark Welch was raped five blocks from a store he managed on Castro Street. He said in that he later learned there had been two previous similar rapes in the neighborhood, but that had not been widely reported.

He said it took months for it to surface on a sex-crimes Web site maintained by the authorities. There are signs that the dispersing of gay people beyond the Castro vortex and the rise of the Internet are also contributing to a declining sense of community. An annual survey by the San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative indicated that in 2007 only 36 percent of men under 29 said there was a gay community in the city with which they could identify.

Doug Sebesta, the group's executive director and a medical sociologist at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said, "I've had therapists who have told me they are asking their clients to go back to bars as a way of social interaction."

The Internet is not a replacement for a neighborhood where people are involved in issues beyond themselves, said John Newsome, an African-American who co-founded the group And Castro For All after the Badlands incident. "There are a lot of really lonely gay people sitting in front of a computer," he said.

Which is why the cancellation of the Halloween party by the city has provoked such a sense of loss. Many residents say that their night has been taken away. "It's proof that whatever sense of safety we have is incredibly tenuous," Mr. Newsome said.

The city is shutting down public transportation to the Castro on Halloween and has begun a Web site, [homeforhalloween.com](http://homeforhalloween.com) that lists "fun" alternatives, including a Halloween blood drive and a "Monster Bash" — in San Mateo.

On a recent Saturday, Sister Roma, a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an activist coterie of drag queens, sashayed down Castro Street in heavy eye shadow and a gold lamé top. Though she looked well prepared for Halloween, she said she planned to be in hiding that night.

She wasn't feeling too deprived, however.

"Sweetie," she said, "every day is Halloween in the Castro."

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## **S.F. library requesting everyday photos from gay community**

Meredith May, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, October 13, 2007 (SF Chronicle)

The San Francisco Public Library wants to expand its gay history archive and is asking people to bring their personal photo albums to share snapshots of everyday gay life in the city.

The current public inventory is heavy on festivals - such as the Gay Pride Parade and Castro Halloween - and tragedies, such as the 1978 assassination of mayoral candidate and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

"We have newspaper archives from the News-Call Bulletin, but most of the pictures are criminalized - women getting arrested for dressing like men, people getting busted in a gay bar. They are sensational, and that was only one part of early gay history," said city archivist Susan Goldstein, who is leading the photo effort.

Because the San Francisco Public Library is one of the first stops for authors, filmmakers and historians working on gay-related projects, the archivists and librarians want to make room alongside such notables as Randy Shilts and Armistead Maupin for the little guy, who might have skipped the bohemia at the Beat-era Black Cat Cafe or the Queer Nation street protests but played just as important a role in the city's gay history.

On Sunday, library leaders will host Shades of San Francisco Photo Day, so that people of all stripes: stroller-pushing dads, drag queens, power-suit lesbians, teenagers,

activists and homebodies can expand the city's official gay record by adding pictures of regular days at home, work and play.

Lorraine Grassano, 56, who in the 1970s started one of the first female-centered newsletters in San Francisco, Natural Lighting, had a hard time choosing which photos to submit.

"Here's me as a kid dressed as a ballerina, and then the same year dressed as a cowboy ... go figure," she said, flipping through her album. She settled on a picture of herself in her city park ranger uniform. "I was one of the first women, and probably the first bisexual woman, to have that job," she said.

Sister Kitty Catalyst O.C.P. (of the catnip patch), a performance artist and member of the queer charity group Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, has amassed a large photo collection since moving to San Francisco from London in 1993. She's been busy, co-directing the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil, organizing hepatitis vaccinations, dispatching safety whistles to combat hate crimes, and directing the San Francisco AIDS Hero Awards.

One of the favorites from her album depicts the antics of "Guerrilla Queer Bar," a group of friends who would invade straight bars in places like Pleasant Hill and "turn them gay" for a couple of hours.

While most of Sister Kitty's submissions celebrate whimsy, the exercise is deeply serious.

"My family all have pretty much disowned me ... so for me, being able to share photos and tell my own story is quite powerful," she said.

Sifting through photos brought tears to 62-year-old writer/playwright Bob Locke of Sacramento, whose brother was 1970s porn star and AIDS activist Richard Locke.

"I wrote children's books, and my brother wrote porn, so I thought we would make a good display," Locke said.

At both ends of the literary spectrum, the brothers tackled the topic of AIDS at a time when few people understood it or could have imagined its devastation.

One photo Locke contributed shows his brother standing in a sea of men in Washington, D.C., in 1983, each holding a sign aloft with a number representing a death from AIDS. The number his brother is holding is 276.

"That was back when the death toll was in the three digits," Locke said.

Before he died of HIV-related complications in 1996, Richard Locke would routinely travel to Mexico for HIV drugs and distribute them in an underground clinic in Sacramento.

Bob Locke submitted four family portraits taken in the same pose in 1945, 1960, 1985 and 1995. He wanted to honor his departed mother, who always supported her two gay sons.

"I'm doing this to show Richard and I also had a strong link to our family," he said. "Our mother let us be who we wanted to be, which at that time was revolutionary."

This is the Library's fifth Shades of San Francisco photo project. Past photo drives have collected private images documenting specific neighborhoods: the Mission District, Western Addition, Ocean View/Ingleside/Merced and the Sunset.

The photos gathered Sunday will become part of the permanent collection at the Main Library's History Center, and will also go into an exhibit at the Eureka Valley Branch when it reopens in 2009 after remodeling.

For an audio slideshow of people sharing their family photographs, go to [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com).

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## Dozens bring photo collections to expand S.F. library's gay archive

Julian Guthrie, Chronicle Staff Writer Monday, October 15, 2007 (SF Chronicle)



There is a photo of Felipe Elizondo as a smiling 5-year-old boy, and a photo of him as a young man on his way to serve in Vietnam. Then there are the photos of Elizondo after he became a she.

"I'm a transsexual woman who had surgery in 1974 to go from male to female," said the 61-year-old Elizondo, whose first name is now Felicia. "I'm here because I'm a pioneer, a legend and a diva."

Diagnosed with HIV in 1987, she also has been recognized for her years of AIDS activism.

Elizondo was among dozens of men and women who brought their photo collections and stories to the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library on Sunday to contribute to San Francisco's gay archive. The stories they shared were joyous and sad, illuminating their pride in their community and the struggle for acceptance.

The one-day blitz to gather photos for San Francisco Public Library's gay archive brought together 28 volunteers and more than 50 donors. Two photographers worked in a back room, taking pictures of the images to be archived.

The photos will become a part of the public library's inventory, and another set will be archived at the Harvey Milk branch. There are plans for an eventual photo exhibit.

"We're getting the photos, and we're getting the history," said city archivist Susan Goldstein. "We're hearing: 'This is my family. They didn't talk to me because I was gay'; 'This is when I was in the military'; 'This is when I came to San Francisco.' It's a great cross section."

Glen Millar, 60, and John Legaspi, 57, talked of playing in the city's gay softball league beginning in the late 1970s.

"It connected you with other people in the community," Legaspi said. "And, the league did a lot of good for different causes."

Millar added with a dry laugh, "It showed that we are normal people, too."

At a table nearby was retired physician Sam Thal, who shared photos spanning from his childhood in Washington state to a brief stint in the Navy in World War II and his days in San Francisco.

"I knew I was gay when I was 6, but I didn't come out until I was in my 20s," said Thal, who is 82 and a clinical professor in the UCSF School of Medicine.

He looked wistfully at his high school graduation photo, taken in 1941 when he had a full head of hair, and then studied another photo showing him in his Navy uniform. He arrived in San Francisco in 1955.

"I found a community in San Francisco," he said.

But for many decades, he noted, "gay people lived two lives. You had your life at work and your social life. In many cases, you wouldn't keep your job if it became known you were gay. So, we've come a long way."

At another table, a group of women flipped through thick albums and reminisced over happy times at Maud's, one of San Francisco's best-known lesbian bars.

"This bar was a safe haven for lesbians because there was no place they could go," said Joann Shirley, a Maud's bartender for 14 years. "In those days, we had a light behind the bar. When it switched on, it meant to stop dancing with women and grab a guy because police were here. You couldn't get caught dancing with girls."

Shirley was seated next to Mary Sager, the longtime partner of the late Rikki Streicher, who founded Maud's. The bar was opened in Cole Valley in 1966 and closed in 1989.

"We have 50 or 60 of these albums at home," Shirley said. "We brought two." As she flipped pages, her eyes lit up with memories.

"No one remembers this," Sager said. "These were important times."

Drew Bourn, an archivist at Stanford University who volunteered at the library Sunday, looked across the table and nodded.

"That's why we're doing this," he said. "It's of real value to make them available to future researchers."

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## International news

### **Antigay Actions Get Patron Banned, Detained**

October 19, 2007, American Libraries Online <<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/>>

A Manchester, England, man was banned from the Leigh Library after refusing service from a gay staff member and was held by police for eight-and-a-half hours after refusing to leave the library the next day.

Joe Fairclough had previously posted comments deemed homophobic on the library's notice board and protested outside the library against adoption rights for gay couples, the Manchester Evening News reported October 16. "We take a serious view of verbal abuse, intimidation, or violence against any of our staff," an unidentified library spokesman said.

"This wasn't an isolated case and our code of conduct has a variety of sanctions, including banning people from our facilities."

"I am against homosexuality but I don't wish anyone any harm," Fairclough said. He was arrested for a public order offense but not charged because police said there was insufficient evidence that he intended to cause distress.

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## Upcoming conferences

### **Let's Pretend! London Metropolitan Archives' Fifth Annual LGBT History and Archives Conference**

Saturday 1 December 2007 9.30 am – 4.30 pm £10; Concessions £7.50; Children Free (*pre-booking essential*)

To book: T. 020 7332 3820 E. [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk) W. London Metropolitan Archives 40 Northampton Road, London, EC1R 0HB

Venue: St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8EQ

*Back in 1988, Section 28 of the Local Government Act stated that a local authority was not permitted to "promote the teaching ... of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship." The conference sets out to explore the experience of LGBT families and family life and how these important histories might be recorded for future generations.*

9.30 am Welcome, Arrival and coffee

10 am Evlynn Sharp with LGBT writers — 'My Idea Of Family'

Kairos in Soho hosted a creative community event exploring the dynamics of LGBT family relationships across generations. Poems, words, ideas and art emerge. LGBT people's expressions of family show a commitment to share and learn from our realities. Along with participants who offer readings of their poems, Evlynn represents the highlights of 'My Idea Of Family' and interweaves with her own poetic reflections.

10.20 am Vanda Carter — Elephants in the Bedroom — Writing for children of LGBT families

We dimly remembered the dreary photo-realism of "Jenny lives with Eric & Martin" in the Eighties and the media storm which followed its British publication. We found a few picture books from America and Canada, published in the Nineties, sagging with the leaden weight of ISSUES and horrid illustrations reminiscent of local authority clip art. We found hardly any books which showed, let alone celebrated, the existence and lives of same-sex parent families like us. There was almost nothing which we could bear to read to our children or felt that we could recommend to their nurseries and schools. So, we thought, something must be done...

11 am Matt Cook — 'Exiles from kin'? Gay men and the family

This talk looks at how gay men came to be seen as 'exiles' from kin, disconnected from domestic life, but also suggests that their involvement in home and family has a long history, providing precedents for more recent 'families' of choice.

11.45 am Coffee

Noon Bernard and Terry Reed — 'The Work of GIRES'

Gender variance in children, adolescents or adults usually causes acute stress for other members of their families. The reactions of other family members often intensifies the stress that gender variant people already feel. Communication within the family is difficult. The Gender Identity Research and Education Society has supported over 200 such family members by providing information and running workshops. Bernard and Terry Reed are the parents of a trans woman. As trustees of GIRES, they play leading roles in its education programmes and are the authors of much of its literature. They work with many government agencies in the development of policies to support transgender people. *Gender Identity Research and Education Society* <http://www.gires.org.uk>

12.45 pm David Fullman *Equality & Diversity Officer, Age Concern Norwich* 'Fulfillment and Fear' — The Ups and Downs of Growing Older

This presentation explores concepts of the family for aging LGBT people. As we get older we may all need extra support and help. But what happens when these structures fail? There will be time for questions at the end.

1.30 pm Lunch

2.30 pm Break Out Sessions

*Break out sessions provide an opportunity to discuss the day's themes and related issues in more depth. This year sessions include:*

*A creative workshop with poet Evlynn Sharp.* Following on from her presentation earlier in the day, this session explores ideas and shares expressions of family.

*Strategies for recording and conserving LGBT history* and particularly family / kinship histories. There will also be a chance to discuss issues around the defining and keeping of personal histories with speaker Matt Cook.

A workshop / discussion with Ajamu of Rukus Federation around the idea of moving between 'real' and 'imagined' families. In most families stories and experiences are passed down from generation to generation. If gay people feel disconnected from these stories what do they pass on? If gay people create alternative families how do people relate to each other and what stories do they tell? And how do stories and experiences impact on how we view our own history, heritage and lived experience? *If you are interested in this workshop bring along three small but personally important objects to share with the group.*

3.30 pm Tea and music

Enjoy an interlude with the London Gay Symphony Orchestra string quartet.

4 pm Panel

The panel session will provide an opportunity for groups to feed back, raise new questions and to draw some conclusions from the day's discussions.

There are also free children's workshops.

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**For your consideration**



Mutts daily strip for : **October 23, 2007**

