

Archival InQueeries

Society of American Archivists
Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter
Number 35, Fall 2009 / Winter 2010



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From the Co-chairs:

LAGAR serves as an important resource to LGBTQ archivists and the collections they administer whether these archives are part of a parent organization or are independent or community-based repositories. The effort to collect and make publicly available the work of LGBTQ people is important and to have such a group that is committed to assisting its members with information about archival practices and ensuring that news is disseminated about ongoing collecting and digital projects is invaluable. Further, LAGAR serves a very vital function within SAA to ensure that LGBTQ archival issues are visible within organization.

These guiding thoughts are always with us as we strive to carry out the mission and goals of the LAGAR roundtable and the concerns of its members - just wanted you all to know. Please let us know any thoughts on your mind and we'll work to get an answer or find a solution.

May you all have a safe holiday season filled with wonderful memories.

Heidi Marshall and Jim Cartwright
Female and Male Identified Co-Chairs

Editor's notes:

Hello LAGAR-ites!

I hope you all have had a wonderful year. There's tons of news items to follow but first I would like to welcome several new members or members in new positions to our helm: Heidi Marshall is our new female-identified co-chair, Franklin Robinson and Florence "Flo" Turcotte are our new Members at Large in our Steering Committee.

I owe a huge apology for not getting out a second newsletter last year but I had a bit of breast cancer to deal with and the treatments seemed to take more out of me than I anticipated. However, now, I am finished with treatments, fit and polished, running at full steam, and forging ahead in my usual manner.

Just to let you know, this newsletter is a bit longer than those in the past primarily due to only having one last year but also due to our "In Memoriam" section which is longer. These do not reflect those of our own archival cast but more so those who have aided, assisted, and marked our paths in archives.

Take care,
Maggi Gonsalves
Your friendly LAGAR Newsletter Editor

LAGAR Announcements:

Recently Debbie Richards, steering committee member of numerous titles and long-time LAGAR member, has created a Facebook page for LAGAR.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lesbian-and-Gay-Archives-Roundtable-of-SAA/125093842889>

If you have a Facebook page and have wanted to find group sites to "become a fan" of, or have been thinking of creating a Facebook page of your own, now is the time! Be sure you "become a fan" of the LAGAR page [link above] – once you do all of your Facebook friends will be able to see that you are a fan and they will be able to visit the LAGAR page from there.

So don't be a luddite, join the social network of Facebook and become a fan of LAGAR!

Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable 2008-09 Annual Report

Date: 6 October 2009

Name of Section/Roundtable: Lesbian & Gay Archives Roundtable

Officers:

Co-chair: James Cartwright, Co-Chair, University of Hawaii

Co-chair: Heidi Marshall, Co-Chair, Columbia College, Chicago

Steering Committee:

Maggi Gonsalves, Newsletter Editor, New York State Archives

Steven Mandeville-Gamble, Webmaster, George Washington University

Bonnie Weddle, Past Co-Chair, New York State Archives

Steven Novak, Member at Large, Columbia University, New York City

Marjorie Bryer, Member at Large, University of California—Berkeley [joined 09/08]

Paula Jabloner, Member at Large, Computer Museum

Thomas Brown, Member at Large, Retired [joined Sept. 2009]

Franklin Robinson, Member at Large, Smithsonian Institution [joined Sept. 2009]

Florence "Flo" Turcotte, Member at Large, University of Florida [joined Sept. 2009]

Archival InQueeries

Thomas Hyry, Council Liaison, Yale University

Report from annual meeting:

- Number of attendees: 26, of which 21 checked being members of LAGAR
- Election results: Heidi Marshall elected as female co-chair.
- Summary of meeting activities: see attached.

Completed projects/activities:

One newsletter issued (Fall, 2008)

LAGAR took a lead on one issue and took a major supporting role on a second issue facing SAA during the year. LAGAR led in the efforts to present petition and reasoning to Council to alter the fifty-member minimum rule it had imposed upon roundtables. During these discussions, Council reinstated the previous rule that fifty members must petition Council for a new roundtable to be formed, and altered the limitation on each member of SAA to belong to only two roundtables to allow members to join as many roundtables as they wish.

The second issue, on which LAGAR joined the Diversity Committee in sponsoring, concerned Council's working with these two groups to explore ways in which Council could support rights of all its members. Council upgraded the non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and veteran status. We expect to continue with Diversity Committee to encourage Council to act according to the words.

Finally, LAGAR responded to SAA's draft, "Strategic Priority Outcomes and Activities, FY 2010-1013" with cogent comments on the issue of Diversity. LAGAR was one of only two groups in SAA to make official responses.

Ongoing projects/activities:

Paula Jabloner and Steven Novak worked as editors on the Community Archives Manual; We still need editing of chapters on certain topics; we alerted members to our needs for volunteers as authors and editors over the coming year.

New projects/activities:

LAGAR will review older materials on its Web site, identify personal information that should be removed from the Web, and develop strategies for doing so.

LAGAR will make concerted efforts to transfer records from each co-chair upon completion of each term.

We asked for volunteers to serve on a Task Force to revise the wording in our bylaws to become more sensitive to the transgendered, transsexual, and genderqueer members of our community. We also need to update elections rules in the bylaws allowing us to participate in electronic elections.

We also would like to form an Outreach Committee to reach us in reaching out to students, the general public, researchers, etc., to inform all about SAA, LAGAR, and archival repositories which can offer services to them.

We asked for volunteers to serve on Steering Committee.

Last year at our annual meeting Jim Cartwright informed members that he would write the general membership of LAGAR in the spring to come up with session topics for SAA in 2010, so that we would not have to begin the creative work during SAA. Though at the time (spring 2009) it did not look like anything would emerge, a session proposal did emerge at SAA 2009 and afterwards.

Diversity initiatives: See section on our cooperation with Diversity Committee in Completed Projects above.

Questions/concerns for Council attention: None at this time.

**Society of American Archivists Lesbian & Gay Archives Roundtable (LAGAR),
Annual Meeting, in conjunction with Women's Collection Roundtable, held in the Austin Hilton
Downtown, 12 August 2009, 4:15-5:15 p.m.**

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## **LAGAR 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

The 2009 meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable was held at the Austin Hilton Downtown on Wednesday, August 12 from 4:15-5:15 PM.

After attendees introduced themselves, co-chair Jim Cartwright and outgoing co-chair Bonnie Weddle led the meeting.

### **Tom Hyry, Council Liaison**

- Council has drafted a charge for a new working group on cultural property. Archivists whose repositories have materials from multiple cultures need to think through a range of issues, and this group will help to guide the process.
- Council is also examining its policies concerning roundtables. Roundtables must forward the names of all leaders to SAA, and Council will examine other ways to ensure that roundtable governance is sufficiently transparent.
- LAGAR was one of only two groups that submitted feedback re: SAA's draft Strategic Priority Outcomes and Activities, FY 2010 – FY 2013. Council was very pleased – LAGAR really stood out in Council's eyes. Council is still soliciting feedback from individuals.
- In response to feedback from LAGAR, other roundtables, and individual members, Council has altered several SAA's policies concerning roundtables and roundtable membership:
  - The old policy concerning the formation of roundtables has been reinstated: fifty people must petition Council.
  - The recently established fifty-member minimum has been rescinded, and there is no minimum number of members needed to maintain a roundtable.
  - Individual SAA members are now free to join as many roundtables as they wish; previously, there was a two-roundtable limit.
- Revision of SAA Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy. Earlier this year, the Diversity Committee, with the support of LAGAR, submitted to Council a resolution prompted by the passage of California's Proposition 8 that called upon Council to work with the Diversity Committee and LAGAR to explore ways that it could support the rights of all of its members. Following intense debate on the Archives & Archivists listserv and extensive internal discussion, in February Council responded by updating SAA's non-discrimination policy so that it explicitly includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression; the new policy, which also includes veteran status, is available on the SAA Web site ([http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/app\\_b.asp#equal](http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/app_b.asp#equal)). Council also drew up a supporting resolution affirming the rights of its LGBT members (<http://www.archivists.org/statements/EOPolicy.asp>).

Discussion: Bonnie Weddle thanked Tom for Council's careful consideration of the issues raised by the resolution and encouraged Council to continue working with the Diversity Committee and LAGAR to identify practical actions consistent with SAA's recent policy changes.

### **Ben Primer, 2010 Program Committee**

- The deadline for submitting session proposals is September 24, 2009, and LAGAR members interested in submitting proposals should consult the guidelines posted on the SAA Web site (<http://www.archivists.org/conference/proposals101>).
- Since the 2010 meeting will be held jointly with the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators and the Council of State archivists, the 2010 Program Committee is seeking session proposals that bring together members of SAA, NAGARA, and CoSA.

- Roundtables and sections can endorse a maximum of two session proposals, and must submit their endorsements no later than October 15, 2009.
- Serving as a member of the SAA Program Committee is a wonderful way to serve SAA and the archival profession, and anyone interested in serving on the 2011 Program Committee should contact the Appointments Committee.

Discussion: Jim Cartwright, who served on the 2008 Program Committee, concurred that serving on this committee is a rewarding experience and encouraged LAGAR members to explore the possibility of doing so.

### General Announcements

- Evelyn Frangakis announced that the New York Public Library and Yale University are hosting eight nine-month, Institute of Museum and Library Services grant-funded fellowships that are intended to develop the next generation of preservation leaders. Fellowships will start in 2010-2012, and each fellow will be required to conduct research and take on a project. The deadline for applying is December 14, 2009. For more information, contact [efrangakis@nypl.org](mailto:efrangakis@nypl.org)
- Bonnie Weddle noted that Lisa Cohen of the Northwest Lesbian Archives was named a 2009 Archives Mover & Shaker by ArchivesNext, the blog created by Kate Theimer. *Information about Cohen's award is available at <http://www.archivesnext.com/?p=313>*
- Sandy Swan announced that the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual "Creating Change" conference, which is the largest national conference concerning LGBT issues, will be held in Dallas, Texas, on February 3-7, 2010. Organizers are seeking program proposals; *for more information, see [http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating\\_change](http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating_change)*

### Newsletter Update: Bonnie Weddle

- Although Maggi Gonsalves is willing to continue serving as editor of Lavender Legacies, she will yield the position to any other interested LAGAR member. In the event that no one is interested in doing so, Maggi would appreciate having a co-editor or assistant. Gabby Redwine has agreed to serve as co-editor of the newsletter.

### Web Site Update: Bonnie Weddle

- Steve Mandeville-Gamble is still interested in serving as LAGAR's Webmaster. However, he is in the midst of transitioning from a Windows to a Mac platform and is having difficulty getting some of the LAGAR site templates to work properly; as a result, he will not be able to post updates to the site for a short time.

### Community Archives Manual Update: Paula Jabloner

- Would like a co-editor/co-chair for the Community Archives Manual.
- Needs authors for sections concerning:
  - User services
  - Privacy and confidentiality
  - Arrangement and description
  - Links to further resources

Discussion: Bonnie Weddle noted that at the Leadership Forum meeting held on the morning of August 12, a number of attendees asserted that, in the interest of furthering its strategic priority of increasing diversity within the archival profession and the historical record, SAA should work more closely with community-based archives. Leadership Forum attendees also noted that roundtables can play a significant role in bridging the gap between SAA and community-based archives. LAGAR members discussed ideas for working collaboratively with other roundtables, which centered upon working with other roundtables to create a publication/website targeting religious, ethnic, women's, labor, and other groups seeking to start community-based archival programs.

### New Steering Committee Members

- Jim Cartwright indicated that LAGAR needs to recruit new Steering Committee members and that men in particular are encouraged to volunteer.

- Bonnie Weddle noted that most current Steering Committee members identify as women and as lesbians, and that the Steering Committee should consist of people from across the LGBTQ spectrum.
- Tom Brown, Debbie Richards, and Florence Turcotte have agreed to serve on the Steering Committee.

**Election of Female Co-Chair**

- Jim Cartwright called for nominations and indicated that Heidi Marshall, a current Steering Committee member, has expressed interest in serving as co-chair for the 2009-2011 term.
- Bonnie Weddle read the statement that Heidi Marshall submitted to the co-chairs in advance of the meeting.
- A motion to elect Heidi Marshall was made and seconded, and she was elected by acclamation.

**New Business**

- Moving LAGAR into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - We need to establish a committee to examine our bylaws:
    - The bylaws haven't been substantially revised since their initial drafting in 1989, when it was decided that co-chairs would serve staggered terms and that one co-chair would always be male and another would always be female. This structure was created to ensure that gay men would not dominate leadership positions, but as of 2009 this is less of a concern. Moreover, it excludes, implicitly and explicitly, the transgender and genderqueer members of our community. The bylaws should be updated to ensure that we are as inclusive on paper as we are in practice.
    - SAA is moving toward conducting elections online, and our bylaws currently mandate that elections take place during LAGAR's annual business meeting.
  - LAGAR and Web 2.0: LAGAR would like to begin exploring using Web 2.0 services such as Facebook to raise its own profile and to connect to other LGBT archives and archival groups. *Debbie Richards and Bonnie Weddle have created a LAGAR page on Facebook, and any person interested in LAGAR's work is free to become a fan and post information to this page.*
- Outreach Committee – Jim Cartwright and Bonnie Weddle would like to create an Outreach Committee responsible for reaching out to students, the public, donors, researchers, etc. The number of community archives is rapidly increasing, but many of these archives don't know about SAA, LAGAR, or other organizations (e.g., university archives, state archives) that offer services that might be of interest to them.

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Archive news & announcements:

**19 Years of LGBT Video History Preserved
 NYU acquires Gay Cable Network's 6,100-hour archive**

Thousands of hours of video news and features on the LGBT and AIDS movements produced by Lou Maletta for his Gay Cable Network (GCN) over 19 years have been acquired by New York University's Fales Library for cataloguing and preservation.

Maletta, 72, launched the network in 1982 with "Men in Films," which explored male erotica, and soon went on to develop news programming that gave virtually the only television attention to the nascent AIDS crisis and the ongoing fight for LGBT rights on shows such as "Pride and Progress" (succeeded by the national "Gay USA" show that I still co-host with Ann Northrop out of Manhattan Neighborhood Network).

For more of this story, go to
http://www.chelseanow.com/articles/2009/09/18/gay_city_news/community/doc4a70e77dd6af0003459054.txt

Morehouse College: What a drag!

The all-male, historically African-American college's new dress code bans students from wearing women's clothing

By Judy Berman, Oct. 19, 2009

Looking back on some of things I thought were a good idea to wear in college, I have to cringe. Culled mostly from thrift stores, my wardrobe involved everything from layered slips worn as skirts to a garish pair of faux snakeskin boots with 4-inch platform heels. For a while, my personal motto was, "Every day is Halloween." But now that the slips have disintegrated and I only keep the shoes around for costume parties, I wouldn't trade my memories (or photos!) of the fun I had in them for the world. College is a time -- and, for some, the *only* time, between the parental regime of childhood and the repressive dictates of the working world -- to figure out who we are and will be, to push our self-images to their logical extreme, just to see what sticks. Clothing is a small but essential part of that process.

That's why it's so disheartening to hear that Morehouse College, an all-male, historically African-American school in Atlanta, has instituted a dress code banning this kind of experimentation. The "Appropriate Attire Policy" dictates that students refrain from wearing caps, do-rags, sagging pants, "clothing with derogatory or lewd messages either in words or pictures" and sunglasses ("in class or at formal programs"). Most controversial is the college's decision to outlaw "clothing usually worn by women (dresses, tops, tunics, purses, pumps, etc.) on the Morehouse campus or at college-sponsored events."

for the rest of the story, go to

http://www.salon.com/mwt/broadsheet/feature/2009/10/19/morehouse_drag/index.html

Making History:

House Votes to Expand Hate Crimes Definition

By CARL HULSE, N Y Times, October 9, 2009

The 281-146 vote will expand the definition of violent federal hate crimes to cover those committed because of a victim's gender and sexual orientation.

HHS to Create a National Resource Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Elders

HHS [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services] Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced plans to establish the nation's first national resource center to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and supports for older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

Experts estimate that as many as 1.5 to 4 million LGBT individuals are age 60 and older. Agencies that provide services to older individuals may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the needs of this group of individuals. The new Resource Center for LGBT Elders will provide information, assistance and resources for both LGBT organizations and mainstream aging services providers at the state and community level to assist them in the development and provision of culturally sensitive supports and services. The LGBT Center will also

be available to educate the LGBT community about the importance of planning ahead for future long term care needs.

The LGBT Resource Center will help community-based organizations understand the unique needs and concerns of older LGBT individuals and assist them in implementing programs for local service providers, including providing help to LGBT caregivers who are providing care for an older partner with health or other challenges.

The Administration on Aging will award a single Resource Center grant at approximately \$250,000 per year, pending availability of funds. Eligible entities will include public-private nonprofit organizations with experience working on LGBT issues on a national level. The funding announcement for the Resource Center will be made available on the following website very soon.

<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx>

News bits and bites:

Richard Labonté to Head the Lambda Literary Awards

September 15, 2009 -- The Board of Trustees has announced that Richard Labonté will administer the 22nd cycle of the Lambda Literary Awards.

"As a long-time judge, Lammy finalist and winner, bookseller, journalist, and critic, Richard brings an amazing breadth of knowledge and integrity to our awards program," Board member Katherine V. Forrest states. "We are thrilled he will be the administrator of this year's awards."

Richard Labonté has edited more than two dozen anthologies for Cleis Press, including the thrice-nominated, twice-Lambda Literary Award-winning *Best Gay Erotica* series; coedited (with Lawrence Schimel) *The Future is Queer*, *First Person Queer* (also a Lammy winner), *Second Person Queer*, and *I Like It Like That: True Tales of Gay Desire*, for Arsenal Pulp Press; writes a fortnightly book review column distributed to about a dozen papers by Q Syndicate; reviews contemporary fiction, gay nonfiction, and books about the environment for *Publishers Weekly*; and transmutes turgid technical writing into bright golden prose for assorted clients.

In part one of his post-university life, from 1972 to 1979, he wrote and edited for the *Citizen* daily newspaper in Ottawa, Ontario. In part two, from 1979 to 2000, he help found and eventually managed A Different Light Bookstores in Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and San Francisco, while writing book reviews for outlets ranging from *The Advocate* and *In Touch* to *Feminist Bookstore News* and *Planet Out*; he also helped organize the first two OutWrite literary conferences in San Francisco, organized five Readers & Writers Queer Literary Conferences in SF (along with other staff from A Different Light), and served on the board of the San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival, while organizing the festival's gay programming for five years.

In part three-since returning to Canada in 2001-he has been self-employed as a freelance editor, reviewer, and publishing consultant. In 2007 he moved with his husband, Asa Liles, to Bowen Island, British Columbia (pop. 3,500, plus plenty of deer, dogs, ravens, and crows), where he has helped organize two years of the island's first ever literary conference (Write On Bowen!), sits on the Bowen Island Library Board, and walks a lot among the ferns in the island's temperate rainforest. He has been involved with the Lambda Literary Awards as an advisor and as a judge from the inception of the Lammys, and in almost four decades of association with books as a reader, bookseller, and reviewer, estimates he has read something like 8,000 queer-interest books.

2009 Guidelines for 22nd Annual Lambda Literary Awards

These guidelines focus on determining a book's eligibility for the Lambda Literary Awards, the process of submitting a book for consideration by the judges, the parameters of the categories, and an approximate timeline for the awards cycle.

Each year, the Award Guidelines Committee of the Board of Trustees assesses and revises the Guidelines. This year's guidelines have been updated to reflect our mission:

The Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF) seeks to elevate the status of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people throughout society by rewarding and promoting excellence among LGBT writers who use their work to explore LGBT lives.

As such, it should be noted that the Lambda Literary Awards are based principally on the LGBT content, the gender orientation/identity of the author, and the literary merit of the work.

Complete guidelines and [a submission form](#) are available online. Questions may be directed to awards@lambdaliterary.org.

TIMELINE

- Submission period for books begins October 1 and ends December 1, 2009.
- A shortlist of five finalists for each category will be announced no later than March 15, 2010.
- Winners will be announced at the 22nd Annual Lambda Literary Awards Ceremony. The date, time and location of the event will be announced by October 15, 2009.



First Arizona LGBT Archive Launches in Tucson



October 13, 2009

TUCSON, Ariz. - The life experiences of Arizona's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities will be kept in a new digital archive at the University of Arizona.

Filmmaker and director of the *Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project: Community Histories* Jamie Lee has been collecting interviews for nearly two years.

"People talk about same-sex marriage and domestic partner benefits... The first pride parade. We have a place in our state's history."

Lee will screen clips of selected histories to launch the archive this afternoon in Tucson. She plans to take the presentation around the state by next spring. There are also plans to loan out digital camcorders so that LGBT residents statewide can contribute to the archive.

For the rest of the story, go to

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/10888-1>

USC's Archives Bazaar resurrects L.A.'s history

By Hector Tobar, Los Angeles Times,

Using artifacts that participants may have cast off as unimportant, the event brings to life such moments as the Black Cat gay rights protest of 1967, which predated New York's Stonewall riots.

They gathered outside a nightclub called the Black Cat one winter night in 1967, perhaps a few hundred men and women in all, joined together in a moment of happy subversion on a Silver Lake street. Weeks earlier, police had swept through the club and arrested 14 people after witnessing, at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, the "crime" of one man kissing another.

It's unlikely any of the protesters had been to an organized gay-rights demonstration -- the movement in Los Angeles was then in its infancy. Someone brought a camera and snapped a few pictures. Finally the demonstrators dispersed. They put away or threw away the signs they had made.

There are precious few known artifacts remaining from the Black Cat protest, an event that preceded by more than two years the famous Stonewall "riots" in New York. People who make history are often unaware they are doing so. They don't always preserve the objects and documents that could make those momentous events come alive for future generations.

That's where a small but dedicated band of Los Angeles archivists comes in. They rescue the things that make up our collective history: a Remington typewriter owned by the Depression-era pioneer of Spanish-language radio, posters and sheet music from the jazz glory days of Central Avenue, the photographs taken outside the Black Cat on the night of Feb. 11, 1967.

For the rest of the story, go to

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tobar6-2009oct06,0,750686.column>

Ideas & Trends: Lit Critics Who Peer Under the Covers

By PATRICIA COHEN

May 19, 2009

NOW that colleges have created gender-neutral housing and bathrooms, and gay couples can be married in Iowa and Connecticut, it may be hard to understand the uproar that Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's work caused when it first appeared in the mid-1980s.

Ms. Sedgwick, who died of breast cancer last week at age 58, found subterranean homoerotic impulses in the work of Henry James, Friedrich Nietzsche and Charles Dickens. In the decorous novels of Jane Austen, she unearthed hidden references to masturbation.

These analyses and others helped form the basis of an entirely new scholarly field, queer studies, a kitchen-sink sort of enterprise that proposed a groundbreaking way of looking at art and culture.

Drawing on literature, psychology, law, politics, sociology and the work of Michel Foucault, Ms. Sedgwick argued that assigned categories like "homosexual" and "heterosexual," not to mention "male" and "female,"

don't begin to capture reality. Sexual desire and sexual identity exist on a continuum, spilling over the neat labels we create to contain them.

What's more, she asserted, the failure to openly acknowledge these flawed definitions impairs "an understanding of virtually any aspect of Western culture."

For the rest of the story, go to

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/weekinreview/19cohen.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

International news:

History in the making from across the Big Western Pond

ELECTION 2009 : Political shift gives hope to gays

By MARIKO KATO, Staff writer Japanese Times

The possible power shift in Sunday's [Aug 30] general election signals change for many, and one minority interest group is daring to hope it will bring about the biggest change yet.

The nation's gay and lesbian community, which has long been calling for an antidiscrimination law to protect their rights, has seen similar bills proposed and scrapped in the Diet for nearly a decade. The likelihood that the Democratic Party of Japan, the last party to submit such a bill, will dominate the powerful House of Representatives in an alliance with the Social Democratic Party, which speaks out for homosexual rights, has raised hopes that the inertia may at last be overcome.

This was echoed by Boris Dittrich, advocacy director of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender program at Human Rights Watch, who visited Japan last month. He met with key opposition party figures to discuss Japan's future on issues of sexual orientation.

For the rest of the story, go to

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/nn20090827f2.html>

Call for papers / proposals / presentations:

The Journal of Homosexuality is devoted to scholarly research on homosexuality, including sexual practices and gender roles and their cultural, historical, interpersonal, and modern social contexts. Researchers and practitioners interested in current knowledge about human sexuality will find every issue of this journal brimming with a balanced selection of scholarly and practical articles. The Journal was founded by The Haworth Press, Inc., which merged into the Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, in 2007.

The Journal of Homosexuality welcomes the submission of papers on a variety of topics and from a range of disciplines and perspectives for review and publication. For complete instructions for authors, visit www.tandf.co.uk/journals/WJHM .

2010 ARSC CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS --- Proposal deadline: January 4, 2010

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections invites proposals for presentations at its 44th annual conference, to be held May 19-22, 2010, in one of the most fascinating cultural centers in America, New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference will take place at the historic Chateau Bourbon, located in the heart of the French Quarter.

ARSC welcomes presentations on the preservation and study of sound recordings in all genres of music and speech, in any format, and from any period. The enthusiastic audience will be drawn from our community of collectors, historians, musicians, preservationists, and archivists.

In general, we give preference to demonstrations, papers, and panels that are informative, well organized, and include compelling audio and visual content, presented by people who display a passion about their subjects. Presentations may deal with technical issues such as preservation and archives management or with content-related topics such as discography, repertoire, and artist profiles. This year we especially welcome presentations that showcase New Orleans and the surrounding area and their rich recording heritage.

The deadline for receiving presentation proposals is January 4, 2010.

Receipt will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Presenters will be notified of acceptance by January 31, 2010.

For more information and the Call for Presentations form, visit:

<http://www.arsc-audio.org/conference/pdf/2010call.rtf>

General conference information can be found at:

<http://www.arsc-audio.org/conference/>

Tim Brooks

ARSC Program Chair

tim@timbrooks.net

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and study of sound recordings -- in all genres of music and speech, in all formats, and from all periods. ARSC is unique in bringing together private individuals and institutional professionals -- everyone with a serious interest in recorded sound.



**Call for proposals: the LGBT Caucus of the American Political Science Association
APSA's next the call for papers deadline is December 15, 2009.**

The 2010 meeting theme, "The Politics of Hard Times," lends itself to the work of interest to the LGBT Caucus. We invite proposals that speak to the Caucus members in light of recent electoral efforts to roll back civil liberties advances, persistent violence (state sanctioned or private) against the LGBT community around the world, and weak political representation here in the US. In addition to this year's theme, we welcome proposals from all fields of political science that will contribute new empirical or theoretical insights to those fields of interest to the LGBT Caucus and allies, defined broadly. In general, and in keeping with the Caucus' mission, we seek to foster scholarship in any dimension of politics that addresses or is of concern to the community of LGBT scholars and its

allies. Both panel and individual paper proposals are invited, but individual paper proposals are generally easier to accommodate.

Also, please consider submitting your proposal to two sections rather than just the LGBT Caucus section -- that will give us a greater opportunity to leverage our presence at the meeting including enhanced opportunities to arrange co-sponsored panels.

Please submit your proposals directly through the APSA proposal system here: <https://www.apsanet.org/callpapers/>

Please contact me or Cindy Burack (our 2010 program chair <burack.1@osu.edu>,) if you have any questions.

SHORT COURSE

In light of the success of the inaugural short course in Toronto, we are planning another one for the 2010 meeting. We expect the format will be similar - 1/2 day the Wednesday afternoon before the conference starts on Thursday. If you are interested in participating as a panelist or as an attendee, please let us know at your convenience. The formal announcement will go out in early spring, but we are notifying you about it now to facilitate the travel considerations.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Please contact Tony Smith should you have any questions or comments.

Charles Anthony Smith
Chair, LGBT Caucus
University of California - Irvine
Department of Political Science
3151 Social Science Plaza
Irvine, CA 92697-5100

http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=5443

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## CALL FOR PAPERS: Berkshire Conference on Women's History

"GENERATIONS: Exploring Race, Sexuality, and Labor across Time and Space"

June 9-12, 2011, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Proposals due March 1, 2010

The Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians is holding its next conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on June 9-12, 2011. 2011 marks the 15th Berkshire Conference on Women's History and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day, which was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland and is now honored by more than sixty countries around the globe. The choice of "Generations" reflects this transnational intellectual, political, and organizational heritage as well as a desire to explore related questions such as:

\* ¥ How have women's generative experiences - from production and reproduction to creativity and

alliance building - varied across time and space? How have these been appropriated and represented by contemporaries and scholars alike?

\* ¥ What are the politics of "generation"? Who is encouraged? Who is condemned or discouraged? How has this changed over time?

\* ¥ Is a global perspective compatible with generational (in the genealogical sense) approaches to the past that tend to reinscribe national/regional/racial boundaries?

\* ¥ What challenges do historians of women, gender, and sexuality face as these fields and their practitioners mature?

To engender further, open-ended engagement with these and other issues, the 2011 conference will include workshops dedicated to discussing precirculated papers on questions and problems (epistemological, methodological, substantive) provoked by the notion of "Generations."

The process for submitting and vetting papers and panels has changed substantially from previous years, so please read the instructions carefully. To encourage transnational discussions, panels will be principally organized along thematic rather than national lines and therefore proposals will be vetted by a transnational group of scholars with expertise in a particular thematic, rather than geographic, field. All proposals must be directed to ONE of the following subcommittees and should be submitted electronically.

Please list a second choice for the subcommittee to vet your proposal but do not submit to more than one subcommittee. Instructions for submission will be posted on the Berkshire Conference website ([www.berksconference.org](http://www.berksconference.org)) by November 1, 2009. Preference will be given to discussions of any topic across national boundaries and to work that addresses sexuality, race, and labor in any context, with special consideration for pre-modern (ancient, medieval, early modern) periods.

However, unattached papers and proposals that fall within a single nation/region will also be given full consideration. As a forum dedicated to encouraging innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship and transnational conversation, the Berkshire conference continues to encourage submissions from graduate students, international scholars, independent scholars, filmmakers, and to welcome a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Paper abstracts should be no longer than 250 words; panel (2-3 papers and a comment), roundtable (3 or more short papers) and workshop (1-2 precirculated papers) proposals should also include a summary abstract of no more than 500 words. Each submission must include the cover form and a short cv for each presenter. If you have questions about the most appropriate subcommittee for your proposal or problems with electronic submission, please direct them to Jennifer Spear ([jms25@sfu.ca](mailto:jms25@sfu.ca)).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: March 1, 2010.

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## Upcoming conferences:

### **2010 ARSC CONFERENCE: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA --- May 19-22, 2010**

The 44th annual ARSC Conference will be held at the Chateau Bourbon, 800 Iberville Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Chateau Bourbon is located in the historic French Quarter. Nearby points of interest include the National D-Day Museum, the Historic New Orleans Collection, Audubon Zoo, and Preservation Hall.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the special conference rate of \$129, single or double.

For those who require additional information for budgetary purposes, please refer to the 2009 conference webpage:

<http://www.arsc-audio.org/conference/2009/>

We anticipate that fees for 2010 will be equivalent.

More information about the 2010 conference will be posted at: <http://www.arsc-audio.org/conference/>

Questions regarding the conference should be directed to Brenda Nelson-Strauss, ARSC Conference Manager, at [bnelsons@indiana.edu](mailto:bnelsons@indiana.edu)

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and study of sound recordings -- in all genres of music and speech, in all formats, and from all periods. ARSC is unique in bringing together private individuals and institutional professionals -- everyone with a serious interest in recorded sound.

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Now for something completely different:

Book Review: *Terrible Queer Creatures: Homosexuality in Irish History*

Review by Brian Earls of *Terrible Queer Creatures: Homosexuality in Irish History*, by Brian Lacey, Wordwell, 298 pp. ISBN: 978-190556236

“Brian Lacey’s pioneering work attempts to provide an overview of the place of homosexuality in Irish history from some of the earliest written records to the late twentieth century. The topic is a fascinating one although, as the author admits, given the huge period of time surveyed, he has to rely upon secondary sources. It is also an area in which Irish research has the potential to interact usefully with studies undertaken in other parts of the Europe. The attempt to open up the history of sexuality could be seen as part of a wider attempt by historians – as attention shifted from the high politics and military history which fascinated the Victorians and their early twentieth century successors – to recreate popular mentalities and document areas such as the history of the family, of women, of children, peasants, apprentices, beggars, servants, ex-soldiers, peddlers and others who had hitherto been regarded as marginal – or at least largely silent – figures on the great historical highway. In this essay, while keeping *Terrible Queer Creatures* in view, I would like to draw attention to some additional items of evidence and to suggest potential lines of enquiry which they open up. As I hope to show, in addition to the story recounted in Brian Lacey’s valuable work, there are other stories and ways of looking at what happened. Much of what follows is new; whenever my narrative avails of that of *Terrible Queer Creatures* this is made explicit. All new material has been footnoted. I am conscious that, although Brian Lacey’s work includes a valuable chapter on Irishwomen who loved women, this essay is silent with regard to that subject. This was not a deliberate exclusion, and reflects rather the evidence with which I am familiar. This is an area in which there is obviously room for further research, which if we are lucky will add to the story. ...”

For the rest of the 40 page article please visit:
http://www.drbr.ie/more_details/09-09-30/A_Bit_of_the_Same.aspx

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**OutHistory.org's Since Stonewall Local Histories Contest - win up to \$5,000!!!**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to let you know about OutHistory.org, a new website on LGBTQ history in the US hosted by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at the City University of New York, Graduate Center. OutHistory.org is a MediaWiki website to which anyone can add discussion threads, create new pages, or upload images, audio or video files.

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, OutHistory.org is hosting a "Since Stonewall Local Histories Contest." The contest invites users to create online exhibits about the history of local LGBTQ communities in their town, village, city, county or state since 1969. To enter the contest simply create and finalize an exhibit about a local LGBTQ community by March 31, 2010. A panel of judges convened by OutHistory.org will assess the exhibits and OutHistory.org will announce the top five exhibits, which will receive prizes from \$1,000 to \$5,000 on June 28, 2010. In the fall of 2010, OutHistory.org will host an event showcasing the winning exhibits.

Jonathan Ned Katz, OutHistory.org's Director, expects this contest "to draw attention to LGBTQ histories of places and communities outside of major cities, as well as in major metropolitan areas." OutHistory.org users have already created exhibits about the histories of LGBTQ life in places such as Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Columbia, South Carolina and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. We hope the site will receive at least one submission from every state, but there is no limit on the number of entries per state, village, town, county, or city.

This contest is supported by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City of New York Graduate Center and funded by a generous grant from the Arcus Foundation.

For more information visit:

[http://www.outhistory.org/wiki/Since Stonewall Contest](http://www.outhistory.org/wiki/Since_Stonewall_Contest) .

If you have any questions please contact me at [outhistory@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:outhistory@gc.cuny.edu) . I hope that you will take advantage of this great opportunity! And please forward this e-mail to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Best wishes,  
Lauren Gutterman  
OutHistory.org Coordinator

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## In Memoriam:

### Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy (1932 – 2009)



[AP photo taken from the WashingtonBlade.com]

**From the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

**WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 —**

Kennedy was the original The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force mourns the loss of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), who died after battling a brain tumor. Kennedy was a champion of many progressive causes. He was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He played a central role in enactment of legislation outlawing discrimination in housing, prohibiting gender discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also authored amendments strengthening enforcement of key provisions of the Civil Rights Act.

Kennedy was sponsor of hate crimes legislation in 1997. Since then, he fought tirelessly to secure repeated successful votes on the legislation, ultimately wholeheartedly supporting and securing several successful Senate votes for the version of the legislation that included both sexual orientation and gender identity. In 1994, Kennedy was the original Senate lead on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and, in his later years, championed the expanded version that would protect all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

In 1996, Kennedy voted against the "Defense of Marriage Act," led opposition to a federal marriage amendment and opposed an anti-marriage measure in Massachusetts. He fought to end funding of abstinence-only education programs. Kennedy was an outspoken supporter for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

In 1991, Kennedy was a [recipient](#) of an "Honoring Our Allies" award from the Task Force. He also attended the Task Force's 1997 "Honoring Our Allies" dinner.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009



**NYT: Robert Hilferty,  
Writer and AIDS Activist, Is Dead**

**From the NY Times:**

Robert Hilferty, a writer and an AIDS activist who made a documentary film in 1989 that roiled the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York and the **Public Broadcasting Service**, died on July 24 at his home in Manhattan. He was 49.

Mr. Hilferty committed suicide while suffering from complications of a head injury he received in March, said Fabio Toblini, his companion.

In the late 1980s, while he was active in the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (Act Up), Mr. Hilferty produced and directed a 24-minute film, "Stop the Church," documenting a demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan by gay rights and abortion rights advocates. More than 4,500 people gathered outside while 134 went inside and collapsed in the aisles to symbolize death.

PBS initially planned to broadcast the film in August 1991 as part of its "P.O.V." series of independently made documentaries. It then canceled the broadcast, citing the film's numerous denunciations of the **Roman Catholic Church** and calling it "inappropriate for distribution because of its pervasive tone of ridicule." [...]

Mr. Hilferty was a freelance writer for many publications, including New York magazine, Playbill, The Village Voice, Opera News, Artforum, Bloomberg News and The New York Times. He wrote about classical music, architecture, acting, fashion and gardening. [...]



From LGBT Aging Project's Newsletter, August 2009



The LGBT Aging Project recently lost two very dear friends, Roy Brown and Jim Anthony. Roy was a long time member of The Boston Timers and an active member of The Senior Pride Coalition.

Many will remember Jim Anthony (pictured on the right) from the coverage he and his Partner Bruce Steiner received in the October 2007 article in the New York Times: Aging and Gay and Facing Prejudice in Twilight (October 7, 2007 by Jane Gross).



Both men will be missed



### Louis Crompton

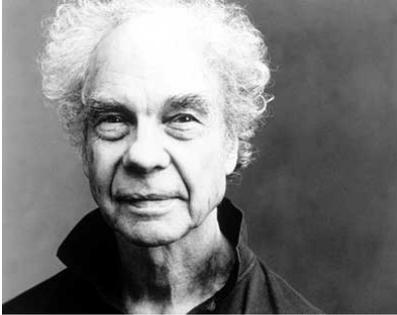


(1925-2009)

Eminent scholar Louis Crompton died in El Cerrito, California on July 11, 2009. Co-founder of the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of the Modern Language Association in 1974, Crompton spent most of his career teaching at the University of Nebraska. He authored numerous articles and books in the field of gay studies, including "Byron and Greek Love: Homophobia in Nineteenth-Century England" (1985) and "Homosexuality and Civilization" (2003). He contributed numerous entries to glbtq.com, including overviews of Ancient Greek and Roman literature. He is survived by his husband, Luis Diaz-Perdomo.



## Merce Cunningham



Merce Cunningham  
Photo: Annie Leibovitz

(1919-2009)

Acclaimed dancer and choreographer Merce Cunningham died on July 26, 2009 at his home in New York City. A seminal figure in twentieth-century culture, Cunningham collaborated with artists such as Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg, and musicians, including his life partner John Cage (1912-1992), with whom he shared a relationship that lasted 54 years.



## E. Lynn Harris



(1995-2009)

Popular African-American novelist E. Lynn Harris died apparently of a heart attack in Los Angeles on July 23, 2009. The author of page-turning novels that expose bisexuality and homosexuality within the Black middle-class, such as "Invisible Life" (1992) and "Abide with Me" (1999), and a memoir, "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted?" (2003), Harris taught creative writing at the University of Arkansas. He died while on a book tour promoting his eleventh novel, "Basketball Jones" (2009), about a professional basketball player and his lover.



## Simon Karlinsky



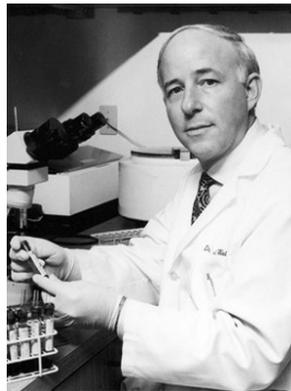
Simon Karlinsky, left, with husband Peter Carleton, was a professor emeritus of Slavic languages and literature at UC Berkeley, where he taught for nearly 30 years. (Lili Shidlovski, L.A. Times)

(1924-2009)

Professor Emeritus of Russian at the University of California, Berkeley, Simon Karlinsky died on July 5, 2009. One of America's most accomplished Slavists, Karlinsky pioneered in studies of Russian gay literature and culture, including of such figures as Gogol, Stravinsky, and Tsvetaeva. He contributed the overview of Russian Literature and the entry on Nikolai Gogol to [gltbq.com](http://gltbq.com). He is survived by his husband, Peter Carleton.

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## Joel D. Weisman



(1943-2009)

One of the first physicians to detect the AIDS epidemic, Dr. Joel D. Weisman died in Westwood, California on July 18, 2009. He became a national advocate for AIDS research, treatment, and prevention. Described by Randy Shilts in "And the Band Played On" as "the dean of Southern California gay doctors," Weisman co-authored the first report on AIDS in the Centers for Disease Control Bulletin in 1981. He was founding chairman of AIDS Project Los Angeles. He is survived by his longtime partner, Bill Hutton.

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## Judith Krug , Who Fought Ban on Books, Dies at 69

By [DOUGLAS MARTIN](#), April 15, 2009,

Judith F. Krug, who led the campaign by libraries against efforts to ban books, including helping found Banned Books Week, then fought laws and regulations to limit children's access to the Internet, died Saturday in Evanston, Ill. She was 69.

The cause was stomach cancer, her son, Steven, said.

As the [American Library Association](#)'s official proponent of the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech since the 1960s, Ms. Krug (pronounced kroog) fought the banning of books, including "Huckleberry Finn," "Mein Kampf," "Little Black Sambo," "Catcher in the Rye" and sex manuals. In 1982, she helped found Banned Books Week, an annual event that includes authors reading from prohibited books.

She also fought for the inclusion of literature on library shelves that she herself found offensive, like "The Blue Book" of the ultraconservative John Birch Society. The book is a transcript of a two-day monologue by Robert Welch at the founding meeting of the society in 1958.

"My personal proclivities have nothing to do with how I react as a librarian," Ms. Krug said in an interview with The New York Times in 1972. "Library service in this country should be based on the concept of intellectual freedom, of providing all pertinent information so a reader can make decisions for himself."

*For the rest of the obituary, go to*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/15/us/15krug.html?ntemail1=y&r=1&emc=tnt&agewanted=print>

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## On the bright side:

### ***Two Dania Beach women open up about their 70-year relationship***

BY IHOSVANI RODRIGUEZ |  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Yes, couples in their 90s still argue occasionally.

This is how it went recently for Caroline Leto and Venera Magazzu as they sipped lemonade on their couch in Dania Beach:

"We're not going to have a party," said Magazzu, 97, insisting they are too old for such things.

"Oh yes we are," responded Leto, 96, who noted the two can still polka. "This is a big one."

Indeed. A party celebrating 70 years together is a big deal for any pair. But a celebration of this couple's love takes on special meaning, considering they had to keep silent about it for decades.

"You just couldn't tell everyone we were lovers," said Leto. "You tell people we're friends, and some thought we were sisters."

Leto and Magazzu downplay their pioneering role in the gay and lesbian community. But many of their friends and relatives talk it up anyway, marveling at how their love was able to transcend a lifetime's worth of obstacles.

To mark their Aug. 17 milestone, members of Etz Chaim, a gay and lesbian congregation in Wilton Manors, are planning a party. They hope Leto and Magazzu will attend and show everyone how to do the polka.

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*Happy  
Holidays*