

Archival InQueeries

Society of American Archivists
Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter
Number 38, Spring/Summer 2011



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From the Co-chairs:

It's hard to believe that it's almost time for SAA 2011! Our business meeting this year will be in the conference hotel Wednesday, August 24, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, with guest speaker David Purdy, founder and CEO of the World AIDS Institute. The Institute's goal is to document and preserve the global history of AIDS and its motto is "behind every statistic is a story." This year marks the 30th anniversary of the first mention of what became the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Institute's website is www.worldaidsinstitute.org to learn more about the organization.

Besides our featured speaker, the business meeting agenda items include updates from: Debbie Richard, LAGAR liaison to the SAA Diversity Committee; Maggi Gonsalves, LAGAR liaison to the SAA Standards Committee and *Archival InQueeries* newsletter editor; Steven Mandeville-Gamble on the Queer History Social Media project; and the *Lavender Legacies* committee.

Also we'll nominate and elect a female identified co-chair. Per our bylaws:

1. Nominations are taken from the floor of the annual LAGAR meeting. All nominations must be seconded and consent of the nominee is required.
2. Elections for each office shall be by a show of hands. A simple majority shall elect an officer. If there is any contest, the election shall be retaken by secret ballot with a simple majority rule.

In addition to our LAGAR meeting, this year's SAA program features one of the two sessions LAGAR endorsed:

102: Celebrating Studs: Activism and Oral History in the Archives (Sex, Race, Class, and Human Rights)

There are many terrific sessions this year, including these featuring LAGAR members: "Engaged! Innovative Engagement and Outreach and Its Assessment" ; "Skeletons in the Closet: Addressing Privacy and Confidentiality Issues for Born-Digital Materials"; and "Cooperation Makes It Happen: Collaboration in Museum Archives".

Chicago is a wonderful place to visit; there is so much to see and do. This year, though, there is a terrific, don't miss, new exhibit at the Chicago History Museum: [Out in Chicago](#). An excerpt from the description the display "spans diverse stories and perspectives and explores issues such as language, gender expression, formation of identity, the role of LGBT people in politics and culture, and family relationships." More information can be found at the CHM website: <http://chicagohistory.org/>.

We hope to see you there!

Heidi Marshall and Franklin Robinson
LAGAR female- and male-identified co-chairs

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**Editor's notes:**

Hello LAGAR-ites!

Well, this is a special newsletter, at least for me. I am turning in my Editor status and will no longer be putting together the LAGAR *Archival In-Queeries* semi-annual newsletter. I've held this title of power and prestige for close to 10 years and have enjoyed every minute of it, but feel it's time for someone else to have fun, be creative and keep us informed.

So, at the Roundtable meeting this year we will need nominations for female identified co-chair and newsletter editor. The Editor-ship holds no set time of service but you do need to create and have published 2 newsletters every year. The second or Fall/Winter edition must include the Roundtable meeting notes, so if the editor cannot attend that meeting he/she needs to have a really exceptional notes taker, so keep this in mind as well.

Thank you to all the LAGAR members for assistance, encouragement, compliments, suggestions, and critiques over the years. You've all been great.

Have a lovely summer and take care,

Maggi Gonsalves

Your Friendly LAGAR Newsletter Editor

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SAA Announcements:

Archives 360° -- 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists

SAA's annual conference is coming up soon

Date: August 22-27, 2011. Location: Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago

To register, go to <http://www2.archivists.org/conference/2011/chicago> .

Early-bird registration for lowest cost closes July 6, 2011. Advance registration closes July 27, 2011

Register for just one day, the entire conference, or a combination of pre-conference events [which have separate fees] and any of the conference days – it's your decision, but don't pass up this great opportunity.

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**LAGAR Announcements:**

## LAGAR Roundtable Meeting!!

Each of SAA's 29 Roundtables meets at *ARCHIVES 360°* to conduct business and share information. Roundtable meetings are open to both SAA members and nonmembers.

Catch up on LAGAR activities, visit with colleagues, elect a co-chair, and hear our guest speaker **David Purdy**, founder and CEO of the World AIDS Institute. The Institute's goal is, "To Document and Preserve the Global History of AIDS" and they have as their motto, "Behind every statistic is a story." This year is the 30th

anniversary of the first mention of what became the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Institute's website is [worldaidsinstitute.org](http://worldaidsinstitute.org) if you want to check it out.

All LGBTQIA archivists and those interested are invited to attend!

When: Wednesday, August 24, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: Hyatt Regency Chicago [Check your conference program for exact room and map]

Hope to see you all there!

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## Nominations for Female-Identified Co-Chair

The Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable (LAGAR) of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) seeks nominations for female-identified co-chair. LAGAR consists of archivists concerned with ensuring that the archival record includes documentation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, inquiring, and ally history and culture, ensuring that the concerns and issues of these communities are identified and visible within SAA, and serving as liaisons between independent LGBTQIA archives and SAA.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor (prior to the election) at the LAGAR annual meeting at the Hyatt Hotel, Wednesday August 24, 2011.

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## LAGAR updating LAVENDER LEGACIES

The Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable (LAGAR) of the Society of American Archivists is updating LAVENDER LEGACIES: GUIDE TO SOURCES IN NORTH AMERICA, which can be found online at <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide> LAVENDER LEGACIES is the first formal and comprehensive guide to primary source material relating to the history and culture of lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender (LBGTQ) people held by repositories in North America. With the growth of more repositories collecting this material, LAVENDER LEGACIES is ready for an update.

If your repository is already included, please check the information, and update it by sending the corrections, additions, etc., to Deborah Richards off-list at [drichard@smith.edu](mailto:drichard@smith.edu) If you would like your repository listed or you have questions about LAVENDER LEGACIES, please contact Deborah Richards off-list at [drichard@smith.edu](mailto:drichard@smith.edu)

Thank you for your help in updating this important tool for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender history and archives.

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## Archive News & Announcements:

**The New York State Archives** has recently approved a retention schedule for Gender Identity Discrimination Case Files, which are to be managed by the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER). In December 2009 Governor Patterson issued Executive Order 33, which specifically prohibits gender identity discrimination. According to the Executive Order:

1. No State agency shall discriminate on the basis of gender identity against any individual in any matter pertaining to employment by the State including, but not limited to, hiring, termination, retention, job appointment, promotion, tenure, recruitment and compensation.
2. All managers, supervisors and employees in all State agencies shall make diligent, good faith efforts to ensure that all employees are afforded equal opportunity, without regard to their gender identity.
3. The Office of Employee Relations is to develop clear and consistent guidelines prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity, and to implement a procedure to ensure the swift and thorough investigation of complaints of discrimination based on gender identity.

Currently, GOER does not maintain any records involving these cases since the executive order was only just recently issued and no cases have come before GOER yet. The agency does expect that in time individuals will begin to start filing grievances – though how soon and in what volume is unknown. If complaints are filed, then GOER will begin to amass case records similar in nature to those of other employee complaints handled by the agency, such as the complaints themselves, responses, meeting minutes, reports, settlements, appeals, hearing documentation, and related materials. Eventually, the agency also expects to accumulate compliance-related materials that document whether or not employers are complying with rulings. However, the acquisition of any records based on this executive order could take years.

The schedule calls for the transfer of these records to the New York State Archives, with possible reappraisal of any settled or withdrawn cases if circumstances warrant.

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**The Archives Center at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History** has been given a complete set of the published reports produced by the Department of Defense Comprehensive Review Working Group detailing and analyzing the results of the Department of Defense’s recent survey on the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy. The publications were hand delivered to the Archives Center just days after the report’s release on November 30, 2010.

The study with its supporting documents and appendices amounts to seven volumes. The results of the survey provided a key component for the ultimate repeal of DADT by Congress in December 2010. The report has become part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection in the Archives Center.

Two other collections added over the last few months were the Joan E. Biren (JEB) Queer Film Museum Collection #1216. A comprehensive collection of material relating specifically to queer film. The bulk of the collection consists of ephemera and film posters from theatrical releases in the United States. The collection also contains catalogues from video houses, film festivals, posters, and other material collected by Biren from on-line auction sites. Some of the items have Biren’s annotations written within them. The collection contains material associated with United States releases and foreign releases. Biren also donated a sizeable addendum to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection of personal LGBT memorabilia, posters, and items covering the time period 1971-2009.

The Archives Center houses more than 1,000 study collections and is open to researchers daily, by appointment, except Friday, please check their website [www.americanhistory.si.edu/archives](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/archives) for more information.

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**The New York Public Library’s Manuscripts and Archives Division** is pleased to announce that the Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs will open for research in June 2011.

Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen were gay civil rights activists and partners for forty-five years. Barbara Gittings (1932-2007) began her involvement with the homophile movement in 1958, when she established the East Coast chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first lesbian organization in the United States, which had been founded in San Francisco in 1955. From 1963-1966, Gittings edited *The Ladder*, DOB’s national magazine. She also marched in the annual Independence Day pickets in the 1960s, which were the first organized demonstrations for gay rights. From 1971-1986, Gittings acted as the coordinator of the American Library Association’s Gay Task Force (ALA GTF), creating gay bibliographies and topical reading lists. Her involvement on panels and exhibits at American Psychiatric Association (APA) conventions directly influenced the APA’s decision in December 1973 to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. In

addition, Gittings was a charter member of the board of directors for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (1973) and the Gay Rights National Lobby (1976), which later became the Human Rights Campaign.

Kay Tobin Lahusen (1930-) began her involvement with the homophile movement in 1961, when she joined DOB. Lahusen is known, often under her pen name Kay Tobin, for being the first openly gay photojournalist. She photographed and reported for *The Ladder* and *Gay Newsweek*, and is responsible for many famous pre-Stonewall photographs. Some of the most reproduced images from this era are Lahusen's depiction of the Independence Day pickets, in which she also marched. In 1970, Lahusen co-founded the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), and later organized the Gay Women's Alternative. In 1972, Lahusen co-authored *The Gay Crusaders*, the first collection of short biographies of gay activists.

The Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs contain correspondence, organizational records, topical files, photographs, writings, and sound recordings created by gay pioneers Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen. The records document their careers as activists as well as their efforts to document the gay rights movement from the 1960s to 2007. Including biographical files and family papers in addition to the documentation of the gay rights movement, the collection spans the years 1855-2009.

Some highlights of the collection include editorial files for *The Ladder* (1957-1968) and early correspondence among Daughters of Bilitis members as well as early homophile movement leaders (1960-1969), such as Frank Kameny. The collection contains forty-four years of correspondence with Kameny, as well as documentation of Gittings and Kameny's activities as counselors in discrimination cases related to federal employment, military duty, and homosexuality. Correspondence, ephemera, and photographs document the gay rights pickets at Independence Hall, the White House, and the Pentagon, among other locations (1965-1969), while an invitation to the first Christopher Street Liberation Day parade (1970) illustrates the cultural shift that occurred after the Stonewall riots.

The collection also contains materials surrounding the famous "Psychiatry: Friend or Foe to Homosexuals?" panel at the 1972 APA annual meeting; there Gittings and Kameny advocated for change alongside Dr. H. Anonymous, who spoke to the difficulty of being a gay psychiatrist whose profession deemed him mentally ill. The corresponding 1973 removal of homosexuality from the second edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-II, seventh printing) is also recorded.

The collection exhaustively documents the first sixteen years of the ALA GTF (1970-1986), the first gay caucus in a professional organization. Materials range from correspondence and photographs relating to the "Hug a Homosexual" gay kissing booth at the annual meeting in 1971, to the compilation of gay bibliographies, to the correspondence sent to Gittings as coordinator. Some such correspondence shared stories of extreme isolation across the United States and abroad, and expressed gratitude for the books lists that eased the correspondents' loneliness.

Notably, the collection includes notes, drafts, and sound recordings of interviews for *The Gay Crusaders* (1970-1972). Finally, Lahusen's pre- and immediately post-Stonewall photographs of the gay rights movement (1962-1978) now can be viewed online in the [New York Public Library's Digital Gallery](#).

In addition to the original material documenting Gittings and Lahusen's involvement in the gay rights movement, the collection also contains early ephemeral materials like the first issue of *Vice Versa* (1947), and early newsletters and pamphlets from the Daughters of Bilitis, the Mattachine Society, and ONE, Inc.

The Manuscripts and Archives Division holds approximately sixty-five collections pertaining to the history and culture of gay men and lesbians. In addition, the Division holds thirteen collections relating to the history of the AIDS/HIV epidemic. Although gay and lesbian history and AIDS history are not a single subject, they are interrelated and twenty-two collections are categorized as both. These collections can be found by conducting keyword searches in the [Find Archival Materials](#) tool. For more information regarding the Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs, or any collections held by the Manuscripts and Archives Division, please contact the Division at [mssref@nypl.org](mailto:mssref@nypl.org).

## National Museum of American History Marks 30th Anniversary of HIV and AIDS

May 4, 2011 press release; <http://americanhistory.si.edu/news/pressrelease.cfm?key=29&newskey=1343>

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will mark the 30th anniversary of the emergence of what became known as the HIV and AIDS epidemic with a three-part display and website beginning June 3.

"HIV and AIDS Thirty Years Ago" will look at the public health, scientific and political responses in the early phase (1981-87) of the global pandemic. This showcase will be located in the museum's "[Science in American Life](#)" exhibition, which focuses on the connections among science, culture and society in American history. The display will feature photographs, magazine covers and other graphics plus equipment that Dr. Jay Levy used to isolate the virus in his lab at the University of California, San Francisco, a copy of the Surgeon General's 1986 report presenting the government's position, samples of the drugs AZT and Retrovir and public health information pamphlets from AIDS service organizations. The website will be available at [americanhistory.si.edu/hivaids](http://americanhistory.si.edu/hivaids).

In "Archiving the History of an Epidemic: HIV and AIDS, 1985-2009," the museum's [Archives Center](#) will show how individuals and society were affected by the epidemic through a selection of archival materials from its collections, including posters for the 1993 movie *Philadelphia* with Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington and the 1989 film *Longtime Companion*; brochures, photographs and other popular culture materials; and quotes from oral histories of people affected by the epidemic.

The museum will also display a [panel from the AIDS Memorial Quilt](#) of the Names Project Foundation, honoring Roger Lyon, who died of complications from AIDS in 1984 shortly after testifying before Congress to appeal for funding to combat the growing epidemic. The quilt will be on view in the first-floor Artifacts Wall.

"The early years of the HIV and AIDS epidemic was a time in our history that affected all Americans," said Brent D. Glass, the director of the museum. "This display will help visitors understand the scientific mystery, the public health crisis and the political debates created by the epidemic and why these events gripped America 30 years ago."

Previously, the museum has investigated the history of medicine and science through the 100th anniversaries of the X-ray and the National Institutes of Health, the 50th anniversary of [polio vaccine](#), the 40th anniversary of the Pill and the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other related displays marked the 25th and 40th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City, generally associated with the beginnings of the gay rights movement in the U.S., and the 10th anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The museum's collections of some 3 million objects includes a selection of gay civil rights activist [Frank Kameny's protest signs and materials](#) relating to the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

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### Making History:

#### Lesbian Activist Will Head Human Relations Commission

NBC Chicago, May 16, 2011

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/Lesbian-Activist-Will-Head-Human-Relations-Commission-121707514.html#ixzz1PSq23fHl>

Covering three bases with one appointment, Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel has named Mona Noriega, a half-Irish, half-Latina lesbian activist, as Commissioner of the Department of Human Relations, the agency in charge of fighting prejudice and discrimination in Chicago.

"During the transition, my team strove to include a rich diversity of perspectives and called on Chicagoans to be involved in developing solutions for our city," said the Mayor-elect. "Mona has a proven record bringing Chicagoans together on issues that matter to all communities and building coalitions to move our city forward. With her deep appreciation for the diversity that makes Chicago great and her experience creating partnerships, Mona will be a strong and able leader of Human Relations."

Mona Noriega has dedicated her life and career to eliminating prejudice and discrimination and is committed to advancing the appreciation of Chicago's diverse population.

She co-founded and served on the Board of Directors of Amigas Latinas, an organization committed to the empowerment and education of Latina LBT women in Chicago. Noriega also worked as the Regional Director of Lambda Legal Defense's Midwest office, which advances the civil rights of LGBT individuals. As an Assistant Publisher for the Windy City Times, she directed marketing efforts and managed client relationships for the paper. Additionally, Noriega has served as the board chair for the Girl's Best Friend Foundation. Noriega received her MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her BA from Northeastern Illinois University.

The appointment got a good write-up in Noriega's former employer, the *Windy City Times*, which pointed out that Noriega last year sought appointment to the 1st Ward aldermanic seat vacated by Manny Flores. Mayor Daley chose Proco "Joe" Moreno instead.

"The appointment of Mona is excellent," well-known gay activist Rick Garcia told the newspaper. "She has such a stellar reputation and she will be great for the City of Chicago. I was a strong supporter of her when she wanted to serve in the City Council because of her impeccable credentials and her strong commitment to fairness for all. This is a perfect position for her and she will do our community and the whole city proud."

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### **Historic Decision at the United Nations:**

Human Rights Council Passes First-Ever Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

(Geneva, June 17, 2011) In a groundbreaking achievement for upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has passed a resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity (L9/Rev1).

The resolution, presented by South Africa along with Brasil and 39 additional co-sponsors from all regions of the world, was passed by a vote of 23 in favour, 19 against, and 3 abstentions. A list of how States voted is attached. In its presentation to Council, South Africa recalled the UDHR noting that "everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind" and Brasil called on the Council to "open the long closed doors of dialogue."

Today's resolution is the first UN resolution ever to bring specific focus to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and follows a joint statement on these issues delivered at the March session of the council. It affirms the universality of human rights, and notes concern about acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This commitment of the Human Rights Council sends an important signal of support to human rights defenders working on these issues, and recognizes the legitimacy of their work.

[For the full article go to <http://www.iglhrc.org/cgi-bin/iowa/article/pressroom/pressrelease/1417.html> ]

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### **News bits and bites:**

#### **ANOTHER GAY LIBRARY RAIDED**

The Friends of Cuban Libraries

<http://www.friendsofcubanlibraries.org>

November 23, 2010

This article details a second wave of police raids on gay libraries in Cuba in 2010. (See: "Gay Foundation libraries seized by police," May 25, 2010, in the Recent News section of the Friends of Cuban Libraries website.)

Access to the Internet is effectively criminalized for non-elite Cubans, leading to the seizure of banned

materials surreptitiously downloaded from the Internet. Three of the gays arrested in the raid on the Reinaldo Arenas Library were deported to their home provinces because Cuba, like South Africa during the Apartheid era, requires government approval for citizens from the interior to reside in the capital, or to visit it for more than a brief period.

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HAVANA, Nov. 17, 2010 (by Aliomar Janjaques Chivaz, Cuban LGBT Foundation)

- On November 10 the Arenas Independent Library, located in East Havana, was confiscated by State Security and officers of the National Revolutionary Police, when leaders of the Reinaldo Arenas LGBT Memorial Foundation were meeting to show a documentary film.

"We were together, watching the documentary 'A Force More Powerful,' when Ren said the whole block was occupied by State Security officials; we barely had time to shut the door when two officials, accompanied by two armed policemen, entered by pushing their way in. They insulted us, shoved us around, and took away the literature that we had, in addition to CDs and the DVD," said Henri Solvez.

They took away a lot of materials printed from the Internet, many were printouts from the Web de Colegas [a Spanish-language gay Internet resource stated Lucia Acosta, an art history student, who noted that 19 gay youths were attending the meeting, and all of them were arrested.

Virtudes Linaza, Jose Luis Sanchez and Oscar Benitez were deported by train to the interior of the country on Monday morning because they do not have legal residence in the City of Havana. The deportees were fined 300 pesos in Cuban currency.

Source: <http://www.miscelaneasdecuba.net/web/article.asp?artID=3D30585,=20>  
<http://www.colegaweb.org>

Translation by the Friends of Cuban Libraries

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Posted on Advocate.com March 28, 2011 06:35:00 AM ET

## Gay Doc Helps Arrest Cop for Child Molestation

By [Advocate.com Editors](#)



Frank Spinelli, an internist known for his Manhattan practice focusing on gay and HIV-positive men's health, helped authorities arrest a former NYPD officer accused of molesting three boys.

The New York *Daily News* reports that Spinelli tipped Staten Island police about William Fox in 2008 after reading the retired officer's memoir. He recognized Fox as the man who molested him when he was a Boy Scout in the 1970s.

Fox, 65, was arrested last Monday in Pennsylvania on more current charges. Spinelli, 43, worked with police to make taped phone calls to the retired officer, but those did not lead to his arrest.

Although his action won praise from Staten Island district attorney Daniel Donovan, Spinelli, who hosts the "Ask the Doctor" segment on Advocate.com, insisted that he did not want credit for his role. He said, "I couldn't believe that what was happening was still happening 30 years later," the *Daily News* reports.

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## [California "Harvey Milk Day" proclamation gets history wrong](#)

May 23, 2011 / Denis Dison

<http://www.gaypolitics.com/2011/05/23/california-harvey-milk-day-proclamation-gets-history-wrong/>



California Gov. Jerry Brown issued a proclamation marking May 22nd as "Harvey Milk Day," praising the slain civil rights hero's legacy of "hope, tolerance and equality."

But whoever wrote Brown's proclamation got history wrong in the section that reads, "In 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, becoming the first openly gay man in the history of the United States to be elected to public office."

Milk was actually the fifth out candidate elected to public office in the U.S., and the third openly gay man. His victory in 1977 was preceded by the election of the following openly gay and lesbian candidates:

- 1st – Kathy Kozachenko (Ann Arbor, Mich., City Council)
- 2nd – Elaine Noble (Massachusetts House of Representatives)
- 3rd - Jim Yeadon (Madison, Wis., City Council)
- 4th - Allan Spear (Minnesota State Senate)

UPDATE: A reader wrote to quibble with our order, pointing out that Jim Yeadon was first elected by members of the Madison City Council, and later was elected by voters to retain the seat. That would make him 4th and bump Allan Spear to 3rd.

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### International news:

Last gay Holocaust survivor  
celebrated in book, documentary



Via queer.de and Têtu [<http://madikazemi.blogspot.com/2011/04/last-gay-holocaust-survivor-celebrated.html>]

A new book published by Routledge documents the life of 97 year-old Rudolf Brazda, the last known gay survivor of the 3rd Reich deported for homosexuality, and, says its author, it will also soon be a documentary.

Brazda spent nearly three years at the Buchenwald concentration camp. His prisoner uniform was branded with the distinctive pink triangle.

The new book '[Das Glück kam immer zu mir](#)' ("Happiness always came to me," which is sort of the motto of

Rudolf Brazda, he believes he survived through unbroken humor and optimism) is by the sociologist Alexander Zinn.

Berlin openly gay Mayor Klaus Wowereit says in his preface: "His life almost novelistic, as this book recounts, is an example of persecution of homosexuals have been, as the successful struggle for a free and happy life,"

Says Zinn: "Brazda's history differs markedly from that of the majority of homosexuals persecuted under the 3rd Reich - because he survived. The majority of the 'pink triangles' died in the camps." He has filmed his research and interviews, as well as Brazda's shattering return to Buchenwald. These sequences should give rise to a new documentary, which he hopes should come out this year.

Brazda has lived in Alsace, France since his release from Buchenwald. There he lived with partner Edi for fifty years until Edi's death in 2003. It was only in 2008 that his story first came to light. He was conspicuously absent from the launch of his biography this week in Berlin. Says Zinn: "After a heavy fall last week, he should be back up next week."

In spite of his old age, and health permitting, Brazda is determined to continue speaking out about his past, in the hope that younger generations remain vigilant in the face of present days behaviour and thought currents similar to those which led to the persecutions endured by homosexuals during the Nazi era.

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## Call for papers / proposals / presentations:

### CFP: **After Homosexual: The Legacy of Gay Liberation**

An International Conference  
2-4 February 2012  
Melbourne, Australia  
(Abstracts due 5 August 2011)

Hosted by the Gender, Sexuality and Diversity Program at La Trobe University In conjunction with the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives and Midsumma

Keynote Speakers: Professor Jeffrey Weeks, London Southbank University Additional speakers to be confirmed

Forty years ago, a young Australian expat living in the USA synthesised the politics of the emerging gay liberation movement in a provocative book called *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*. Described by the New York Times then as 'the one to read' and consistently ranked as one of the most influential books about homosexuality in the English language, *Homosexual* marked a significant milestone in the development of gay and lesbian politics and served a key role in the personal development of many people. It has been reprinted multiple times and translated into several languages. The book's author, Dennis Altman, went on to have a career as one of Australia's leading public intellectuals, an important writer on US politics, Australia/US relations, the politics of HIV/AIDS, and studies of sexuality, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

In recognition of the fortieth anniversary of the publication of *Homosexual* and to mark Professor Altman's retirement, this international conference will bring together leading and emerging scholars to reflect on the impact of *Homosexual* and the legacy of gay liberation. The conference organising committee is calling for paper and panel proposals on questions relating to:

- *Homosexual's* publication and reception
- the political philosophy of gay liberation
- the relationship between queer theory and gay and lesbian studies
- literature of oppression and liberation
- gender and sexual politics
- gay liberation's connections to other social movements (such as feminism, socialism, anti-racism and the counterculture)
- transgender movements and gay liberation
- the relationship between academia and activism

- the politics of identity, then and now
- contemporary gender and sexuality movements
- other topics related to Homosexual or the legacy of gay liberation

The conference organisers plan to publish selected conference papers in a special issue of a leading academic journal.

Abstracts of 200 words are due by 5 August 2011. All abstracts will be reviewed by the conference committee. Unfortunately at this time there are no funds to assist conference attendees with their expenses.

For further details or to submit abstracts, please contact Mark Pendleton, Secretary of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, at [m.pendleton@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:m.pendleton@latrobe.edu.au) .

Announcement ID: 185751

<http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=185751>

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### Something Completely Different:

**School bans graduation 'Bohemian Rhapsody' because Freddy Mercury was gay, but gives in after uproar**



BY PHILIP CAULFIEL

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Monday, May 16, 2011 [http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-05-16/news/29570028\\_1\\_choir-graduation-sexual-orientation](http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-05-16/news/29570028_1_choir-graduation-sexual-orientation)

A high school principal in Alaska who had barred students from singing a song by the band Queen at graduation because their frontman was gay backed down after infuriated students threatened a landslide of bad press.

Wasilla High School officials said parents had complained that it was inappropriate for the school's symphonic jazz choir to perform 1975 smash "Bohemian Rhapsody" because Freddy Mercury, singer of the bombastic operatic rock act, was gay, the [Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman](#) newspaper reported.

Principal Dwight Probasco pulled the plug on the song earlier this month, angering choir members who had worked for months to learn it.

"The whole thing was just ridiculous," senior Rachel Clark told the Frontiersman. "They'd played the song on the school intercom and we played it at prom. It's a great song and the choir was really excited to be singing it. And the senior class felt like it defined them."

Junior choir member Casey Hight said she reached out to a gay and lesbian advocacy group in Anchorage, who told her to call the American Civil Liberties Union.

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### In Memoriam:

Fred Goldhaber, 63, Dies; Taught at School for Gays

By DENNIS HEVESI November 15, 2010

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/16/nyregion/16goldhaber.html?\\_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/16/nyregion/16goldhaber.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss&pagewanted=print)

Among Mr. G.'s first students back in 1985 were runaways who had been sleeping in a shed down by the docks in Lower Manhattan where the city stored mountains of road salt.

One boy had hitchhiked from Ohio after eight teenagers dragged him into a bathroom at school, bashed his head against a toilet and burned his arm with a cigarette lighter.

Another boy, from New York City, had been abused by his parents after a teacher told them he was "acting like a faggot." He was kept at home for a year — chained to a radiator, beaten and taken by his father to 42nd Street and forced to have sex with men for money. His father went to prison.

There is no way to know how many of the gay and lesbian youngsters who came under the wing of Mr. G., as he was known, went on to graduate from high school or just found the strength to make their way in the world. But for dozens, at least, he was a hero.

Mr. G. — Fred Goldhaber, the first and, for four years, the only teacher at the Harvey Milk School in Manhattan, the first school in the country with a mission to provide a haven for gay and lesbian students, died of liver cancer on Monday at his home in Jersey City. He was 63.

He had lived with AIDS for nearly 30 years, said his brother, Richard.

The Harvey Milk School, named for the gay-rights advocate and San Francisco city supervisor who was killed in 1978, was established in 1985 by what was then called the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth (now the Hetrick-Martin Institute), with financial support from the city's Board of Education.

Mr. Goldhaber, who had taught English and remedial reading at Wingate High School in Brooklyn for 17 years, volunteered to teach the incoming class of 22 students, who first gathered in April 1985 at a church in Greenwich Village. The school later moved to a building at 2 Astor Place.

Back then it was like an old-time country school, with Mr. G. juggling academic demands: answering questions about physics, correcting spelling tests, going over verb conjugation, keeping an eye out for the girl slumping into sleep.

A longtime member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, he laced lessons with song snippets: "Teach me tonight" while assigning homework; "Call me irresponsible" to a girl who had not done her math.

"At his right hand," Time magazine wrote in 1989, "Goldhaber pores over pictures with one student, saying, 'Yes, this is an ion, but is it just an ion or a hydroxide ion? Think about it.' He asks the student on his left, 'Do you really believe 20 times 15 is 30,000?'"

Until 2003, the school was actually what the Department of Education classifies as a transfer program, meaning students could earn graduate equivalency diplomas or enough credits to graduate from the school they had left.

Now they can graduate directly from the Milk School. Margie Feinberg, a spokeswoman for the city's Education Department, said about 100 students are enrolled at the Milk School each year, about one-third of whom graduate within four years — a reflection of the difficulties they face.

Stephen Phillips, a professor of education at Brooklyn College who was the city's superintendent of alternative high schools and programs when the Milk School opened, observed Mr. Goldhaber in action.

"The kids idolized him," Mr. Phillips said. "Many of them never would have gotten diplomas had it not been for the way he treated them."

When his brother walked the city's streets, Richard Goldhaber said, "time after time" students "would stop him, hug him and thank him for rescuing them."

Fred Martin Goldhaber was born in Brooklyn on April 23, 1947. His father, Max, was a lawyer; his mother, the former Betty Chatow, was a concert pianist.

He received a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in 1968 and a master's degree there a year later, both in education. Besides his brother, Mr. Goldhaber is survived by his companion, Wilfredo Hinds.

When the school celebrated its sixth anniversary in 1991, a student asked, "Will the school survive?"

To which Mr. G. replied, "If you kids do."

Another student said: "I hope there will be a day when there is no gay school. Because, you know, there shouldn't have to be one."

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## [Chuck Dima, the grandfather of gay softball, dies at the age of 81](#)

May 26th, 2011

by [Cyd Zeigler jr.](#) [http://outsports.com/jocktalkblog/2011/05/26/chuck-dima-the-grandfather-of-gay-softball-dies-at-the-age-of-81/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=chuck-dima-the-grandfather-of-gay-softball-dies-at-the-age-of-81](http://outsports.com/jocktalkblog/2011/05/26/chuck-dima-the-grandfather-of-gay-softball-dies-at-the-age-of-81/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=chuck-dima-the-grandfather-of-gay-softball-dies-at-the-age-of-81)



The gay sports world lost a true legend last weekend when Chuck Dima, known as the "grandfather of gay softball," passed away on Sunday after a battle with cancer. He was 81. Sam Lehman, commissioner of the Southern New England Friendship Softball League, was one of the first to hear the news:

Chuck was often called the grandfather of gay softball; he was widely credited for being one of the founders of gay softball in the US. Chuck owned a bar in New York City and was constantly being asked to play softball with a group of gay friends; this led to the Big Apple Softball League. Chuck was born in 1929 and was a pioneer in the world of gay sports, we all have him to thank for our Sunday afternoon games.

Dima's impact on the world of gay softball can't be overstated. The Big Apple Softball League in New York City, one of the largest in the world, went so far as to name its top division after the legend. It's because of people like Dima that the Gay Games, the Gay Softball World Series, and gay-sports organizations around the world exist today.

[NAGAAA](#) released a statement to Outsports that I hope everyone reads. A man of this stature deserves to be remembered and honored:

When asked what is the legacy of a person where does one start? Does one point to the tangible accomplishments, what they helped to create, what they did for the community and what they helped to nurture? Does one focus on the intangible, their quick smile, their wit or their compassion? Or does one realize that the two are inseparable, and that the only solution is to simply celebrate them in tandem?

With this insight in mind, we honor one of NAGAAA's founding fathers, Chuck Dima, who passed on earlier this week. Back in the early 1970's, Chuck had a vision that there needed to be a safe environment where all members of the LGBT Community, regardless of their skill level, would be able to come together and play softball. What ultimately became the Big Apple Softball League is a result of that nurturing vision.

However, Chuck's story would continue. For both national and international gay softball, Chuck was not just a true visionary, but a visionary with all the drive, motivation and talent to make a dream into a reality. Chuck helped take the rather simple idea of two gay softball teams from San Francisco and New York City playing in a

tournament and transformed it into a larger goal, the goal of having an international softball organization that would yearly demonstrate the best of the best in gay softball.

This goal came to fruition with the formation of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). Today, NAGAAA incorporates 41 individual softball leagues across the United States and Canada and boasts a total LGBT membership of over 10,000 people. It also hosts the largest annual gay sporting event in the world, the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS). We, as its members and as an organization as a whole, are indebted to Chuck and those with whom he worked for providing us with such incredible opportunities.

Chuck's simple act in 1976 of hosting a bi-coastal softball tournament has led to more intangibles than a person can imagine. How does one thank someone for a vision that has strengthened the LGBT sporting community and the LGBT community as a whole? How does one measure those decades-long enduring friendships with others in cities across North America that, had it not been for softball, may never have formed? One cannot begin to think how diminished they would feel if they were not able to share the joys, the frustrations and the tears even off the softball field with such a far flung group of friends.

Chuck's legacy of being a constant, a mentor and a friend endures. Though he has passed from this world, he will always remain with us. He will always be there to challenge you to be true to yourself and your friends and to encourage you to develop your teammate's talents. Above all else, his spirit remains to remind us always to show each other respect both on and off the field. This is his immediate legacy – for it lives in all of us. However, most importantly, as we follow his longstanding advice, we strengthen our organization and continue to foster a safe athletic haven for all of the LGBT community. By taking these actions every time we gather, we honor Chuck's vision and his memory, and that is the true inheritance that Chuck leaves to gay softball.



Doric Wilson, with his mother Marjorie, at Manhattan's 1974 Gay Pride March.

## Gay Theater Pioneer Doric Wilson Dead at 72

### Out playwright at Caffe Cino from early '60s was also lifelong activist

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#### **BY ANDY HUMM**

Doric Wilson survived the birth of the off-off-Broadway movement, three nights of the Stonewall Riots, and 50 years of writing and producing gay theater. But when the play about Doric himself is written, the playwright will be stuck with the cliché that this bear of a man with an enormous heart succumbed to a weak ticker and died on May 7. He was 72.

Doric came to prominence in 1961 at the legendary Caffe Cino, the birthplace of off-off-Broadway run by Joe Cino at 31 Cornelia Street in Greenwich Village since 1958. It was where playwrights John Guare, Robert Patrick, Maria Irene Fornés, Lanford Wilson, William Hoffman, and Jean-Claude van Itallie got their starts as well.

Doric participated in three nights of the Stonewall Riots, but he was out long before then, writing gay-themed work by the early 1960s. After Stonewall, Doric also worked as a bartender and manager at such legendary gay bars as the Spike and Ty's, as well as at Brothers and Sisters cabaret.

Writer and activist Perry Brass, who knew Doric from the early '70s at the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), wrote on his blog that Doric loved “keeping gay theater alive in New York (and elsewhere). When I say ‘gay theater,’ I mean like gay theater with no apologies. Because gay theater is different from say, ‘Angels in America’ or the next episode of ‘Glee’ when Curt still doesn’t get to kiss his cute boyfriend.”

Brass wrote that Doric “was one of the inventors of gay theater, when it was crazy, disruptive, transgressive, shocking, tacky, funny and absolutely wrap-your-lips-around-it lovable.”

In 1974, Doric founded the first professional gay theater company, The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS), with Billy Blackwell, John McSpadden, and Peter del Valle. They did works by everyone from Coward and Orton to McNally, Patrick, and the other recently departed Wilson, Lanford — not to mention Doric himself, who wrote “Street Theater,” about the Stonewall Riots, and “The West Street Gang,” about gay people physically fighting back against gay-bashing.

He earned the first Robert Chesley Award for Lifetime Achievement in Gay and Lesbian Playwriting in 1994 and was recognized for Artistic Achievement at the New York Innovative Theater Awards in 2007.

With Barry Childs and Mark Finley, Doric revived TOSOS as TOSOS II in 2001, eventually dropping the “II.” Jack Schlegel of Out Professionals recalled that his group played a key role in the resurrection of TOSOS when the three came to an OP program at Manhattan’s LGBT Community Center.

The revived company started with staged readings and went back to doing fully staged productions, including a site-specific production of “Street Theater” at the Spike.

Childs, administrative director of TOSOS, said Doric “deeply... cared about giving new and emerging playwrights a chance to have their work seen and their voices heard.”

Finley shared that Doric had been in poor health for the past two years with respiratory and heart problems. “He told me, ‘I can really feel myself slowing down,’” he said.

“He really loved really good actors and loved to tell stories,” continued Finley, who got hired as Doric’s director after the two met at a cabaret and hit it off. Finley is the artistic director of TOSOS.

Doric Wilson was born February 24, 1939 in Los Angeles, but grew up on his grandfather’s Kennewick, Washington ranch. His high school English teacher flunked him for writing a play in fulfillment of a class assignment, after insisting that none of her students was smart enough to do so and accusing him of plagiarism. Undeterred, Doric went on to write 12 full-length plays and nurture innumerable others.

Edward Albee, who had once been lovers with Doric, told Gay City News, “We went back a long way. I saw his work at the Cino. He was a good guy and a good playwright.”

Albee once told Doric he was “too nice to be a playwright.”

Of why he loved theater so much, he wrote, “The wonderful words, the laughter, the impossible made magic by the ringing of a bell — that’s what I remember most. I remember everything but the dates.”

[http://www.gaycitynews.com/articles/2011/06/15/gay\\_city\\_news/features/doc4de6ccdde60869141140184.txt](http://www.gaycitynews.com/articles/2011/06/15/gay_city_news/features/doc4de6ccdde60869141140184.txt)