



YEAR TWO

The Board of the Rainbow History Project is pleased to note that we have made modest progress within modest means in the second year of the organization.

Pluses. The year 2002 brought new professional and community alliances, expanded coverage of local historical topics, further RHP research and expansion of our online virtual archive. Rainbow History Project presentations at the 29th annual Washington, DC Historical Studies conference were very well received. Our Advisory Board is increasingly involved in our panel discussions and preservation work. The past year also brought us a new logo.

Minuses. On the down side, we didn't receive grant funding from the Cafritz Foundation for preservation of the *Friends* radio tapes. A fire in the building next to the MCC-DC 'green house' where we store our collections made us focus on getting the archival materials and tapes into a more secure and fireproof storage area. Our public events have suffered from weather host venue problems. There has been no substantial increase in income.

Financials. The annual audit is still underway. Pre-audited figures show that at December 31st, the end of fiscal 2002, we had total assets of \$2,301.97. Gross income in fiscal 2002 was \$2,631. Total expenses were \$2,433.53. Membership dues and donations are our sole source of income to date. Memberships in 2002 were up slightly over 2001 numbers.

Major expenses for 2002 have been for

- archival storage materials,
- web hosting of the www.rainbowhistory.org website,
- booths at three Pride celebrations, and
- purchase of a video camera with which to view the Spector videotapes and tape future events.

In 2003, our most basic needs financially are to cover

- the cost of securer climate controlled storage facilities (at approximately \$2400 a year),
- printing and other costs associated with the three Pride displays,
- display materials and snacks for our public discussions,
- and a tape copying machine for our oral history tapes.

Increased income would allow us to

- begin preserving and copying the *Friends* radio tapes on a one-by-one basis,
- accept and preserve archivally more documents,
- begin copying the Spector videotapes to surrogate masters in order to preserve the originals, and
- distribute complete sets of the oral history tapes to the Historical Society of Washington and the Washingtoniana Division at the public library. .

Programs continue to be our most public activity, and fulfill our mission of presenting Washington, DC's GLBT history to the public. Thanks to support from the Sumner School Museum, the public libraries, and other organizations, we have not had to bear any costs for space for these events.

In 2002, our *Talking History* chats presented opportunities for conversation with

- Deacon Maccubbin and Jim Bennet,
- Dr. Franklin Kameny, and
- Bruce Pennington and Brian Miller chatting about the Gay Liberation Front and GLF House.

We presented public discussions on the following topics in 1992

- DC's Social Clubs – an African-American response to segregation and the bar scene
- Organizing for African-American Lesbians focused on the Sapphire Sapphos and the Black Lesbian Support Group
- Gay Sports Organizations – the first of an annual series – focused on bowling, running, softball, and basketball groups
- Celebrating ENLACE – a panel discussion and display in honor of the 15th anniversary of ENLACE's founding
- Gay Motorcycle Clubs and their history
- Supporting Our Gay Youth – youth groups of the 1970s
- Creating Pride focused on Washington DC's first gay pride in 1972 and the first official Gay Pride in 1975
- Gay DC's Social Geography – a presentation in conjunction with the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library – presenting RHP's data on clubs and other social spaces since 1920

Research continues on a modest level with RHP's survey of LGBT social spaces since 1920 now nearing 400 locations. This 'social geography' was first presented at the Washingtoniana Division in February and at the Lavender Languages conference the same month.

The online timeline of our history continues to expand (the print version now runs to 27 pages) as new dates are identified and listed.

RHP has begun writing background briefing sheets for the panel discussions (some of which are online) as well as occasional articles. The first article profiled the Community Building at 1724 20th St. NW.

With support from the Historical Society of Washington (HSW) and the Washingtoniana Division, RHP was invited to become a member of the planning committee for the annual Washington, DC Historical Studies Conference, presented at the George Washington University. Bob Summersgill, Mark Herlong, and Mark Meinke presented three papers in a three-hour session on topics in the LGBT history of the city.

HSW also asked RHP to help identify and collect documents and other artifacts for the overview of city history in the new City Museum.

Preserving our history is one of our three missions. This past year we have focused on putting much of the documents in our collections on our website. Online preservation not only improves accessibility but also, we hope, makes the survival of the materials more certain. A visible history is a better-preserved history.

ENLACE items exhibited in October at the panel discussion have been transferred online. Many items of the *David Aiken collection* and the *Bruce Pennington collection* are also now online. We have recently added materials from the *1979 March on Washington* and *Third World Conference* and from the first *Black Gay Pride in 1991*. Donations of documents and other items by *Eva Freund* and *Carl Rizzi* are now online and shed important light on the 1973 Title 34 campaign, lesbian issues, the history of the Academy group of female impersonators, and the Lost and Found. Another important reference online now is the Washington DC gay guide, *Just Us*, published in 1975 by the Washington Area Gay Community Council.

Building our virtual archives is a long-term project, one recommended by the Advisory Board at last year's meeting. Unfortunately, we have not yet begun working on historic preservation of structures important in our community history.

We expect 2003 to be at least as productive and busy as 2002 and look for your continued support in the current year.

THE BOARD