

The Rainbow History Project

Preserving Our Community's History

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December 31, 2001

Year One

(November 4, 2000 to December 31, 2001)

A Report to the Membership

The Rainbow History Project organized on November 4, 2000 at the Cyberstop Café on 17th St NW in Washington DC. In our first 13 months, we have

- **Incorporated** in the District of Columbia as a non-profit corporation (July), received a tax exemption from the Internal Revenue Service (November). **and enrolled** 21 members.
- Established **partnership relations** with the Historical Society of Washington and the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library. The Rainbow History Project helped in transferring the papers of the late Otto Ulrich to the Historical Society of Washington.
- **Mounted 10 events** explaining and promoting aspects of DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered history, focusing on:
 - the founding of the Gay Activists Alliance in 1971 (April 30th);
 - events of 1979 important to the African-American GLBT community (*two* occasions: May 22nd and June 5th);
 - activist groups in the community that 'pushed the envelope' (June 6th);
 - the creation of LGBT organizations in the Latino community (June 7th);
 - the 'sickness question' and overturning the APA definition of homosexuality as a disease (September 19th);
 - nearly 400 clubs, bars, community centers, and other places significant to the TLGB community from 1920 to 2000 (October 18th);
 - the history of the Gay South from 1969 to 1979 (October 22nd);
 - a survey of how DC became aware of AIDS in 1981 and 1982 (November 30th); and
 - the creation of LGBT communities of faith in DC (December 11th).
- **Participated** with a booth and materials at Youth Pride, DC Black Pride, and Capital Pride. We also designed and mounted an exhibit on GLBT Places and Spaces at the Martin Luther King Jr Library in October and at the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists annual meeting in December.
- Created an **oral history collection** on audiotape documenting personal aspects of BLGT life in the metropolitan Washington DC area. The collection includes 52 narratives providing an unique 'slice of life' perspective on our community.

- **Research projects** compiled (1) a detailed list of clubs, bars, bathhouses, movie theatres, community centers, health centers, and businesses that have been significant to our community, and (2) a timeline of local DC GLBT history from 1950 to 2000.
- Accepted responsibility for **organizing, preserving, and promoting** the collection of 244 audiotapes of the *Friends* radio broadcasts (1973 to 1982) and for inventorying and organizing the Spector collection of videotapes of community events since 1983. We are seeking grant funding for preserving and copying the *Friends* tapes. The Library of Congress has agreed to evaluate the condition of the tapes to help us decide what preservation measures are needed. GLAA is funding repairs to videotape players so that we can catalog the Spector videotapes.

In 2002, we have scheduled twelve public presentations on topics concerning DC's LGBT history. We plan to participate at all three Pride events, as well as the Lavender Languages conference at American University and the the annual local conference on Washington DC history.

As of 12/31/01, we have \$2400 in funds. A special appeal for help raising \$700 in funds for purchasing tape boxes for the *Friends* collection succeeded in raising nearly twice the funds in only five days. We have allocated \$917 in funds for archival supplies including 244 tape boxes for the *Friends* radio program tapes.

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