

## 🌸 Meeker Wins the Boswell Prize

The GLBTHS is extremely proud that our board member and UC Berkeley historian Martin Meeker has won the American Historical Association's prestigious Boswell Prize for his book *Contacts Desired: Gay and Lesbian Communications and Community, 1940s-1970s* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), which was based largely on research conducted at the GLBTHS. Named for pioneering gay historian John Boswell, the prize is given only every two years to the book judged by the Association's Committee on Lesbian and Gay History to be the best book published on gay and lesbian history.

Announcing the Boswell Prize for *Contacts Desired*, the award committee stated, "In this rich and densely researched book, Meeker explores how young women and men learned more about their homosexuality, particularly if they were living in small and isolated places where gays and lesbians were not openly visible or apparent. He argues that three innovations in communication helped individuals to see themselves as members of larger sexual communities: the rise of a homophile movement in the 1950s; broad public interest in homosexuality created by the media in the late 50s and early 60s; and the emergence of gay and lesbian self-published guides, gossip sheets, and magazines that circulated broadly and helped forge a sense of larger community and eventually of its political possibilities. This book marvelously charts the connections among desire, identity, and community."

Congratulations to Martin for contributing this important work to our understanding of the GLBT past and for it being recognized as such by the nation's premiere organization of professional historians.

The late historian John Boswell, a professor of history at Yale University, was author of the widely read and influential books *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality* (1980) and *Same Sex Unions in Pre-modern Europe* (1994). He died in 1994 from complications related to AIDS. 🌸

## 🌸 Reception for Pat Bond Award Nominees

Everyone is welcome to join us in recognizing the outstanding nominees for the 2007 Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke Awards at a special reception sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society and the Pat Bond Committee. These fabulous women have given their talents, leadership and activism to the greater LGBT community throughout the Bay Area for decades.

**Program:** Reception and Refreshments followed by an invitation to view archival Pat Bond memorabilia, the new "Women Breaking Barriers" exhibit on women's music, and the acclaimed film, *Radical Harmonies*. 🌸

Join us: Sunday, September 23, 2007 2 – 5pm 🌸

### GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**WHERE WE ARE:**  
657 Mission Street, 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**HOW TO CONTACT US:**  
Phone: 415.777.5455  
Fax: 415.777.5576  
www.glbthistory.org

**EXHIBIT OPEN:**  
Tuesday - Saturday, 1pm -5pm.  
\$4 - Adults  
\$2 - Student and Low Income

### STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Bullock-Jordan, Operations Manager

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# GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## OUR STORIES

## 🌸 Society Gala to be Held September 20 GLBT Veterans Honored at Annual Celebration

Once a year the GLBT Historical Society organizes a party to raise funds, honor GLBT leaders, and have a good time. This year's gala will be Thursday, September 20, from 6 to 9pm at the Regency Center on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

This is not a stuffy dinner, but a celebration with food, music, dancing, silent auction and a few hundred of our favorite people including many local GLBT leaders and elected officials. It is also the most important fundraising event the Society holds each year, raising approximately \$100,000.

When you arrive you will find food and drinks awaiting you as you mingle and peruse the extensive silent auction. At 7pm we begin our brief program with the fabulous singer Veronica Klaus.

The heart of the program is the presentation of three Walker Awards. This year, the awards go to Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer (retired), Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva, and the Service Members Legal Defense Network. At the conclusion of this short program Veronica Klaus returns to the stage to serenade you for the rest of the evening.

Tickets for the Gala are only \$100 and can be purchased online at [glbthistory.org](http://glbthistory.org) or by contacting our office at 415-777-5455, ext 5#. Tickets to the VIP reception are \$175. 🌸

### About the Walker Award Winners

**Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva** was the first American wounded in the war in Iraq. On March 21, 2003, he was traveling with his battalion to Basra, Iraq, when he stepped on a landmine, breaking his right arm and damaging his leg so badly that it needed to be amputated. Alva was awarded a Purple Heart and received a medical discharge from the military. Alva recently came out as gay and has taken up a new fight, speaking out against the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy banning openly gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans from serving in the armed forces.

**Margarethe (Grethe) Cammermeyer, PhD, RN, Colonel, USA**, retired from the Army after thirty one years active duty in the Army Reserves and National Guard. In 1989, Colonel Cammermeyer challenged the military's anti-gay regulation. Her story drew national attention and was featured in the television movie, "Serving in Silence."

**The Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLDN)** is a national, non-profit legal service, watchdog, and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."



*also in this issue:*

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## 🌸 Greetings from the new Operations Manager

I'm Karen Bullock-Jordan, the new Operations Manager. I'm originally from Chicago, and spent my queer formative years in Washington DC, at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. I also spent several years in Boston, first as Director of the Outwrite Conference, then on staff at Haymarket People's Fund. During my 15 years in the progressive and queer movements, I've been involved in almost every aspect of the non-profit world: from office administration to programming to conference & retreat planning to development and grantmaking (4 years on the OUTFund panel, 3 as co-chair). I'm also a "sex-positive activist", and have given workshops & lectures on sex, sexuality, and politics at various venues around the country including universities, conferences, and festivals; my essays on the same topic have been published in several 'zines, periodicals, and a couple of book anthologies.

As a new staff person at GLBTHS, I'm excited to be a part of the stewardship of our history. All of my professional queer work has been in the context of looking to the future, and somehow it feels quite natural to be part of an organization dealing with safeguarding the past. I have extensive experience in volunteer management, and I look forward to working with you. 🌸

## 🌸 Two New Exhibits Open!

May and June were particularly thrilling months for the Historical Society as we celebrated the opening of two new major historical exhibits in our galleries.

*Women Breaking Barriers: Women's Music from 1964 to 1984* launched in May with a fabulous opening reception that was attended by many of the greats of women's music, including musicians Holly Near and Gwen Avery, and producer Audrey Joseph! Assemblyperson Carole Migden contributed rousing musings on the importance of music to the women's community.

In June the GLBTHS received barrier-breaking publicity to coincide with the opening of the exhibit *Out Ranks: GLBT Military Service from World War II to the Iraq War*. Not only did front page stories appear in the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Jose Mercury, but we were featured in on-the-spot television news coverage on channels 2, 5, 7, and 11!

*Women Breaking Barriers* will be open through fall 2007, "Out Ranks" will remain open until June 2008. Check our website soon for exhibit related programs.

## 🌸 Volunteers Needed

We always have a need for volunteers. We simply wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission without them. Our biggest need right now is for museum docents for our two exhibits. As you know, our galleries are open 5 days a week, with anywhere from 5 to 20 visitors per day. While each exhibit is complete in itself, our visitors have a better experience if there is someone who can give them an overview of the exhibit and answer general questions. Developing a knowledgeable group of docents marks another step in our long term goal of becoming the undisputed queer Smithsonian!

If you're interested in sharing your skills, or maybe learning some new ones, please drop me an email or a call. Your time and effort is invaluable to us. [karen@glbthistory.org](mailto:karen@glbthistory.org) 🌸

## 🌸 Society Launches Sponsor Campaign

The Historical Society has launched a new program to gather support from donors who can donate \$1,000 or more annually. Our Sponsor Campaign is designed to compliment the existing membership program. Sponsorships range from \$1,000 to \$50,000 a year and are open to businesses, organizations, and individuals. Sponsors are essential to the long term success of the Historical Society because they provide ongoing support at a substantial level. The Society hopes to raise \$200,000 annually from approximately one hundred sponsors.

Most Sponsors become involved simply because they support the work of the GLBT Historical Society. They appreciate the unique and important role of the institution in ensuring that our history is not lost. In addition, the Society can offer these benefits to sponsors:

**Public Recognition of Sponsors:** We acknowledge our Sponsors in a wide variety of ways depending on level of support, including recognition on our website, newsletter, Donor Wall, printed materials and at our Gala.

**Membership and Activities at the Society:** All Sponsors have the option of having an event at the Society. These can range from a small private tour of the archives to a large reception. All Sponsors receive a number of individual memberships and, at the higher levels, tickets to the Society's annual Gala.

**Direct Association with the Society's Archives and Programs:** Some sponsors have a strong affinity for specific elements of the archives or Society program activities. Therefore we offer sponsors the opportunity to associate their sponsorship with specific elements of our collections or program activities.

Finally we appeal to our members who work for businesses and belong to groups that could become sponsors. Corporate America gives hundreds of millions of dollars annually to nonprofit groups. The key, as we have been told by many corporate giving managers, is having people within the company speak up for us. If you work for such a company and will consider helping us make a presentation please let us know. We need your help.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor or know an organization that might be, please contact Paul Boneberg at [paul@glbthistory.org](mailto:paul@glbthistory.org) or 415-777-5455. More information is also available at our website: [glbthistory.org](http://glbthistory.org).

## 🌸 Society Treasurer Becomes First Major Sponsor

GLBT Historical Society Treasurer Chris Lewis and his partner Todd Reasinger have become our very first sponsors at the Historian Level. They associated their sponsorship with the Harold O'Neal Film Collection. Consisting of home movies of gay life in San Francisco from the 1940s through the 1990s, the O'Neal Collection contributes an important visual dimension to the archives.

### We've had a full plate this spring & summer!

**In Review:** "Every Night is Lady's Night" Photo Exhibit Opening (held at the Lexington Club), Women Breaking Barriers Opening Reception, Pinksheets GLBTHS Benefit BBQ, OutRanks Opening Reception, Gay Pride (we had a margarita booth and an information booth), Up-Your-Alley Street Fair (aka Dore Alley), Last Dance Raid Fundraiser, HomoSex: 60 Years of Gay Erotica (Simon Shepard, ed.) Book Party Reception, Private Archives Tours, Stanford University Students, NSRC Summer Institute Students

### Our Fall promises to be just as full!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the receptions, the Gala, or for the Folsom Street Fair, please contact Karen Bullock-Jordan, <[karen@glbthistory.org](mailto:karen@glbthistory.org)> or 415.777.5455 ext 5#

#### 9/20, 6-9pm: GLBT Historical Society Gala 2007

The Sutter Room: 1270 Sutter, Regency Center

#### 9/23, 2-5pm: Reception & Archives Tour

Pat Bond Nominees

Radical Harmonies Film Presentation

#### 9/29, 1-4pm: Reception & Archives Tour

New Leaf Elders

#### 9/30, 11am: Folsom Street Fair

GLBTHS Volunteers are needed for 3-5hr shifts from 5:00am to 9:30pm

#### 10/3, 6:30-8:30pm: Reception & Archives Tour

Pat Bond as Gertrude Stein (video performance)

#### 10/11, 6-8pm: Reception & Archives Tour

Wearing History: Tshirts From the Gay Rights Movement (Steve Gdula, author)