



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

May 7, 2020

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May LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Artists During a Pandemic, Sailors & Homosexuality, Homelessness, Asian/Pacific Islander AIDS Activism

San Francisco — The program series for May 2020 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the role of art and artists during pandemics, homosexuality among American sailors, homelessness, AIDS activism in the Asian Pacific Islander community, and AIDS treatment and research activism. All events take place online and are free; registration is required for access to the Zoom link. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Fighting Back

The Role of Art & Artists in a Pandemic, Part II

Wednesday, May 13

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

This second panel on the role of art and artists in a pandemic continues the discussion of our April 8 event. An intergenerational panel of Bay Area artists and curators will gather to explore ways in which artists responded to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and how these experiences might inform artistic responses to COVID-19 today. Panelists will also discuss the personal and cultural impacts of living through a pandemic, and how these impacts might constrain or inspire the creative process. Our “Fighting Back” series is an intergenerational discussion that brings together community leaders, experts, historians and activists to explore lessons from the past that might be useful in formulating “resistance” efforts today. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2SHFTbU>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2YfdQEk>.

Author Talk

Unruly Desires: American Sailors and Homosexualities

Friday, May 15

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

In early nineteenth-century America, the rapid expansion of the maritime industry created an all-male environment where sexual activity was tolerated, and at times even ritualized. The United States Navy adopted rules of conduct based on those of Britain's Royal Navy, but specifically deleted proscriptions against sodomy and buggery. Drawing on a wide variety of archival resources, including diaries, memoirs, business correspondence, court-martial reports, pornography and religious tracts, author William Beneman's new book *Unruly Desires: American Sailors and Homosexualities in the Age of Sail* reconstructs this rare nineteenth-century queer space. Benemann will discuss his research and read selections from the book. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2W9Y4JH>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2yD6YG4>.

Fighting Back

Housing Insecurity & Public Health

Wednesday, May 20

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

The crisis of homelessness is nothing new in the Bay Area and throughout the U.S., and has paralleled the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with many people with HIV/AIDS also experiencing homelessness. An intergenerational panel of housing advocates, policymakers and historians will discuss how society responded to homelessness in the context of the AIDS epidemic, and how these experiences might inform the response to the COVID-19 homeless crisis today. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3bbCCYM>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2KpkcJ8>.

Author Talk

Coming of Age No More: AIDS Activism and Writing About Sex

Thursday, May 21

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

In spite of the attendant stigma, Asian and Pacific Islander AIDS activists in the 1990s brazenly talked about gay sex, even in immigrant communities that were supposedly averse to discussing such topics. In this program, writer Eric C. Wat will discuss how AIDS activism influences his writing, read from his novel *SWIM* ([Permanent Press, 2019](#)), and share his ongoing work on a community memoir about API AIDS activism in Los Angeles. This program is cosponsored by API Equality-Northern California, Kearny Street Workshop and Uncles Social Club. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2xFA8Eu>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2VSyDL4>.

Fighting Back

Treatment and Research Activism

Wednesday, May 27

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

In the 1980s and 1990s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S.—and the federal

government's woefully inadequate response—led to a new paradigm of empowerment led by people with HIV/AIDS and supporters. They fought for and won radical improvements to everything from research funding and improved design of clinical research, to early access to investigational therapies, to more equitable treatment-access programs. A panel of activists, policymakers, researchers and historians will examine how the lessons learned from fighting for HIV/AIDS treatment and research might help in the fight against COVID-19. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/35KCezG>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2S0DEjQ>.

ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that collects, preserves and interprets the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the communities that support them. Founded in 1985, the society maintains one of the world's largest collections of LGBTQ historical materials. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

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GRAPHICS: The following images may be reproduced only in association with coverage of the GLBT Historical Society program series. Credits noted in captions are mandatory.

May 13: Fighting Back — Art & Artists



A set of Boy/Girl With Arms Akimbo “SAFE/UNSAFE” posters on a wall in San Francisco in June, 1990; photographer unknown, Boy With Arms Akimbo/Girl With Arms Akimbo Records (1996-41), GLBT Historical Society.

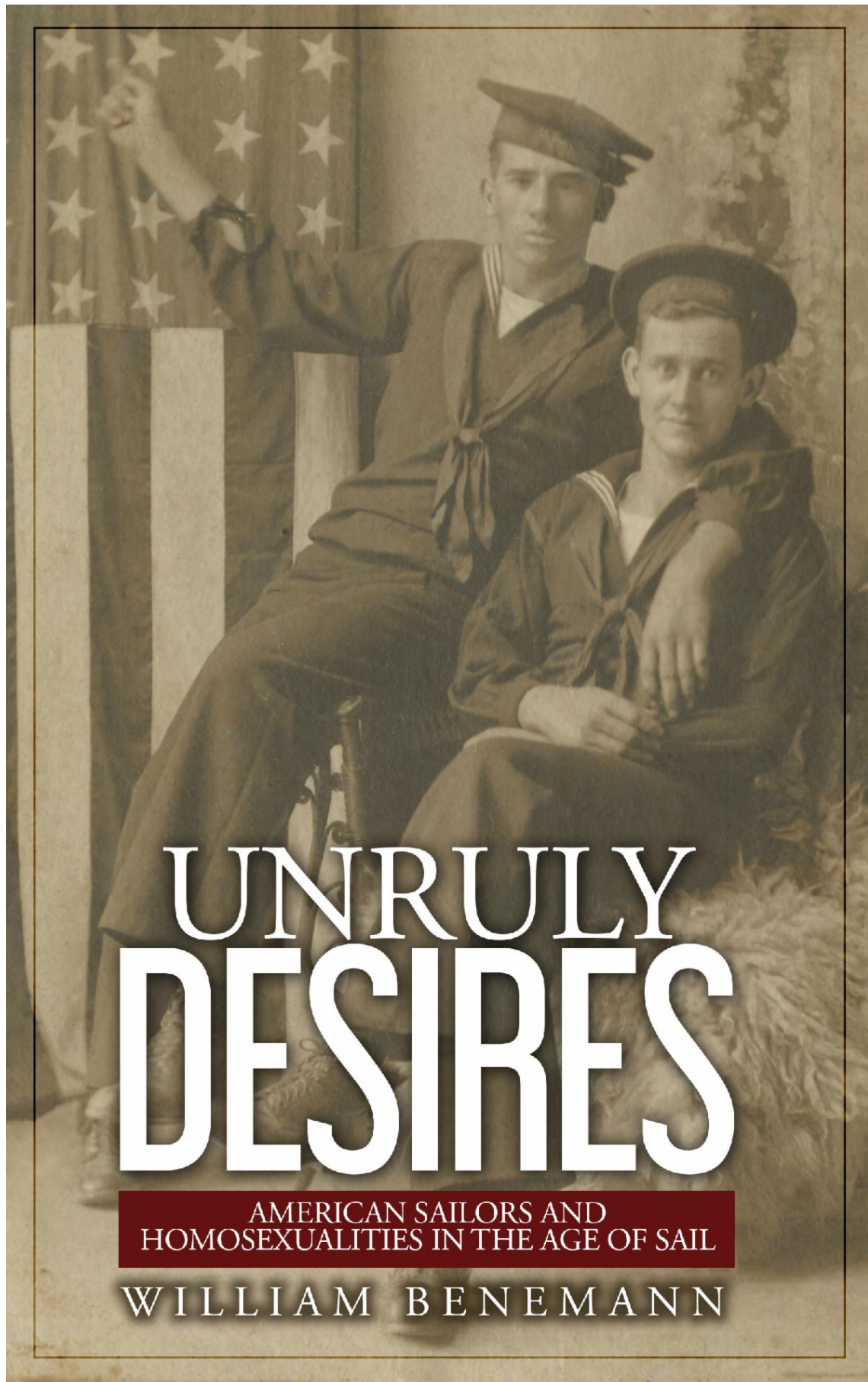


Image caption: Cover of *Unruly Desires: American Sailors and Homosexualities in the Age of Sail*, courtesy of William Benemann.

May 20: Fighting Back — Homelessness



A tent in San Francisco's Duboce Triangle neighborhood; photo by Mark Sawchuk.

May 21: Author Talk — AIDS Activism & Talking About Sex



Portrait of author Eric C. Wat; photo by Eugene Lee Visuals, used with permission.

May 27: Fighting BAcK — Treatment & Research Activism



The “People With AIDS” contingent in the 1983 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade; photo by Marie Ueda, Marie Ueda Photographs (2006-12), GLBT Historical Society.

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