## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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# March LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Rainbow-Flag Creator Gilbert Baker, GLBT Historical Society's 35th Anniversary, LGBTQ Jewish History

**San Francisco** — The program series for March 2020 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the curation of the society's exhibition about rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker, the 35th anniversary of the GLBT Historical Society's founding and a new anthology documenting 2,000 years of LGBTQ Jewish history. All events take place at the GLBT Historical Society Museum at 4127 18th St. in the Castro District. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

### **Community Event**

Meet the Curator: A Guided Tour of "The Art of Gilbert Baker" Saturday, March 7 1:00–2:30 p.m. The GLBT Historical Society Museum 4127 18th St., San Francisco Admission: Free with standard museum admission

Running through April 5, "Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker" is an exhibition at the GLBT Historical Society Museum focusing on the life, artistic oeuvre and activism of Gilbert Baker, the creator of the iconic rainbow flag. The exhibition was co-curated by Joanna Black, the former director of archives and special collections at the GLBT Historical Society. She will lead a special guided tour of the exhibition, explaining her curatorial choices and demonstrating how Baker channeled his artistic skills and largerthan-life personality into his activism, harnessing his unbridled creativity to advocate for positive social change. Tickets are available online at https://bit.ly/2RU1CMD.

## **Reception**

**The GLBT Historical Society's 35th Anniversary Party** Thursday, March 19 6:00–8:00 p.m. The GLBT Historical Society Museum 4127 18th St., San Francisco Admission: \$15 online | \$20 at the door Member admission: \$10 online | \$15 at the door

Thirty-five years ago, a band of queer history enthusiasts founded the GLBT Historical Society to uncover, document and preserve the stories of the LGBTQ past. The institution's holdings have since grown into one of the world's largest collections of LGBTQ-related historical materials. Join us to mark this milestone and celebrate three-and-a-half decades of preserving and sharing queer history. Proceeds from the event will support our ongoing efforts to establish the nation's first full-scale LGBTQ museum and research center. The evening will feature music, a rare look at photos from our history and a special drag performance by board member Kristi Yummykochi. Light refreshments will be served. More information is available on our website at https://www.glbthistory.org/35-years. Tickets are available online at https://bit.ly/2TPVsQo.

#### **Book Launch**

**Two Thousand Years of LGBTQ Jewish History** Monday, March 30 7:00–9:00 p.m. The GLBT Historical Society Museum 4127 18th St., San Francisco Admission: \$5; free for members

What is the place of LGBTQ Jews in history? Over the past two years, Noam Sienna, a doctoral candidate in Jewish history and museum studies at the University of Minnesota, has been compiling documents that suggest answers to that question. His new book, *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts From the First Century to 1969* (Print-O-Craft Press, 2019), is the first anthology of queer Jewish history. The collection brings together over 100 sources on the intersection of Jewish and queer identities that span two millennia and have been translated from more than a dozen languages. In this presentation, Sienna will read selections from this groundbreaking collection, demonstrating that queerness and queer Judaism have been a constant subplot of Jewish history. Copies of *A Rainbow Thread* will be available for purchase and signing. Tickets are available online at https://bit.ly/3aDyeTo.

#### ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Open since January 2011, the GLBT Historical Society Museum is the first stand-alone museum of its kind in the United States. Its Main Gallery features a long-term exhibition on San Francisco LGBTQ history, "Queer Past Becomes Present." Its Front Gallery and Community Gallery host changing exhibitions. The institution also sponsors forums, author talks and other programs.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum is a project of the GLBT Historical Society, 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.

March 7: Community Event



Visitors contemplate a photograph of Gilbert Baker's mile-long rainbow flag in the "Performance, Protest and Politics" exhibition at the GLBT Historical Society Museum; photo by Nalini Elias.

March 19: Reception



Collage featuring two photos from the collection of the GLBT Historical Society. Left: black-and-white glamour shot of Gilbert Baker (1985); photo by Robert Pruzan. Right: Drag queens and their escort out for a night on the town in San Francisco (circa 1965); photo by Henri Leleu.

### March 30: Book Launch



Portrait of Noam Sienna (2019); photo by Erik Nelson, used with permission.

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