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Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project Minutes

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
Transgender Archives of Western New York

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Buffalo LGBTQ History Project Monthly Meeting - Aug. 25, 2016

Dramatis Personae: Adrienne, Ana, Bridget, Carolyn, Mike

Swimming with Lesbians

Good news! Ana has spoken with Sarah Kolberg of the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, and they would be happy to co-sponsor a screening of the documentary *Swimming with Lesbians*! With their involvement, we can get Hallwalls for free. LLM can also help with marketing, including sharing the screening on some UB lists.

Camille, Ana, and Adrienne are still working out some details. They are going to meet with Madeline Davis and her spouse Wendy on September 6. At that time, Adrienne is going to propose that the showing of the documentary be followed up with a Q&A session--the documentary itself is only 67 minutes, so there should be plenty of time to follow up. We definitely want Madeline to participate in the Q&A, but we're also thinking of making it a roundtable discussion, between Madeline, our very own Camille Hopkins, Don Licht (who, like Madeline and Camille, participated in the documentary), and, since the film is about the establishment of the Madeline Davis Archives, Dan DiLandro, who can talk about the current state of the archives. Ana is trying to establish a date with all involved parties, too. Sarah Kolberg has suggested October, but if at all possible, we'd like to show it in September, so that Camille can be there. The plan is to do a sliding scale admission thing where we ask for a suggested donation of \$5, but no one is turned away for lack of funds.

Bridget also came up with the idea of following our screening of *Swimming with Lesbians* with a LITERAL Swimming with Lesbians pool party. She is going to look into possible venues for said pool party.

Once we get the date and format finalized, we will start marketing. We have divided marketing duties as follows, but **WE WOULD TOTALLY WELCOME PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T PRESENT AT THE MEETING HELPING US WITH THESE MARKETING PLANS:**

- Adrienne will share the event with the CYOA mailing list, and talk to assorted sites of LGBTQness in Buffalo, such as the Pride Center.
- Carolyn will send a press release/event info to Buffalo's assorted print media.
- Bridget will make a Facebook invite for the event, and generally do advertising on social media.
- Ana will make posters, which we will ALL be responsible for distributing around Buffalo.

Role Clarification

This brings us to some role/job clarification discussions we had at the meeting. If you rule at a specific skill or set of skills, and you would like to make them your primary contribution to the History Project, speak up! We'd love your help!

Bridget is our social media maven! She is going to put together a Facebook page that is a little more public/casual than the FB group we currently have, and will create FB invites for our special events.

Carolyn will continue to scout out venues and put up Facebook invites for our monthly meetings. In addition to that, she is going to be in charge of making sure that our meetings are advertised on *The Loop* and other local media, and she will be our Tabling Scout--in charge of keeping track of places where we can table, and recruiting volunteers for tabling.

Tabling Plans

And speaking of tabling (holy crap, we were good at segues during this meeting!), Bridget brought to our attention that the Trans Wellness Fair is on Saturday! ACK! We really should have been on our game better so that we could have tabled there, but the Trans Health Conference is on **November 18-19**, and we want to get our act together NOW so that we can have an AWESOME table prepared for that, and just in place for every other event in which tabling might be fruitful for us.

SO. The following is a list of things we want to put together for our future tabling escapades, followed by who is responsible for putting them together. If a name is in REGULAR font, the person in question has already confirmed that they will be responsible for this thing. If a name is in *ITALIC* font, we would like that person to help out, but: a) they are always free to say no; b) if you are not on this list, and you see a place where your talents might be best used, feel free to volunteer as tribute, in place of the italicized name.

- A brochure, which says who we are and what we do, and how people can get involved. (Logo: *Liz*; writing: Adrienne; final layout: Ana)
- A banner with our logo on it. (*Liz*)
- Digital or hard copies of stuff from Carol's archives. (Ana will negotiate this with Carol)
- Excerpts from pilot trans interviews. (We will work out the logistics of this once they are recorded.)
- Other archival material. (Adrienne will discuss this with Dan DiLandro.)
- Trans project release forms. (Adrienne, Ana, and *Vanessa* were working on this. We'd welcome other contributors, as well.)
- Copy of mission statement. (Adrienne and Lisa have already drafted this. We'd just need to print it out.)
- Mailing list sign-up. (Regular lined paper should work just fine for this, but *Bridge* may have official-looking History Project sign-up sheets, as well.)

The Ongoing Saga of the Burlesque Fundraiser

Those of you following along at home will know that finding a venue for the burlesque fundraiser that Nola's burlesque troupe was going to do for us has turned out to be something of a nightmare. To recap: Sewing Souls Studio, the troupe's rehearsal space, turned out not to be accessible, and according to Nola, will no longer work out anyway. Nola then suggested El Museo, but the venue fee turned out to be prohibitively expensive for a group with no funds. At the last meeting, we decided that Sugar City would be a viable alternative, but since then, both Carolyn and Ana have tried to contact Sugar City, with no luck whatsoever. Carolyn reports that Aimee is in the process of moving to California, and this has left a leadership vacuum in her wake, so it may be a while before the dust clears there.

Here, then are our next steps:

- Mike thinks that Subversive Theater might be affordable. He will look into that.
- Bridget has suggested Ol' Wondermoth as a venue. She will talk to her housemates and see if she can get their approval.
- Ana thinks that Sarah Kolberg/the Leslie Lohman Museum might help us out with this, as well. She will ask.

The Carol Speser Digital Archive

Carol is looking through her archive to possibly gather back issues of the Buffalo Gay and Lesbian Community Network for us to digitize. She is still concerned about issues of ownership, though. Adrienne and Carolyn will talk to our friend Drew, who is a lawyer, about issues of ownership/drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Carol. This might actually be something we want to have on hand, anyway, as we venture further into tabling, and help some other LGBTQ elders digitize some of their materials.

Trans Committee Updates

Bridget reports that the Trans Committee is working on two things: a) setting up a social media presence that will lure more people to the trans oral history project; b) doing a pilot interview with Camille within the next week. Liz and Ana have put together a comprehensive set of interview questions, and from there, we will have to rely on trial and error to help us refine our project. We are also going through archival and secondary sources to supplement our interviews.

Immediate next steps: Bridget will talk with Isabel about when she can be available to film the interview, and what equipment we need from Squeaky Wheel. Adrienne will talk to Camille about being able to look through her personal archive, as well. Ana will start the process of asking Ari if we can interview her/look through her archives.

The next Trans Committee meeting will be **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT 4 PM, AT GRINDHAUS CAFE.**

POC Committee Updates

No update from Marielle yet on how the first committee meeting went, but as far as we know, the committee is going forward with a project on SHADES, a group for lesbians of color that was founded in the early 1990s. Carol also helped Adrienne and Ana make contact with a founding member of MOCHA, who was one of the founding members of UB's gay liberation group, and has been involved with Buffalo in a number of other ways.

Marielle and Adrienne, in their research, have come across some info about some black gay folks suing white gay bars in the 1970s for racist admission policies. Carol's friend confirmed this--indeed, it was one of his friends who brought the suit against a bar called Mean Alice's. We would like to do some more research and uncovering on this story.

Other Stuff

Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 6 PM**. Carolyn announces that it will be at the new No Labels storefront.

Storycorps is coming to town! We should be making an effort to bring some LGBTQ elders to the Storycorps booths and getting their stories recorded in a national archive. More info [here](#).

The Museum of Disability History is holding a training at the end of September about how to make events accessible to everybody. Some of us are going. If you want more info about how to sign up, go [here](#).