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July 2018 (2); Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project Minutes

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Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project

July 10, 2018

Dramatis Personae: Adrienne, Anne Marie, Carolyn, Nissa, Ana, Amanda

All right, folks, it's crunch time. Our event is in about a week and a half. That means we're meeting AGAIN next **Tuesday, July 17**. The meeting will be at **Amanda's house** again, this time at **6:30 pm**.

We began the meeting with some good news: Our buttons have come in! Anne Marie brought them to the meeting, and they look AMAZING. We will work on getting them out into the world after the kickoff, and of course, we will sell some at the project launch.

Okay, then. On with the show!

Press and Posters:

We have posters--actual, physical posters! Well, we have small ones. Christi brought some high-quality quarter sheets for us to pass out at events. Anne Marie could not print big posters out at work, alas, but she made A LOT of black and white quartersheets. Adrienne was able to print a small quantity of 8½ x 11" posters out at work, and she and Ana have put them up at Delaware Spot, Elmwood Spot, Perks on Main Street, Grindhaus, Cafe Taza, Caffeology, and various spots in Allentown.

Ana has tried to speak to UB about printing larger posters, but they haven't responded to her calls. She will try again tomorrow, and if they don't respond, she and Amanda will try to find another place who will print them.

Obviously, much, much more postering remains to be done. Here is our general plan for postering over the next few days. But! If you did not attend the meeting, you can still help us poster. Ask!

Amanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● University Heights● Hertel/North Buffalo● Grant Street
Carolyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Amherst● Williamsville● Buff State Campus● Upper Elmwood (from Cafe Aroma to Forest Avenue)● UU Church of Amherst
Adrienne	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drop posters off at Central Library● Pass quarter sheets out at Spectrum meeting on Friday● If she gets a car: South Buffalo/Southtowns● Pass quarter sheets out at UU Church of Buffalo● West Side

Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring quarter sheets to UU Church of Buffalo ● Ask Jocelyn to distribute posters on Niagara Street ● Ask Gena to pass posters out at Sweets and Niagara Falls ● West Side
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Funds:

Our Patreon account shows that we will be receiving \$495 per creation. Unfortunately, Anne Marie explained, we can't use that money yet because we have set up the account such that we only receive the money once we meet our goal of \$750 per event. Because we have the buttons now, Anne Marie suggests that we send a message (**Anne Marie, are you going to do this?**) to our patrons, letting them know that they will be billed on August 1 and that their buttons are on the way, and then changing the means by which we get money from Patreon.

Additionally, although we have officially been awarded grant money by Public Humanities of New York, we need to submit a request to actually receive it. If we act now, it may arrive by the week of the event. Anne Marie and Ana will work on this.

Long story short: We have funds, but we don't know if they will arrive in time for the kickoff event. That might be problematic.

Book Copies:

This is a bit of an issue. Between Adrienne, Anne Marie, and Christine, we have a total of seven used book copies to sell at the event. As mentioned above, several patrons have set aside money so that we can buy used books for other people, but we cannot access our Patreon money until August. Phoebe had begun talks with Talking Leaves to potentially sell copies of *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* at cost, but Talking Leaves was not amenable to that. The next step would have been to ask if they would sell the book at full price during our event, but Phoebe had to leave for her summer job before we could begin those negotiations.

To our knowledge, no bookstores have formally responded to Gena's letters, but in informal conversation, Rust Belt Books and possibly Burning Books expressed interest in helping out. So, we need to follow up on those leads.

Assignment list is as follows:

Nissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Buy a couple used book copies. REMINDER: REQUESTS REIMBURSEMENT FOR THOSE COPIES.
Adrienne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Buy a couple more used book copies. ● Follow up with Burning Books.

Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask D if she is still planning to buy 5 used book copies. ● Follow up with Rust Belt Books.
Carolyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Buy 2-3 used book copies.

Venue:

Earlier this week, Amanda and Ana visited the Colored Musicians Club to start plotting how we might set it up for our event. Amanda actually drew a diagram of the venue to share with the group. **(Amanda, would you take a pic of that diagram and post it in the Facebook group?)** I will now try to describe said diagram in words.

- The venue is on the second floor, up a flight of stairs. The stairs contain a wheelchair lift, but Ana was not able to ask George at the CMC if it works, because he was conducting a big band that night.
- In front of the stairs, across from the stage, is a wall. Most of the walls are white, but this one is black. Amanda thinks this would be a good wall to house the interactive map.
- There are windows everywhere, and lots of natural light. We will get a lot of nice late afternoon/evening light for our event.
- There are two single stall bathrooms in the venue. They appear large enough for wheelchairs, but do not contain bars. They are also SUPER gendered--one is pink, and one is blue.
- The venue is bigger than we expected--big enough for a reading nook, even! Most of our setup will involve moving chairs around to maximize space and flow.

While we were talking about the venue, Anne Marie volunteered to put together a sign-up sheet for assorted event duties. That sign-up sheet should be going up in the Facebook group in a few days. So far, Amanda has volunteered to be our MC, while Nissa will be our stage manager. There are also a number of other duties, for which we still need help.

Ana	Ask George at Colored Musicians Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What time we can be at the venue to set up. ● To make sure the wheelchair lift works for the event. ● If we can make the bathrooms unisex for the duration of the event.
Anne Marie	Post sign-up sheet to Facebook group, and recruit people for assorted duties.

Live Performances:

Last week, we said our goals for this meeting were:

- Anne Marie, Brigitte, Carolyn, Amanda, and Nissa would decide on which quotes will be performed.
- All potential speakers would be asked to perform.

We have partially completed the goal of asking speakers to perform. Here is our list of performers so far:

Will Perform	Can't Perform	Not Yet Asked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Speser • Robbie Butler • Julie Carter • Sherri Darrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camille Hopkins • Kathleen McGriff-Powers • Renee, Sherri's partner ("but she has a lot to say") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D and BILA members • Spectrum members (Adrienne is going to meeting on Friday)

The good news is that we have some real powerhouses performing with us. The less good news is that the list is still too small, and way too white. In order to expand both the number and scope of performers, we will ask D, Jessy, Isabel, Penny, and Gina, if they want to perform. Adrienne has also offered to perform.

Although each member of the performance planning committee has found some quotes they liked, the quotes have not been finalized for the performance. The group, including Amanda, has promised that they will finalize the quotes by this coming Monday. Our general plan for the performance: each performer will read a passage, and talk a little bit about what the book means to them. Amanda as MC will provide some context to the quotes (except in those cases where performers want to provide their own context). Throughout the night, the performance will be divided into two blocks. The first will begin at 5:30 with some opening remarks from Amanda, and the second will begin at 6:45.

Anne Marie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on quotes for performance, along with Brigitte, Carolyn, Amanda, Nissa, and Ana.
Brigitte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on quotes for performance, along with Anne Marie, Carolyn, Amanda, Nissa, and Ana.
Carolyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on quotes for performance, along with Anne Marie, Brigitte, Amanda, Nissa, and Ana.
Amanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on quotes for performance, along with Anne Marie, Brigitte, Carolyn, Nissa, and Ana. • Prepare opening remarks for performance.
Nissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a link to your chosen quotes to Anne Marie, Brigitte, Carolyn, Amanda, and Ana, to make sure they get incorporated.

Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on quotes for performance, along with Anne Marie, Brigitte, Carolyn, Amanda, and Nissa. • Ask D, Penny, and Gena if they want to perform.
Adrienne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Jessy and Isabel if they want to perform.

Interactive Map:

Amanda has almost finished drafting the map, and will have it finished by later this evening. When completed, it will be 45" by 60", and portrait shaped. When done, Amanda envisions that it will hang up on the black wall by the stage in the Colored Musicians Club. People will be invited to write their stories on pieces of paper, to pin the place on the map where the story took place, and then tie their story to the pin with pieces of ribbon or string. In order to facilitate this, the map will need to be mounted on either cardboard or foamcore.

As mentioned above, the primary issue with the interactive map is that no one from UB has responded to Ana's queries about printing. Ana and Amanda have agreed that they will wait until the end of the day on Wednesday to see if UB responds, and if they don't, they will start comparison shopping.

Additionally, Amanda will procure auxiliary materials--cardboard or foamcore, paper, pins, string--and Adrienne will draft a caption for the interactive map.

Amanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish drafting map. • If we don't receive a response from UB re: printing, comparison shop with Ana. • Get cardboard/foamcore, paper, pins, and string.
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call UB re: printing. • If UB doesn't respond, begin comparison shopping with Amanda.
Adrienne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft caption for interactive map.

Author Participation:

In a recent phone conversation with Adrienne, Madeline Davis expressed an interest in hosting a conversation about the book at her home on the weekend of August 4-5--which would be a perfect follow-up to the kickoff event. After some discussion amongst the group, we decided we would ask Madeline to set August 4 aside for the conversation. Adrienne will call Madeline later this week to set up the conversation on August 4 and confirm whether she is able to attend the kickoff event.

In addition, Liz Kennedy responded to an email sent by Adrienne several days ago, expressing an interest in participating in the event series, but Adrienne was unable to respond to her immediately because her car got wrecked. Adrienne will respond to that email this week.

Archive Exhibition:

This particular topic generated some confusion amongst group members. Amanda, for instance, understood the archive exhibition to be a zine-like product, containing the quotes performed at the event, which participants could use as an aid and take home as a souvenir. Other members, such as Carolyn, understood that we were going to be creating 1-3 “reading packets,” containing materials from the archives that would supplement and contextualize the book, which guests could peruse on their own time. Still others wanted to create a wall exhibition of archival materials for guests to look at.

As a group, we ultimately decided to incorporate all three ideas into the kickoff event. Carolyn is going to curate a reading packet titled *Butches and Fems in the Bar: Deleted Scenes*, based on her archival research. Anne Marie will put a title page on it, and arrange it nicely in a notebook she is donating for the purpose. Meanwhile, Ana and Jocelyn are going to put together an exhibition they are titling *Origin Stories*. This includes some notes from the late 1970s in which both authors are trying to find their bearings, some maps the authors made of social groups, and an Alison Bechdel comic that cites *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*. We will put the finalizing touches on both products during next Tuesday’s meeting.

The zine of quotes will not be done in time for the event kickoff, but will be made available on the website after the event is over.

Carolyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Curate reading packet on butches and fems in bars.● Send all relevant content to Anne Marie by Monday.
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Co-curate display on origin stories with Jocelyn.● Go to Madeline Davis Archives on Friday; get clear permission from Dan to copy and display archival materials.● Send all relevant content to Anne Marie by Monday.
Anne Marie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create title pages for reading packet and exhibition.● Print out all archival material.
Amanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create title pages for reading packet and exhibition.● Put together zine of quotes (doesn’t need to be done this week).
Jocelyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Co-curate display on origin stories with Ana.● Go to Madeline Davis Archives on Friday; get clear permission from Dan to copy and display archival materials.● Send all relevant content to Anne Marie by Monday.

Music:

Ana is still working on the playlist for the event, and promises to have it done by Thursday, July 19. She will ask George Scott at the Colored Musicians Club for advice on 1940s music, and do her own research on 1950s music.

This inspired Anne Marie to add a post to our Facebook invite, encouraging people to dress in their favorite style from the decades covered in *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*.

Remaining Events:

Although it isn't necessary to have every single event laid out on the calendar by the kickoff event, we should have a basic calendar available. At this point, we are thinking of having an event every 3 weeks or so. As such, our calendar looks like this:

- August 4: Conversation with Madeline Davis.
- End of August: Walking tour.
- Mid-September: Butch/femme dance and discussion.

By the meeting next Tuesday, we want to have a quarter sheet containing these events and their approximate dates designed, so that we can pass it out at the kickoff event.

In addition, Amanda has offered to set up a public discussion group on Facebook for participants in the community read, so that we can talk about *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* in between events.