



# Lesbian & Gay Archives of San Diego

"Perserving and Teaching Our History"

P O Box 4186  
San Diego, Ca 92104  
June 1989  
Issue No. 4

## Founder's Banquet Honors Jess Jesop

by Chris Spilsbury

"He felt needed and he was there," were the words Morris Kight used to deliver the key note tribute to Archives Coordinator and Gay Center founder Jess Jessop at the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center's First Annual Founder's Day Banquet, held May 19 at the Horton Grand Hotel.

The entire evening was remarkable. The program was excellent, and those attending brought with them, feelings of love, respect, dedication, and gratitude for a man who has given so much to the gay community of San Diego.

Morris, in recalling his many long years of association and experiences with Jess, built his remarks on the theme, "He Felt Moved To Do Something About It, He Was Needed, And He Was There!"

David Cohen presented several readings by Walt Whitman, one of Jess' favorite authors. As David got into *character*, one could feel the magic of being transported back in time to Whitman's era.

There were also well deserved acknowledgments from County and City officials. Ben Dillingham, Chief of Staff to Mayor Maureen O'Connor, presented Jess with a proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and the entire City Council honoring his accomplishments in so many areas. Other awards were presented by Jeri Dilno and Albert Bell with Bell presenting a certificate of appreciation from Board of Supervisors chair Susan Golding describing Jessop as "a sense of motivation to everyone around him."

The Board of Directors, and the entire staff of the Lesbian and Gay

Men's Community Center are to be congratulated for such an outstanding evening.

Besides being a wonderful evening of fellowship and camaraderie, this dinner not only honored the first director of the LGMCC, but any net proceeds are to be given, in Jess' name, to the building fund of his newest endeavor, The Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego.

The members of the Planning Committee of the Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego wish to express their sincere thanks for the honor bestowed upon our Coordinator, and for the substantial contribution to our building fund. It is doubly appreciated when we remember the constant ongoing needs of, and the work performed by, the wonderful people at *The Center*.

# First Annual LGASD Art Auction Held May 21st

Weeks of work went into the planning of our benefit *The First Annual Art Auction* held May 21.

As one entered the Ballroom of the Omni, it was clearly evident, that this was a well prepared event with quality material.

Our coordinator, Jess Jessop, the architect and primary developer of this affair, was most ably assisted by Craig Morgan, Gary Rees, Bob Ames, Del Totty, Kate Johnson and Deborah Zeyher (our display artists) and Joe Pascale.

Assisting Craig Morgan and Gary Rees with the auctioneering were Councilman Ed Struiksma, and Mr. Sal Giametta, Special Assistant to the Mayor. Our thanks to these fine people for their assistance.

We also want to express our appreciation to all those people at the Omni who helped, in every way possible, to make this as pleasant an experience as possible for everyone. Whenever we needed chairs, tables, easels, etc., it was as if the words "can't do" weren't in their vocabulary. Within minutes, our requests were taken care of.

We want especially to thank Lynda Earnest, Director of Catering and Convention Services; Rick Tunstau, Assistant Catering Manger; Ed Wiley, Manager of Omni Security; and the countless others of the hotel staff who were so gracious.

As the time approached for the auction to begin, we were all a little nervous, as it appeared that, despite all of our well-honed plans, we might have to pack up the treasures, and save them for another day. But then, a few good people arrived, and the

sound of the auctioneer's gavel was heard.

The auction itself was a qualified success. Almost \$5,000. was raised. There is no question that the items auctioned off would have gone for considerably more had there been a better attendance. Those who did come, and who were the successful bidders, got outstanding value for their money. Our thanks to those who supported this worthwhile event.

We also want to thank Larry Turner and Frank Dragula from the Gay Youth Alliance for their able assistance. And we're indebted to

James Cua, David Hollenbeck, Wally Dolan, Mike Killian and Ron Roher.

Planning Committee members of the LGASD, notably Kate Johnson and Debbie Zeyher (who guarded the valuables overnight at the Omni) and did many other wonderful things for this event, Tim Grummon, Dale Fleishman and Ron Jenkins, Norman Brown, Frank Shine, Harold Leigh, Del Totty, Bob Ames and Chris Spilsbury and Ben Taylor all contributed much time and energy in producing this happening.

Hopefully we've learned a great deal from this experience, and can build on this knowledge as we go on.

## Moore: Plans For Gay Pride

At a special dinner meeting held June 1st at the Big Kitchen, Doug Moore presented detailed plans for the Archives participation in this years Gay Pride Parade and Festival.

We will have a marching unit, with twenty-two banners and flags being carried by the marchers. At the rear of the unit a white convertible (courtesy of a friend of Frank Shine) will transport some of our members.

At the Festival grounds, we will have a 20' x 30' tent which will be divided into three sections. The larger, front section of the tent will display Archive materials, featuring a time-line of gay events, places, people, etc. through the years. (This will by no means be an exhaustive work, but is intended to be representative of "a gay presence throughout history.")

At the rear of the tent, there will be two visual/sound attractions. One section will offer continuous video

showings of many past local and national gay activities; the other section will offer a continual slide/sound presentation of local and national activities.

This will be the largest undertaking to date by the Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego. When you come to the Festival, June 10 - 11, we invite you to stop by, see the display, rest while you watch some film or slide program, and find out what the Archives is about.

The Planning Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank those persons on the 15/20 Staff, for all of their support and assistance on our behalf.

## Artist Donates

San Diego artist Jeff Palmer will contribute ten percent of total sales made at his San Diego and Los Angeles Gay Pride festival booths to the Lesbian & Gay Archives of San Diego. Palmer's *FOCUS Photoarts* festival booths will feature limited-edition signed originals and unsigned portfolio prints, and will introduce the Premiere Edition of *FOCUS photo-cards*.

Palmer is a native of southern California and a 20-year resident of San Diego. He has been photographing the male nude for five years and has an extensive portfolio. He has been active in San Diego's Gay community and has contributed his art, time and talents to many local organizations including Walks for Life, the AIDS Project, the Lesbian & Gay Archives, and the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center.

"As we enter the third decade of the 'Gay movement,' and as we continue to lose members of our community to AIDS, I feel that recognizing and preserving Lesbian and Gay history and accomplishments is a very important concern," says artist Palmer. "The link between the Archives and the Pride Festivals is a natural -- and I'm glad to be able to make a contribution."

## Archives Needs Home

by Chris Spilsbury

Perhaps you saw the three-quarter page article in Sunday's (May 21) issue of the *San Diego Union*, section D, Page 2. In bold headlines it stated, "Local archives may make life easier for lesbians, gays".

Staff writer Barbara Fitzsimmons then went on to recount Jess Jessop's story regarding the need for the archives, and what was hoped to be achieved with a successful art auction.

It's anticipated that we'll have more than just a "store front office". There needs to be a storage area for our wealth and volumes of material. A place where people can come and do research work, and where our archival business can be conducted.

Right now Jess' apartment is burgeoning with floor to ceiling book-cases of literature, file cabinets, etc. and he needs the space. We also have an abundance of other reference and archive materials in a storage locker in Clairemont.

If you have space to rent that might meet our immediate needs, or if you can send a donation to the Archives Committee to assist us in securing a place, you'd be doing a great deal to assure our positive place in the history of San Diego.

Please contact any one of the Planning Committee members listed elsewhere in this newsletter. YOU can make the difference and make this dream a reality.

### SOME USEFUL ARCHIVES PHONE NUMBERS

**Coordinator:** Jess Jessop, 280-7411

**Secretary:** Chris Spilsbury, 469-0266

**Treasurer:** Dale Fleishman, 278-3424

**Newsletter:** Bob Ames, 263,8591; Chris Spilsbury, 469-0266