



Lambda Archives of San Diego NEWSLETTER

"Preserving and Teaching Our History"

Giving Thanks, 2003: LGBT Achievements

by Sharon K Parker

The time of giving thanks is in full preparation. Families and friends make their plans to gather to share not only the meal but the feeling of camaraderie and to reflect upon the matters for which they are thankful. This is a scene that is echoed in millions of households across the nation, whether traditional, contemporary, avant garde, or just plain and simple! Here in San Diego, the scenes are really no different (our weather notwithstanding). Our LGBT community's offering of "special thanks" is decidedly different. LASD joins in celebration of important milestones in our history this past year - worldwide, nationally, statewide, and locally in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO:

The Center's 30th Anniversary

San Diego's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender(LGBT) Community Center ("The Center") - the nation's second oldest and third largest LGBT community center - is the hub, the cornerstone, a focal point within the San Diego LGBT community. From what began as a telephone and answering machine "hotline" in 1971, The Center currently serves thousands of individuals each year. Following the establishment of the hotline, Robert "Jess" Jessop and a group of caring and concerned men and women met to plan and pursue their dream of creating a center for gay San Diegans. For two years, they met and planned while still operating the hotline.

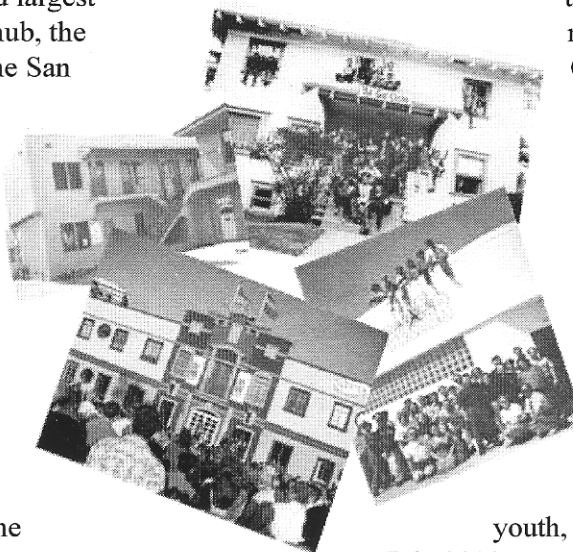
The Center opened in September 1973, as The Center for Social Services(CSS). Although known as the Lesbian and Gay Center of San Diego, filing papers and other legal documents reflected CSS due to the stigma with the use of the word "gay" (which donors were hesitant to use on checks). Also, there was the risk of refusal of a non-for-

profit status by the IRS.

The Center has withstood enormous challenges, and many moves - from Golden Hill, to a building behind the Brass Rail, to its location on Normal Street, and now its current home on Centre Street - to keep its doors open and provide services to San Diego's LGBT community. The renovations to the Centre Street location have made it a very welcoming space.

Responding to the interest to create a branch in North County, and supported by various organizations, The Center North County opened in 1998, and in March 2001, moved to a newer, bigger location in San Marcos. Additionally, in answer to the needs for specialized services for youth, the Hillcrest Youth Center opened in July 2000.

In January 2003, The Center began its 30th year of service to the San Diego LGBT community. Serving more than 12,000 people annually, with 50 staff and more than 400 volunteers, The Center is a beacon for the community and its members, a symbol San Diego's LGBT progress.



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President's Report

by Sharon K Parker

When we pause to consider the many things in life for which we are grateful during Thanksgiving, our thoughts turn to the people who make a difference in our lives. At the Lambda Archives of San Diego (LASD) we are indeed thankful.

We are thankful for the major donors who present us with sizable checks each year to provide some operating capital, the yearly "Club 100" donors whose steady donations provide necessary funding each month, and the general and couple members who add to donations and our membership base.

We are grateful for our Board members who continue the work of the visionaries who established the Archives in 1987.

We thank our volunteers whose selfless work helps us as we collect, preserve, and teach about our San Diego LGBT history.

We thank those community members and organizations who have donated their personal effects to add to our collections. These are the materials that provide a continuity of information for our San Diego LGBT community.

We are thankful for those community members who have come to visit and do research, and who have

shared the information by directing others to make use of our materials, thereby "spreading the word" in the community.

We are grateful that we share in the progress of LGBT communities everywhere. We thank those leaders who look at the "big picture" and plan for the survival of our community organizations.

Giving thanks for what we already have, we also think about hope for things to come. We have hopes that our community will continue to reflect tolerance, inclusion, and support that will sustain us. We also look forward to sharing a rich future while celebrating our history.

Our hopefulness for a positive future includes our wishes for more involvement by the members of the San Diego LGBT community, in your Archives. While we realize there are many who appreciate what the Archives has done for the past 16 years as the "keepers of the San Diego LGBT history" there are still others who have yet to learn about our role in the community. Our wish is that you who DO know, inform those around you who may not yet have seen the Archives and our collections, that they will come to see firsthand what we offer.

We also have hopes that more of you will volunteer to help us continue this critical work, to ensure that our stamp on the pages of history continues to be documented. From collections to books, website to ephemera, we have a variety of needs that would benefit from hands-on work by you, our fellow community members. We urge you to be thankful for your history, to help this history continue, and to get involved.

Thank you, and together we will assure being around for many more decades!

LGBT Thanksgiving

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San Diego City Council Approves Transgender Protections

The San Diego City Council voted unanimously on July 14, 2003 to amend the city's Human Dignity Ordinance (HDO) to protect the civil rights of transgender people. The HDO currently prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. The amendment adds gender identity, defined as "having or being perceived as having a gender-related identity or expression whether or not stereotypically associated with a person's actual or perceived sex."

San Diego will be the first city to use the word "stereotypically" in its language instead of the word "traditionally." San Diego's 1990 HDO covers employment, housing, city services, business establishments and educational institutions.

The HDO Amendment Coalition worked with Lisa Mottet, a legislative lawyer for the Transgender Civil Rights project at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They asked Mayor Dick Murphy, through the LGBT Advisory Board, to amend the HDO, and Councilmember Toni Atkins submitted the recommendations to the City Attorney.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California AB 205 and Civil Union Legislation

Governor Gray Davis signed groundbreaking and historic legislation on September 19, 2003 with the passage of AB 205 (Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003). Authored by Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) AB 205 provides domestic partners with most of the same rights/responsibilities as spouses in a civil marriage.

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LGBT Thanksgiving

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California AB 17

Governor Davis signed Equal Benefits Domestic Partner Bill Legislation on October 12, 2003.

Authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), AB 17 makes California the first state in the nation to enact equal benefits legislation. This bill will prohibit the state from entering into contracts for goods and services totaling more than \$100,000 with businesses that discriminate in benefits between employees with spouses and employees with registered domestic partners.

State high court backs Second-Parent Adoption

On August 4, 2003 the CA Supreme Court upheld the validity of thousands of adoptions by gay and lesbian couples, ruling that a popular adoption procedure used by same-sex couples is legal. In a 6-1 decision hailed as a major victory for gay rights, the justices said state law allows second-parent adoptions, an arrangement in which a birth parent keeps a child while also agreeing to have it adopted by a second parent. The court reversed a state appeals court decision in 2001 that had dealt a blow to gay adoptions by outlawing second-parent adoptions.

NATION:

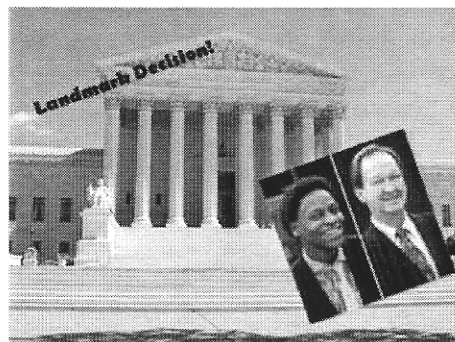
Supreme Court Decision

On June 26, 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5 to 3 with Justice O'Connor concurring with the majority that Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law is unconstitutional. Justice Kennedy wrote the majority opinion.

The ruling effectively strikes down sodomy laws in the 13 states that still had them. The decision overturns the Supreme Court's devastating

1986 ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. In that decision — which was laced with anti-gay language and has been used against gay people in most civil rights cases since — the court upheld Georgia's sodomy law in a case brought by a man who was arrested while having consensual sex in his home with another man.

The ruling closed the door on an era of intolerance and ushered in a new era of respect and equal treatment for gay Americans



Episcopal Gay Bishop

Church leaders confirmed a New Hampshire clergyman as bishop, the first openly gay man to hold such a position in the church. During a church convention in Minneapolis on August 5, 2003, the House of Bishops voted 62-45 to approve the Rev. Gene Robinson as the church's New Hampshire bishop. The House of Deputies, which is made up of clergy and lay people from throughout the United States, gave overwhelming approval to Robinson on Sunday and cleared the way for the House of Bishops to take a final vote.

Robinson, a 56-year-old divorced father of two, has been living with his male partner for 13 years and serving as an assistant to the current New Hampshire bishop, who is retiring. Robinson's diocese voted to name him bishop in June, but the church requires that a majority of convention delegates approve a bishop's election.

WORLD

Gay Marriage in Canada

An appeals court on June 11, 2003 ruled that Canada's ban on homosexual marriage was unconstitutional and hours later Michael Leshner and Michael Stark wed in a civil ceremony observed by Leshner's 90-year-old mother and about 50 friends.

The policy opens the way for same-sex couples from the United States and around the world to marry in Canada, which has no marriage residency requirements. The Netherlands has a long residency requirement, and Belgium only allows marriages of foreign couples from countries that already allow such unions.

Belgium Approves Gay Marriage Bill

On January 31, 2003 Belgium became the second country in the world to give gays and lesbians the right to marry. Parliament passed the legislation joining neighboring Holland in abolishing laws preventing gay marriage. The bill passed 91-22 in the Chamber of Deputies after passing in the Senate last year.

Belgium already was one of several European countries, including Denmark, Hungary, France and Portugal, which have laws recognizing same-sex unions and granting legal, tax and property rights.

Under the new law at least one partner must be a Belgian citizen. Couples who do marry and go abroad could face having their marriage not recognized. New York City is the only area outside of Belgium and Holland that will recognize a gay marriage from another jurisdiction. New York City also recognizes civil unions from other areas even though the state does not.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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- sustaining member \$120
- couple \$180
- general \$25
- couple \$40
- student/ltd. income \$10

Please bill my

Sustaining Membership:

- monthly
- quarterly
- annually

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

In addition to my membership marked above, I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ for the following purpose:

- used at the discretion of the board
- building / lease fund
- endowment fund
- acquisition of books
- bookplates available at \$20 each to read:

Total amount enclosed\$ _____

- Contact me about volunteer work.

How to Contact the LGHSSD

Telephone: (619) 260-1522

E-Mail: lghssd@aol.com

Web Site: Bookmark it !!

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~clgoyne/lghssd/homepage.html>

Board Meetings: Second Sunday of each month. Call for details.

Research: By appointment.

In This Issue

Giving Thanks for 2003

Newsletter Production: Sharon Parker, Fred Weir

NEW ADDRESS

LASD

1010 University Ave., Box 1885

San Diego, CA 92103-3395

(619) 260-1522