



YEAR FOUR

In 2004, Rainbow History put more effort into collecting and preserving DC's LGBT history, working with researchers interested in our local history, and expanding our partnerships with other organizations. The year also brought new income sources through foundation grants and sponsorships.

As our activities in these areas have expanded, we have had fewer public panel discussions. However, more research has been done which has gone onto our website and the website has been used for online commemoration of events, people and organizations. Promotion of community history has also expanded through our highly successful history brochures and through expanded contacts with local and national organizations. Rainbow History has also been involved more controversially in preservation and policy issues. Unfortunately, we have also had a few disappointments in historic preservation issues.

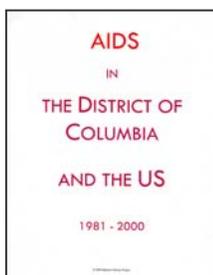
PROMOTING OUR HISTORY

In 2004, Rainbow History presented **programs** featuring

- Eva Freund and Craig Howell discussing the campaign to pass Title 34, DC's first human rights act protecting sexual orientation,
- Joan E Biren speaking of her life and career, including her experience of the Furies collective and her work as a documentarian,
- Jack Nichols speaking of his life in DC as a gay activist in the Mattachine Society of Washington as well as his later career in gay activism, and
- Paulette Goodman speaking of her work with PFLAG-DC and the PFLAG national organization.

Rainbow History also co-sponsored local **readings** by David Johnson, author of *The Lavender Scare*, and David Carter, author of *Stonewall: The Riot That Sparked the Gay Revolution*.

We were able to make available to members sharply discounted tickets to a Whitman birthday performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, which sets Whitman's verse to music.

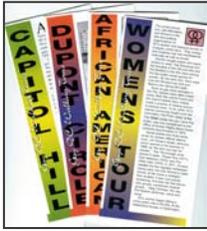


Rainbow History was a member of the planning committee for the month-long *Our Heroes: A Twenty Year Journey of AIDS Through Our Eyes* exhibit coordinated by the Max Robinson Center which was held at five venues during the month of December. As its contribution, Rainbow History created a twenty year timeline of AIDS history in metropolitan Washington, DC and compiled nearly 2,000 names of people who have died of AIDS or AIDS-related complications in the area.

Rainbow History completed five brochures on aspects of local LGBT history in 2004. It is Rainbow History's policy to print these brochures only when we are able to cover at least 50% of the cost through community donations. The brochures are:

- Dupont Circle, introduced at the American Historical Association's annual conference at a reception co-sponsored with the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History, and sponsored by Lambda Rising, through two printings, (3,000 of 12,500 printed have been distributed);
- South Capitol Street, which is available only on the website because no local sponsors were found for the printing;
- Capitol Hill, now in its second printing and sponsored both times by the Capitol Hill Community Foundation (2,500 have been distributed, of 5,000 printed);
- African-American history, introduced at DC Black Pride, and nearly 100% funded by individual donations from the African-American LGBT community (2,400 distributed of 2,500 printed); and

- Women's History, 50% funded by community donations (2,500 distributed).



Brochures are distributed by Rainbow History members, through the Washington Convention Center, the City Museum, the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, and Lambda Rising. We are into the second printings of both the Dupont and Capitol Hill brochures and about to reprint the African American brochure as well. As the brochures are completed they are added to our website. Upcoming brochures will focus on Walt Whitman in Washington and on important sites in the drag (male and female) community.

We have done three walking tours based on the brochures, including a Dupont walk as a fundraiser for Youth Pride.

Rainbow History participated in the annual Youth Pride Day with a booth at the event. For Black Pride we placed an ad in the program. For the first time, we did not have a booth at the Capitol Pride festival, because of the expense and the time required. We submitted eight nominations for the annual Hero of Pride award and were very pleased that four were selected: James Crutchfield, Jerrie Linder, Ric Mendoza-Gleason, and Buddy Sutson. A surprise was that Mark Meinke was also named a Hero of Pride.

RESEARCHING AND ARCHIVING OUR HISTORY

Research - Rainbow History research has created a detailed survey of the *Washington Blade's* thirty-five year history, available on the website and in print copies. In commemoration of *Blacklight's* twenty-five years of covering the DC and national African American gay community a survey of the publication's history was published on the website. The website's coverage of the 1979 March on Washington and the Third World Conference was expanded for their 25th anniversary, including soundbites from rally performances and the Third World Conference.



We are also increasingly a resource for graduate students and researchers. In the past year, we have provided documentation, contacts, and other support to five PhD candidates and several journalists.

Website – Rainbow History's virtual archive on the Internet continues to expand as does site activity. Monthly hits on the website are up 22% over 2003 with a 45% increase in repeat visitors to the site. Although the number of page views are virtually unchanged from last year, page views are down 13%. This may indicate that those returning to the site are targeting specific pages rather than browsing the site.

All new research and many newly acquired documents go directly to the website. Unfortunately, this proliferation of material has made the site somewhat unwieldy. A much needed re-organization of the site is being undertaken through the generosity of Rainbow History member, Joe Rawson.

Collections – Rainbow History expanded its collection of *Blacklight* issues through the purchase of 14 additional issues. In addition, as part of a donation of National Coalition of Black Gays records, A Billy S Jones included copies of *BLK* and of NCBG's own publication *Blackout*.

Joan E Biren donated her collection of lesbian-oriented musical audiotapes and many topical materials which have been added to our files. JEB also donated the one issue of *The Furies* newspaper which we were missing.

Member Maryl Kerley has donated the organizational archives of the Gay Women's Alternative (1980 – 1992). The papers provide a view of the planning and activities of GWA's leaders.

Member and Advisor Bob Summersgill made a major donation of early gay activist publications, principally the *Mattachine Review* and *One* which constitute a very important resource for researchers and students.

Our photo archives on the website continue to grow thanks to the generosity of Patsy Lynch, Jack Nichols, and Bob Dardano. The photos provide important visual documentation of our history.

We are beginning to create much needed finding aids for the collections in our keeping. The first finding aid was for the Pennington papers.

Unfortunately the *Blade* indexing project has been postponed due to problems in organizing the input of data collected. We hope to return to this project when the problems are solved.

Preservation— Efforts to gain historic preservation status for Dr. Franklin E. Kameny's home have been postponed.

At the beginning of the year, Rainbow History launched an attempt to save what it mistakenly understood to be the site of the Furies collective. The effort was useful in building relationships with local historic preservation organizations. We were relieved to discover that that actual Furies building was in fact in good condition.

Our most successful preservation project to date has been the preservation and copying of the *Friends Radio* tapes. As of January 2005, we have preserved 41 programs or outtakes of *Friends*, some of which are very interesting historically for understanding the creation of such community institutions as GAA, the Gay Men's VD Clinic, Gay Youth, and other organizations.

PARTNERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Rainbow History's relationship with the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History (CLGH) has blossomed during 2004, beginning with a joint reception during the AHA convention in January. Rainbow History is now a member of CLGH and is encouraging other community archival and historical organizations to join as well. CLGH serves as a resource for issues affecting Rainbow History.

Our close relationship with the Academy of Washington continues. The Academy held its second annual fundraiser for Rainbow History in October, raising \$2,000, and awarded Rainbow History a Golden Boy trophy for community service.

We have a developing relationship with the DC Center, the new LGBT community center, which co-sponsored Jack Nichols' public presentation in June. The DC Center has asked Rainbow History to be a part of its planning committee.

Brother, Help Thyself (BHT) generously awarded us \$3,200 to cover equipment purchases for the oral history collection and to help cover storage costs. Lambda Rising Bookstore has been an unfailing sponsor of the Dupont Circle tour brochure. The Wessel Family Foundation made a very generous unsolicited donation to support Rainbow History. The Capitol Hill Community Foundation has twice supported publication of the Capitol Hill brochure. The Humanities Council of Washington, DC awarded us a grant to support an exhibition of historic photographs by local photographer Patsy Lynch (unfortunately lack of a venue aborted the exhibition).

ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS

The Chair is indeed learning to delegate. Member Bob Summersgill has taken charge of two groups organizing the indexing of the *Washington Blade* and the preservation of the Friends radio tapes. Board member John Olinger has taken over press and media work. Board Secretary Jeff Donahoe has taken over most of the correspondence, and Board Treasurer James Crutchfield continues his much appreciated work keeping the books and managing the annual audit.

In 2004, the executive board adopted a three year strategic plan detailing goals for that period.

The Advisory Board met twice in 2004 and was of tremendous help in planning the *Friends Radio* preservation project and in reviewing the new strategic plan. Members of the Board are an important resource for RHP and give unstintingly of their time and energy to support our projects. The next Advisory Board meeting will be in March 2005.

Following the annual March 2004 meeting, the RHP Executive Board became

Mark Meinke, chair
John Olinger, vice chair
James Crutchfield, treasurer
Jeff Donahoe, member
Ric Mendoza, member

Cheryl Spector, member
Peter Share, member

FINANCIALS. (UNAUDITED FIGURES)

Income Rainbow History Project's income grew beyond expectations in 2004, in large part due to the \$8,517 received as a memorial to Bruce Pennington and to our success in winning small grants. One grant award was returned because we were unable to mount the exhibition of Patsy Lynch's photographs.

Total Income for the year was \$20,165, well over three times the previous year's income. Of this amount, 52% was restricted funds, primarily for the *Friends Radio* preservation project and for brochure printing. Unrestricted funds, including the funds raised by the Academy and the Wessel Family Foundation funds, were 21% of the total. Grants constituted 22% of total income: this was the first year that we applied for and received grants. Just over 3% of income was attributable to membership dues.

Expense Expanded income has allowed us to undertake more aggressive preservation of the *Friends Radio* tapes and to publish a wider range of history brochures. We have also been able to afford an expanded website and purchase of documents for our collections.

Expenses for the year were \$13,633, again well above previous years' levels. Printing brochures cost Rainbow History nearly \$4,000 (29% of the total). Preservation of *Friends Radio* tapes cost us \$2,517.50 last year (19% of total expenses). Storage costs were \$1,709 (12.5% of expenses) and equipment purchases were \$880 (6.5% of expenses). Insurance was \$1,350 (10% of expenses).

At year end, Rainbow History had \$3,178.30 in its checking account and \$8,797.10 in a money market account.

Mark Meinke,
Chair