



Lesbian and Gay HISTORICAL SOCIETY of San Diego

NEWSLETTER

"Preserving and Teaching Our History"

Mike Passante and the San Diego Pool Association: A Commitment to Community

by Sharon K Parker

Recently, LGHSSD was a grateful recipient of funds raised by the San Diego Pool Association (SDPA) at its annual Celebrity Allstar Broomstick Tournament. The \$1,300 donated to the LGHSSD was due in large part to the efforts of Mike Passante and his long involvement with the SDPA. Mike shared information with me about the SDPA and his involvement with the San Diego LGBT community.

Mike explained that the San Diego Pool Association (SDPA) began in 1978 as a way to bring business into the bars on Monday nights. The first sponsors were Brass Rail, Shadows, Club 540, Nickelodeon, Diablos, and Barbary Coast.

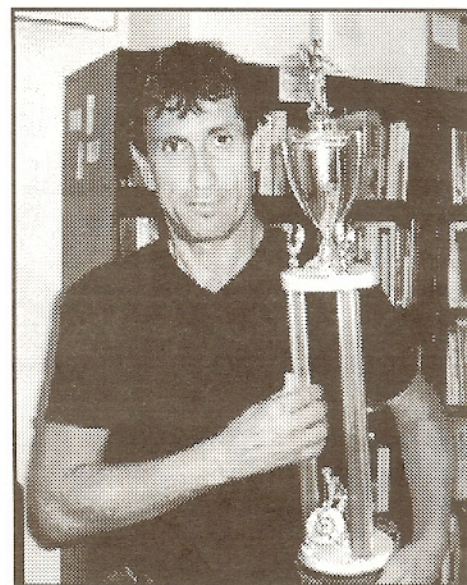
The group originally called itself Stick Stokers, and grew within a couple of years under the leadership of David Hackney into 32 teams.

Mike joined in 1980, having moved here from Tucson, and played out of Saloon 3 on Fern St.

In the early 1980s the group changed its name to the San Diego Pool Association and under the leadership of Fred Harris strengthened the league's rules and by-laws.

I asked Mike why the SDPA has lasted so long. He attributes its longevity to the ability of its board to adhere to its bylaws, its commitment to preserving its history, and in maintaining its programs and traditions.

As the AIDS crisis began to take its toll on the league's membership, Mike felt the need to have the SDPA help raise money for those in need. Along with board member Doyle Fisher, they started the Celebrity/All-Star Broomstick Tournament. Since 1985 the Tournament has raised over \$30,000 for nonprofit organizations. Over the past 18 years Mike has



Mike Passante holding the 1984 West Coast Challenge IX Team Championship trophy. He was captain of the Mr. Dillons team.

(Photo 2002)

served 16 seasons as board member, 11 of those as president, and he is responsible for many changes to the

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See Bonnie Zimmerman's Lesbian Herstory Slideshow

"Amazons, Dykes, and Women Loving Women"

What: A fundraiser for LGHSSD. \$10 donation, \$5 for students.

When: Sunday October 13th, 7: p.m.

Where: Joyce Beers Community Ctr.

The LGHSSD is pleased to host "Amazons, Dykes, and Women Loving Women: A Lesbian Herstory Slideshow" by Professor Bonnie Zimmerman. This lively and entertaining program chronicles the lives of many significant women throughout history.

While including material from her several previous showings during the past decade, Bonnie has added much new material. Those who have seen previous versions will want to return to savor it once again

Bonnie is a professor and gradu-

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