



Student work session with Sharon K Parker (Lambda Archives' former president and continuing Board member/volunteer)

Doug Moore: New Lambda Archives President

Message from the President page 3

Endowment Campaign Launched

Lambda Archives of San Diego has launched a \$20,000 Endowment fundraising campaign that is off to a powerful start. One longtime member has pledged to match \$10,000, dollar for dollar. This has led to more than \$8,000, or 40% of the goal already being deposited in the Archives' Endowment Fund at The San Diego Foundation.

More on page 2

Putting the "B" and the "T" into an LGBT Archive

by a Bisexual Student Volunteer

Story on page 2

Donor Offers \$1000 to Match New Memberships!

A member of Lambda Archives has offered to donate \$25 for every new membership, expanded membership, or renewal of a lapsed membership paid in 2006. (An expanded membership is one that moves up to a higher level of contribution.)

More on page 3

UCSD Expert Volunteer to Head "Collection Development"

The primary function of an archive is to gather and preserve historical records. And things just got a whole lot better at Lambda Archives with **Arvid Nelsen** taking charge of collection acquisition, or "Collection Development," as it is professionally called.

More on page 3

Student Volunteers Pour In

What the Students' Experience Was Like

Students at SDSU Volunteer at the Lambda Archives

When the initial call went out, just three students (of 39 total) volunteered their time at the Lambda Archives. But that number didn't last long – it mushroomed to 20 student volunteers once talk of the experience crept into class.

Frank Nobiletti teaches a class at San Diego State University on Gay and Lesbian History and Culture. As part of a research project, the students could write a paper or volunteer at Lambda Archives and write a shorter analysis. More than half the class had volunteered.

Lambda Archives Needed Volunteers

Nobiletti had considered the volunteer work to be an opportunity for students to experience history, but he said later that he had never expected the profound effect the experience would have on so many of the students. "It is as if we stumbled on a perfect fit. Lambda Archives was in need of more volunteers. And we had always wanted to provide more educational options for the students and other youth of the area. By providing this opportunity to a group that had already worked together in class, the effects multiplied for both the students and the Archives.

More on page 4

Volunteer & Visiting Hours:

1st & 3rd Thursday of
each month: 6:30–8:30pm

1st Sunday of each month 11am

except on holiday weekends

Other times by appointment

Email or call for more info.

(See last page)



Arvid Nelsen

Chair of Collection Development

Endowment Campaign Launched

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A Safeguarded Fund

Lambda Archives' Endowment Fund began in the mid-1990s, and currently has \$42,000 securely held in perpetuity to produce annual support for the operating budget. One of the benefits of donating to the endowment, the Archives' Treasurer explains is, "People sometimes are more interested in giving money for endowments because they know that the money will be safeguarded long-term and not spent in the short term."

An archive, as a vault of community records and history must by necessity be a financially conservative organization. It is meant to preserve the community's primary sources and records indefinitely.

Proud of a Bare Bones Budget

For more than ten years Lambda Archives has basically

operated on an annual budget of less than \$10,000. The income has been provided by strong membership financial support, endowment income, and various grants.

Each year, the last \$1,000 or so has been a struggle to raise. With the campaign's successful conclusion, if The San Diego Foundation's past investment success is any indicator, there will be an extra \$1,000 (adjusted for inflation continuously) guaranteed annually. Any additional income beyond that, The San Diego Foundation automatically reinvests in our fund to keep the endowment growing more than inflation.

The San Diego Foundation has done an excellent job with the investments it manages for many San Diego non-profits, including Lambda Archives. This fundraising campaign is part of *Endow San Diego*, The San Diego Foundation's massive campaign to strengthen non-profits in San Diego.

How to Contribute

If you are interested in contributing to Lambda Archives' Endowment Campaign, please use the form on the last page. Every dollar donated provides financial security for various future endeavors. Already, besides the matching grant, various donations of \$1,000, \$500, \$200, and \$50 have been received. Lambda Archives hopes to successfully conclude this campaign as soon as possible.

With all the extra archival work now in progress by the college student volunteers, as well as the growing number of community and professional volunteers, there is an increasing need for costly but crucial archival, acid free supplies to preserve San Diego's precious LGBT history. This will ensure that the richness of our communities is never again invisible to the upcoming generations.

The last time we ran an endowment campaign we achieved our goals. Firmly believing it

A New Brochure:

Thank You, Qualcomm!

Lambda Archives would like to thank Qualcomm for its generous grant to cover the cost of the wonderful new Lambda Archives of San Diego introductory brochure.

If you would like one, or several, to give to friends or put out in your office, please let us know.

can be done once more, the Treasurer of Lambda Archives states, "We were successful then, and we're optimistic about reaching this level again."

He sums it up best saying, "Our organization is all-volunteer. We have no paid staff and no permanent people doing fund-raising. So, we rely heavily on the generosity of the community, and having a major donor provide us with a dollar-for-dollar matching program is an opportunity that should not be wasted."

Putting the "B" & "T" into an LGBT Archive

by a Bisexual Student Volunteer

Lambda Archives is home to many different types of people: gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender are all reflected in the Archives. Although the Archives holds a greater number of gay and lesbian materials and archival collections, the bisexual and transgender sections are definitely gaining strength.

Lambda Archives is more than just information and history. The Archives is a place where gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals can communicate, bond, and form lasting friendships. The Archives not only helps with social interaction, but also promotes a sense of personal belonging and as well as an understanding of oneself.

Celebrating Transgender Life

One of the many diverse individuals who volunteers at the Archives is Christina. Christina, a young member of the transgender community, feels that the Archives is just what the community needs. Christina explains, "The transgender community is an isolated world, but the Archives bring warmth and comfort." She also feels that the Archives could help the community celebrate life among transgenders. She says "The transgender community needs more than a Day of Remembrance; they need ways to celebrate their lives." Traditionally, the transgender community focuses on fighting violence and discrimination rather than celebrating unity among its members. Christina believes the

Archives can help achieve this celebration of community.

A Bisexual Community

Not only is the Archives making a place for transgenders, but it also is inclusive of the bisexual community. To a newcomer, the bisexual community may seem to be in the beginning stages when compared to the lesbian and gay communities. And yet a strong bisexual movement dates back to the 70s and 80s, with much of it starting in San Diego.

The Archives, as a resource for and about bisexuals, aims to strengthen the bisexual presence in the LGBT community. In addition to holding some bisexual materials, Lambda Archives houses and cares for The Bisexual Archives, a separate, small but superb collection.

As a bisexual, I feel that acknowledgement for the bisexual community is crucial in order for it to grow stronger. Lambda Archives, with the help of more bisexual people, can create a more prominent bisexual community in San Diego. The bisexual and transgender communities can be proud that the Archives is making efforts to help better both communities.

If you did not get this newsletter by email. Either

1) you said you preferred a paper copy, or

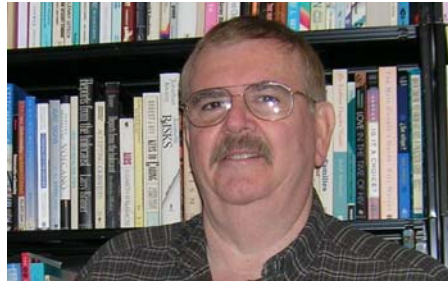
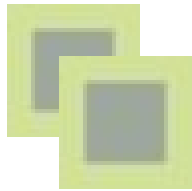
2) we don't have your email address. PLEASE email us at newslet-ter@lambdaarchives.org

Donor Offers \$1000 for New Memberships!

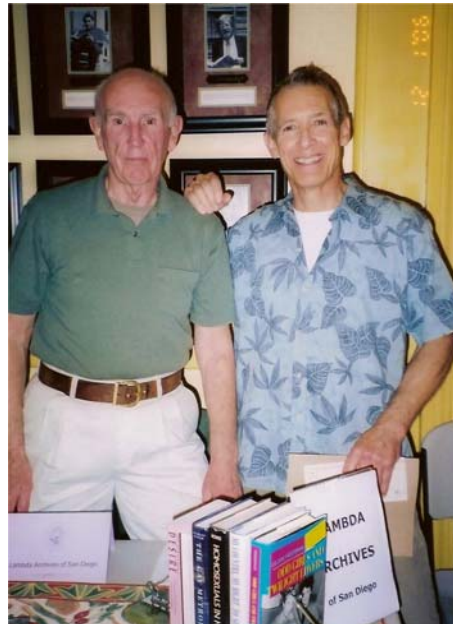
Continued from page 1

So if your membership has lapsed, or if you have not yet joined but have been thinking about it, now is the time to act! Lambda Archives' membership fees are not high, but the preservation you are supporting is the gold standard. See membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

With two generous matching offers, one for the endowment, and the other for memberships, new and renewed, why not join (or renew) AND give to the endowment fund campaign to stretch your gift and San Diego's LGBT archive's reach.



Doug Moore, Lambda Archives President



Frank Stefano, Membership chair, and Frank Nobiletti, Volunteer Recruitment and Placement chair at a recent event at The Center

A Message from the President

I am pleased to welcome you to our newly formatted and now electronic newsletter. Don't worry! For those of you who do not want to receive it by email, we are happy to send it through the mail.

If you have received it by email, why not print it out for breakfast or leisure reading! Lots going on, and especially read the students' poignant comments.

A great deal has happened since the last newsletter that you received from us. I have been honored to follow in the footsteps of former LASD President Sharon Parker. It has been a rewarding pleasure to have served as the Lambda Archives President for the past year. We are continuing to build upon past efforts.

Here are just a few of our activities over the past year.

- We have several strong new board members, including Arvid Nelson, a professional archivist who is heading our collection development efforts.
- An anonymous donor has pledged a dollar-for-dollar endowment matching challenge that promises to increase our endowment by \$20,000.
- New board member Frank Stefano has launched a matching program of \$1,000 for new and renewing LASD members.
- We have revitalized our volunteer program with the energy and enthusiasm of university students.
- And we've launched the new newsletter which you are now reading.

Your Archives is continuing to do its core job of preserving, protecting and teaching our history. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us in preserving San Diego's LGBT history.

UCSD Expert Volunteer to Head "Collection Development"

Continued from page 1

Arvid is Coordinator of Technical Services at the Mandeville Special Collections Library at UCSD. His primary responsibility there is acquisition and cataloging of materials. He also functions as the Classical Studies Librarian for the Social Sciences and Humanities Library on UCSD's campus. Arvid earned a BA in Greek and Latin, and then received his MA in Classics and a Masters of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Team

Arvid's charm, people skills, and high levels of precision and knowledge will serve the community well through Lambda Archives.

Arvid has the help of Victoria Bustillos, [see photo] a student at SDSU, who is working with him in collection development. Victoria was a volunteer last year at Lambda Archives, and is known as a very personable and competent volunteer.

The Goals

Collection Development's initial goal is already in process: to work with the board to clarify collection development goals. Arvid and Victoria's next goal is to strengthen current relationships with San Diego LGBT organizations. They intend to ensure the Archives has a representative selection of the various LGBT communities in the San Diego region.

Improving Access

Beyond collections, Arvid Nelsen would like to offer his experience in cataloging and technical services to Lambda Archives in order to broaden access to the collections. Online cataloging and more detailed access to bibliographic records, for instance, are just examples of how this could be done.

Not since the leadership of the late Bruce Kamerling has the Archives had such professionally trained and experienced archival leadership.



Board member Ricardo Moran with Victoria Bustillos of Lambda Archives' Collection Development at The Center

Recent Researchers: Chicago Woman Works on Health in the 70s

Who has recently been using Lambda Archives' collections? A graduate student from Chicago; someone who helped found the Center more than 30 years ago; and an upper division SDSU student doing research for his historical overview of Pride in San Diego.

Exploration for her PhD

Katie Batza, [see photo] is a graduate student in history at the University of Illinois who works under the renowned gay scholar and author John D'Emilio. Batza came to San Diego from Chicago to visit Lambda Archives.

Batza was doing exploratory research for her dissertation. At first she was interested in the Jess Jessop collection, as well as the Bernie Michels papers, and the early Gay Center (now *The Center*) collection, which she had seen listed online at Lambda Archives' Website.

Women's Health Issues

Batza was also exploring women's health issues in the

1970s and reviewed oral histories, including Diane Germain's, which led her to other women in the earlier community. She hit pay dirt with a video retrospective on Women's Health issues in lesbian San Diego. Lambda Archives opened the collection for Batza on a national holiday because this was the only way to fit her traveling schedule. We aim to please.

Early San Diego Activist

Gary Gulley was one of the founders of the community's institutions in the 1970s. He recently visited the Archives to find an article on an old friend, published in *Update* years ago. Gary then made arrangements to donate some photos he had of the San Diego movement in the 70s, including some of the first Pride Parades and the first Gay Center. He is in the process of donating even more photos.

Young SDSU Student Scholar

SDSU History Professor Paula De Vos' student Addam Jordan-Burns offers another example of recent research. Addam used

Lambda Archives' collections to write a History of Pride Celebrations in San Diego, entitled "Before the Parade Passes By: 30 Years of the San Diego Pride Parade." Professor De Vos believes Jordan-Burns' excellent paper, done for a Writing of History seminar, deserves submission to the *Journal of San Diego History*. Addam has given the Archives a copy of his essay.



Katie Batza, U. of Illinois, preps for her dissertation at Lambda Archives

Experiences of Student Volunteers

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Students Affected Deeply

Students spoke of the Archives experience's impact on their self-esteem and comfort with themselves, their pride in the LGBT community, and their understanding of the telling of history. For some it was the first time they had ever had the opportunity to talk extensively with another lesbian. [See boxes of quotes on pages 5—7.]

Surprisingly to Professor Nobiletti, the Gay and Lesbian History and Culture class was comprised of as many heterosexual students as LGBT students. Nobiletti is used to the mostly heterosexual class makeup in the more general History of Sexuality classes he teaches, but did not expect such a mix here.

The group was also very mixed ethnically. There were African Americans and Filipino Americans, European Americans and a European, Latinos, Latinas, Japanese and French exchange students, and many more.

LGBT's Young Allies Seek Info

At a time when opponents to equality are trying to strip other civil rights communities from supporting LGBT rights, Nobiletti found it significant that the very allies who can most ably spread the word of equality to their own communities were quite amply and eagerly involved.

Why would such a wide range of students be interested in studying LGBT history so extensively? For one student it was having a gay uncle; another, a gay

brother. For several it was because they had lesbian and gay friends or teammates who were out to them. (There were a number of school athletes.) Some signed up because they admired the LGBT community, and others just wanted to know LGBT experiences and struggles better. The class was over-enrolled, with other students having to be turned away. Not too long ago a local LGBT journalist bemoaned the lack of teaching LGBT history at local universities. Clearly, reports in recent years by the local LGBT press of a lack of teaching LGBT history at local universities are not fully accurate.

Understanding History

Students learned about the historiographical process. One student noted, "I never knew

what went on inside an archive and how things were done." This experience also educated students on the importance of archiving and how much detail is involved with proper storage.

Working with personal or organizational collections and the ephemera (community "throwaway" flyers, and other handouts) were the most interesting work, according to several students. Discovering the details of someone else's life, and sometimes death – and having it laid out before you – was sometimes a jolt.

Several students commented on the impact of volunteering and pledged to continue to volunteer (and have) at the Archives or elsewhere in the LGBT community.

The various student reactions, as well as photos, are on the next few pages.

The Future Is Now: Student Volunteers Write about Their Experiences at Lambda Archives

I'm amazed at how much information the Archives has. It has everything from interviews, photographs, books, magazines, pamphlets, letters, news-letters, and the list goes on.
I think the Archives is a very important asset to LGBT society. Without it, LGBT culture wouldn't know how it got to where it is today.
Bisexual African American male Junior majoring in Psychology

... I didn't know that archiving was so labor intensive in that it required a special attention to detail. Everything, no matter how small, has to be logged and categorized so that anyone who happens to look for that particular subject or item will be able to find it with ease and know exactly where to look. Then there is the job of storing the items so that they won't be damaged in the future. This includes using acid free paper and dividers, acid free boxes, and acid free plastic picture display pages.
I am grateful for the opportunity to learn not only about how to archive materials, but how gay and lesbian history needs to be continually kept alive by the people working at the Archives.
European American heterosexual female Senior majoring in Criminal Justice to become a police officer

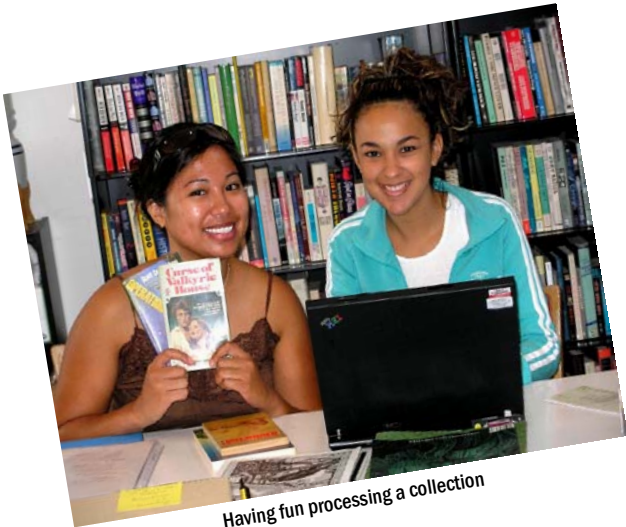
I never knew that a place like this even existed. . . . And even though I am a heterosexual, I did not see volunteering at the Archives as something that was going to be difficult. In fact, I feel that it even opened my eyes more and **now I have an even higher respect for the LGBT community.**

African American heterosexual female Junior majoring in Criminal Justice

When I first walked into the Archives I was quite surprised at all the materials and collections the room contained. **The room had such a wonderful energy;** it stirred for me emotions of excitement, curiosity, inspiration, and happiness.

It's been about seven years since I've been out but learning about LGBT history and experiencing new experiences in the community still has a profound emotional effect on me . . . I could not believe how much history had been gathered and that everything was run and put together by volunteers.

Latina lesbian Junior majoring in social work



Having fun processing a collection

Volunteering at the Lambda Archives was an interesting and **eye opening experience** . . . an enriching experience that has helped me think outside the box, that has stretched my comfort zone, and has **taught me to learn first and judge second.**

*African American heterosexual male
Senior majoring in Psychology*

My first thought was OK, I know very little of the gay community that I belonged to. . . . After having volunteered some of my time at the Lambda Archives in University Heights, I appreciate the community I belong to even more because of all the history that was compiled from the early 70s to today. Glancing through the old cut-out articles of the past, it opened my eyes to the reality of the struggles that gays and lesbians of the past fought for to get equality for same-sex couples.

The Lambda Archives . . . has given me a sense of belonging in a community and it also reassured me that there is nothing wrong in falling in love with a woman. I can now tell my grandchildren that I had the opportunity to read, touch, and participate in the building of the Gay Community of San Diego.

Filipina American lesbian Senior majoring in Psychology

The experience, for me, was somewhat surreal . . . The first thing that struck me was that even though these pictures were from an entirely different era, it seemed very similar to life today. I related to the pictures that I ran across of [Robert] Walsh and his friends. Aside from some drastic improvements in hairstyles, Walsh's life and friends seemed to differ very little from my life at parties and with friends.

It was not until later in the afternoon that I realized that Robert Walsh was noteworthy because he was the first man to file a discrimination suit in San Diego because of his HIV status. All of his belongings. . . were donated posthumously. This had a deep impact on me. Four years ago, two weeks after I entered Stepping Stone, a drug and alcohol treatment center, I found out that I had AIDS.

Digging through the history of Robert Walsh brought up a lot of emotion for me. I began to realize that we live in a very different time. I forget about the history of HIV. I forget the discrimination, the medical complications, and the societal stigmas that resulted from it . . . In the four years that I have been diagnosed, I have never been sick, I have never been shunned, and I live a full and complete life . . .

Submerging myself into the private life of Robert Walsh was a lesson for me. It was an opportunity for me to be thankful for the advances we have made as a community. **The experience that I had at the Lambda Archives of San Diego was probably the most powerful that I have ever had as it related to my HIV.**

European American gay male, returning Senior, majoring in Literature and Fine Arts

Looking through pictures from events in years past was fun, because I got to see what the movers and shakers were doing for our community 10 or 20 or 30 years ago. **It gave me hope because these people did what they did under much more pressure and stress, and look how much they accomplished.**

European American lesbian Senior Accounting major

I was particularly excited to be working on the subject matter given to me. I was fortunate enough to get to archive the "Lesbian Thespians" who performed locally. I am very interested in the theater, and have noticed that San Diego is becoming a thriving theater community.

Seeing that the history of San Diego's theater scene stemmed back that far was eye opening. On top of that, **having so much history preserved in a single box was an amazing sight for me.** I was able to see programs of past productions, notes, and pictures of these "Lesbian Thespians" at various functions. It was a complete joy to be able to take part in saving this bit of history for future generations because it was subject matter that I feel passionately about.

There is so much that I don't know about the gay community in general, let alone San Diego, and I think the Lambda Archives is a brilliant way for me to learn more.

Filipino American gay male Senior majoring in English to be a writer

My second visit was my favorite of all; I worked for four hours with other classmates sharing and discussing each other's collections. Since the Lambda Archives has great energy, it provided such a sense of comfort and sets the tone to discuss family, disappointments, or anything at all. . . . I laughed and I heard about other classmates' struggles and happiness with coming

On my last day I worked on the Bridget Wilson Collection. **We discovered that in the 70s there was a proposition being pushed that would ban homosexuals from becoming teachers.** We also read about how Jesse Jackson was speaking in support of Gay rights during his run for president.

. . . I gained a sense of pride for my homosexuality and I created a new set of friends. These eight hours have motivated me to volunteer in the LGBT community and the Lambda Archives. I am truly grateful for this opportunity to discover my community and its history.

Latina lesbian Junior majoring in Social Work

The volunteer work at the Lambda Archives completely changed my perspective regarding the LGBT community and it pleased me to participate in this great cultural and historical organization. . . .

LGBT culture is not just about sexual preference, but about good friendship and support from everyone in the LGBT group. I was actually very surprised that there were lots of rules in order to do volunteer work, such as we all had to wash our hands before starting to organize files and pictures, we should not eat or drink inside the room after we started the work . . .

Female heterosexual Japanese exchange Junior majoring in Psychology



Students file ephemera

Membership Application & Donations:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major Donor | \$250 | Business Membership: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Couple | \$180 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Member | \$25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Couple | \$40 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Limited Income | \$15 | |

In Addition to my membership above I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ for:

- Endowment fund
- General operating fund
- Other _____
- Contact me about volunteer work



Membership \$ _____

Contribution \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Lambda Archives is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Doug Moore | President |
| Dennis | Treasurer |
| Beth | Secretary |
| Sharon K Parker | Past President |
| Frank Nobiletti | Volunteer Recruitment /Placement |
| Ricardo Moran | Outreach |
| Frank Stefano | Membership |
| Aavid Nelsen/Victoria Bustillos | Collection Development |

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