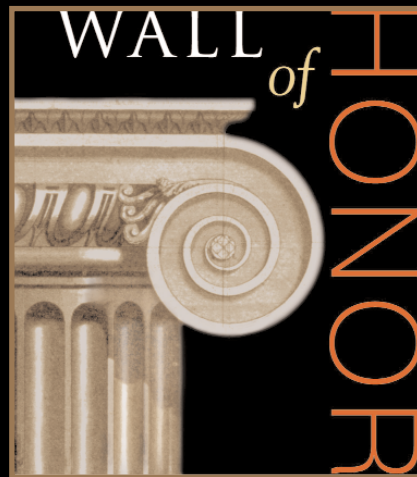


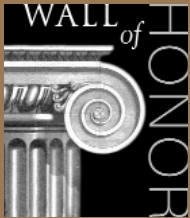
THOMAS "THOM" CAREY › JOHN
CIACCIO › BARBARA CRUSBERG ›
JOHN EBERLY › DON EDMUNDSON
› NEIL GOOD › DON HAUCK › TOM
HOMANN › ROBERT "JESS" JESSOP ›
CLINT JOHNSON › CORRINE
"MARTIE" MACKKEY › GARY REES ›
ROBERT "ROB" SHEPARD › DR. A.
BRAD TRUAX › ROBERT WALSH ›
JERRY WHITE



THE 2004 SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR

*“To understand the
present, examine the past;
without the past, there
would be no present.”*

- Chinese proverb



Special Thanks to

IMPERIAL COURT DE SAN DIEGO

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BENJAMIN F. DILLINGHAM, III

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Bernie Michels

George Murphy

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Cathy Paddock

Sharon Parker

Michael Portantino/Gay & Lesbian Times

Rachel Ralston

Judi Schaim

Bridget Wilson

THE SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor is the nation's only LGBT community memorial display dedicated to honoring and remembering important local LGBT community members. Located in The San Diego LGBT Community Center, The Community Wall of Honor was created in 2004 by Nicole Murray-Ramirez, The Imperial Court de San Diego and The Center. The Wall recognizes and celebrates those San Diego LGBT community members and LGBT community allies who have had a significant positive impact upon the San Diego LGBT community. The Community Wall of Honor is also intended to help educate community members, particularly our youth, about these significant historical persons, their contributions to the community, and their lives.

In the past our community was so busy fighting to survive that we had no time to record our history as it was happening. Today we are so focused on the future that we tend to let the past slip away from us. The Community Wall of Honor is about remembering, honoring and educating all of us about that history. It is a visible and lasting way of reminding our community of those whose efforts have brought us to where we are today.

This memorial display will enable us to honor, remember and commemorate members of our local community who have made significant contributions to our history. It is unique and special – to our knowledge no other LGBT community in the nation has taken the time to commemorate its local leaders. This unique Community History project is intended to be an evolving document recording the lives, challenges and victories of the San Diego LGBT community and is compiled with input and assistance from community members.



A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY & THE CENTER'S HISTORY

1970

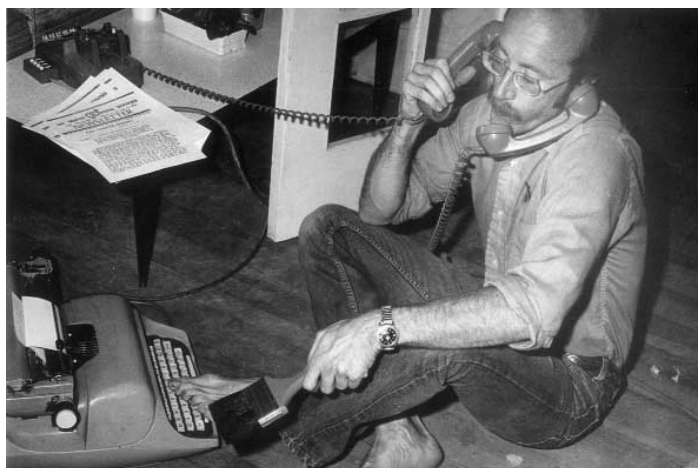
- The Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego is chartered on June 6. “Papa” John is the first full-time pastor. The Prodigal (a publication of MCCSD) becomes the first local LGBT publication with regular distribution.
- Gay Liberation Front (GLF) is founded by Bob Brunsting at San Diego State University.
- The Gay Information Center (San Diego’s first hotline) is established by Stephen Bell of Gay Liberation Front.
- Tres Femme (lesbian social organization) is founded.

1971

- Gay Liberation Front (GLF) pickets San Diego Police Department to protest police harassment of LGBT community members. It is one of the first organized public LGBT demonstrations in San Diego.
- An organization for LGBT Catholics and their friends, Dignity San Diego, is formed to serve the spiritual needs of its members. Patrick T. McArron is instrumental in its founding and serves as president for its first three years. Masses are held in Old Town.

1972

- MCC presents its first San Diego Follies, a review of community talent and outrageousness.
- The Planning Committee that will eventually establish “The Center” is formed in the Fall. In December, Bernie Michaels is the initial Executive Director of the Planning Committee. The famous answering machine is co-located with MCC San Diego.



1972: Jess Jessop starts The Center with an answering machine in his home.

1973

- Royal Court de San Diego (a social and fundraising organization) holds its first coronation, crowning Empress Tawny Tann and Emperor Omar at the Royal Inn Convention Center.
- San Diego Sun and Pacific Coast Times begin publication of news for the LGBT community.
- In June, Jess Jessop is established as the second Acting Director of The Center’s Planning Committee. Bernie Michels was the first.
- In October, The Center for Social Services opens at 2250 “B” Street with a variety of programs designed to meet the unique concerns of the LGBT community. Jess Jessop is the first Executive Director.
- Anne Babcock and Cris Bearden of Grossmont College launch a club called Gay Awareness in October.

1974

- Mr. and Miss Gay San Diego contest established.
- Teddy Roosevelt Republican Club of San Diego founded for LGBT political action by Nicole Murray-Ramirez.
- In the first LGBT Pride event in San Diego history, 200 San Diego men and women march through downtown San Diego to commemorate the Stonewall riots of 1969, which mark the beginning of the contemporary movement for LGBT rights. The San Diego Police Department refuse to issue a “parade permit” to gay marchers. The San Diego Union newspaper refuses to report on the “activities of criminals and perverts.”
- The Board of Directors of MCC appoints Deacon David Farrell to assume leadership of MCC.
- Gary Rees becomes Executive Director of The Center for Social Services.
- Pat Cluchy organizes a lesbian “rap” group at the San Diego downtown YWCA.

1975

- The San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC) is chartered. Attorney Bob Lynn and Gloria Johnson are largely responsible for its beginnings.
- Gay Students Union is established at San Diego State by Gary Gulley.

- The MCC moves into its own building at 1355 Fern Street. It is the first LGBT organization to own property in San Diego.
- Community activist Jeri Dilno appointed as Executive Director of The Center.

1976

- Stepping Stone is founded, a residential recovery program for LGBT alcoholics in San Diego. It is one of only a handful of recovery organizations for the LGBT community in the U.S.
- Gay Activists of San Diego (GASD) is formed to defend the right of every person to equal protection under the law without discrimination.



1977 Pride celebration is held at West Coast Production Company.

1978

- Lutherans Concerned (organization of LGBT Lutherans) establishes San Diego chapter.
- North County Gay Association is founded by Doug Moore.
- The first Lesbian Health Clinic of San Diego opens, staffed with women counselors and practitioners. It is in operation at the Beach Area Community Clinic.
- San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, is assassinated November 27, as is Mayor George Moscone. Over 200 lesbians, gay men, and supporters gather together for a memorial service at the Organ Pavilion in San Diego's Balboa Park.
- The newspaper of the San Diego Lesbian Organization, Thursday's Child, is launched. (It ceases publication in 1981).
- San Diego "Save Our Teachers" organization helps to battle Proposition 6, a referendum sponsored by Orange County State Senator John Briggs, that would ban gay teachers from California classrooms.
- Richard Burhenne appointed as Executive Director of The Center.



1977 Pride Parade marches through downtown.

1977

- Al Smithson, well-known San Diego attorney and columnist for the Pacific Coast Times, is appointed to the Democratic State Central Committee by Assemblyman Pete Chacon. Smithson is the first San Diego LGBT activist to serve on this committee.
- The West Coast Production Company (precursor to Club Montage) opens, November 11.



1978: Protesters gather to fight the Briggs referendum.

1979

- The San Diego Update launches its first issue.
- On August 23, Assistant Chief of Policy Burgreen announces that San Diego will hire qualified gay and lesbian persons as officers.
- Greater San Diego Business Association (GSDBA) is founded.
- Dr. Al Best runs for City Council as the first openly gay candidate for elected office in San Diego. Al finishes fifth in a field of eleven.
- Rob Shepard is appointed Executive Director of The Center.

1980

- A gay seniors group organizes to provide support to elder gays and lesbians, modeling themselves after a similar group in New York called Seniors Active in a Gay Environment (SAGE).
- After being essentially homeless for 2 years since their lease ran out, The Lesbian & Gay Center for Social Services moves from 1447 30th Street in Golden Hill to 3780 Fifth Avenue #2 behind The Brass Rail.
- The 1980 LGBT Pride celebration attracts 700 persons.



SAGE, a gay seniors group participates in Pride.

1981

- Front Runners, San Diego Chapter, is founded.
- A new Republican club, the San Diego Log Cabin Club, is formed in April.
- The Men's Center is founded in November. It provides social events, rap and discussion groups, counseling, referral services and community programs.

1982

- The Bisexual, a social support group, is founded in January.
- The youth disco Studio 9 opens in August.

- The Great Gay Music Festival is held in Golden Hall in the Community Concourse downtown. It is the first event of its kind to be held in city-owned facilities.
- The first meeting of local PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays) is held in December.
- HIV/AIDS (then called GRID or ARC) begins to be diagnosed in gay/bisexual men; men begin to die within 6-12 months of diagnosis.



Front Runners, San Diego Chapter, marches in Pride Parade.



1982: Pride Poster

1983

- Community members attempt to form a Gay Cultural Center. Organizers envision it to house an art gallery, motel, shopping mall, library, historical museum, theater, concert hall for local LGBT events, LGBT bank or credit union, meeting rooms, medical center and senior citizens housing. The coming HIV/AIDS epidemic places this goal on a community back-burner.
- San Diego Gay Softball League is formed.
- Shanti is founded — later to become San Diego AIDS Project.
- Blood Sisters is founded by the San Diego Democratic Club.

- Thought to be the first such blood drive anywhere, the donations of blood create credits for blood to be given to people with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 200 lesbians give blood.
- The San Diego Labor Organization Committee holds its first meeting in June. The committee is an attempt to bring LGBT rights issues into the labor movement and labor issues into the LGBT community.

1984

- America's Finest City Freedom Band is formed.
- San Diego County AIDS Assistance Fund is founded in February.
- The first meeting of Gay and Lesbian Veterans of San Diego is held.
- Police Chief Bill Kolender names an official liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Lt. Dave Spisak.
- Gay and Lesbian Latinos (GLLO) holds its first regular meeting in June.
- MCC holds its first service in Tijuana.



1984: San Diego AIDS Assistance Fund raises money to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

1985

- Athletes in Motion (AIM) is founded to promote organized athletic groups in preparation for the 1986 Gay Games II in San Francisco.
- MCC of San Diego selects Rev. Sheila Rawls as its first woman assistant pastor.
- San Diego's Men's Chorus is founded. The premier performance of the San Diego Men's Chorus is held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Hillcrest.
- Longtime activist and community leader Dr. A. Brad Truax is appointed to the San Diego County Human Relations Commission by County Board of Supervisors Chair Leon Williams.

1986

- Dr. Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace becomes the founding director of the San Diego Women's Chorus.
- Mayor Maureen O'Connor becomes the first elected official to march in the San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade.
- The Larouche Initiative (Proposition 64) is defeated.
- Superior Court Judge Mack P. Lovett issues orders which prohibit Sheriff John Duffy, his agents and employees from discriminating based on sexual orientation in employment, promotion or advancement, or in terminating an employee.

1987

- AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) San Diego is founded by Albert Bell for direct political action in the AIDS crisis.
- Pamela Ware, MSW, is appointed Executive Director of The Center.
- Dignity San Diego opens its Dignity Center in May at 4561 Park Boulevard.
- The Center opens H.A.R.P. (the Holistic AIDS Response Program).
- The Reverend Pat Rocco of the U.S. Mission opens the first shelter for homeless gays and lesbians in August at 2002 Irving Avenue. It is immediately filled to capacity. A second shelter opens in October at 643 26th Street.
- The Lesbian and Gay Archives (now known as the Lambda Archives) is founded in December of 1987 by Jess Jessop.
- The Center begins professional mental health services and one of the nation's first and finest LGBT mental health intern training programs in the nation. This program's success is largely due to the efforts of, first, Dr. Lois Gail, and in later years: Alan Brown, Dr. Jeffrey Leiphardt, Dr. David Blasband, Dr. Phil Rector & Dr. Delores Jacobs.



1987: Jess Jessop founds the Lesbian and Gay Archives. He is shown here with longtime activist Morris Kight.

1988

- The International Latina Lesbian Organization (ILLO) is established in January in San Diego. It promotes cultural, social, and philosophical efforts of Latina lesbians.
- Scott Fulkerson appointed as Executive Director of The Center.

As part of its nationwide tour, the Names Project's AIDS memorial Quilt comes to San Diego and is visited by thousands at Golden Hall.

- Community Actively Supporting with People with AIDS (CASA) is launched in May. It is founded by Neil Good and Norma Assam and will solicit contributions from large corporations to assist in housing and caring for people with AIDS.
- The first general meeting of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club of San Diego is held July 5th.
- Gay/Lesbian Asian-Pacific Islanders Social Support (GLASS) is founded by James Mitsua Cua.
- Gary Cheatham starts Auntie Helen's Fluff 'n' Fold, a laundry for people with AIDS.
- A new lesbian social group forms in June to provide weekly women-only space as an alternative to the bar scene. It is called For Lesbians Only (FLO).
- Police Chief Bill Kollender makes a three hour course regarding the gay/lesbian community a permanent part of the Regional Law Enforcement Training Center Program.



1988: Pride attracts thousands.

1989

- The first meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Association of County Employees is held January 24th.
- The Lesbian Health Project is founded at The Center.

- The first meeting of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU) is founded in San Diego by M. Corrine Mackey.
- The 4th annual National Gay Tennis Tournament is held in San Diego July 1-3 and is hosted by the San Diego Tennis Federation.
- Walk For Life (the precursor to AIDS Walk) is founded.

1990

- Studio 856, "a space for lesbian culture," opens its doors in February in downtown San Diego at 856 8th Avenue, providing a gathering place for lesbians to share their art and writing and to create and perform new works.
- The Center purchases a building at 3916 Normal Street. Mayor Maureen O'Connor and chief of staff Ben Dillingham are instrumental in obtaining materials and labor donations that will provide for the renovation of the building.
- The San Diego Police Department creates liaison officers for specific community groups in April, and Matthew Weathersby is appointed as the first liaison officer to the LGBT community.
- The Human Dignity Ordinance, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Wes Pratt and Abby Wolfsheimer, becomes law in San Diego on May 16, making it illegal to discriminate against any person in housing or employment on the basis of sexual orientation.
- The San Diego AIDS Project and AIDS Assistance Fund merge their operations in July to become the AIDS Foundation San Diego.
- Police officer John Graham comes out to the lesbian and gay press at The Center in Hillcrest in October. In December, Richard K. Edgil becomes the second San Diego police officer to come out while on the police force.
- On December 5th, the first person prosecuted locally for committing a hate crime against a gay man is sentenced to 60 days in county Jail.

1991

- "The Gathering," authored by activist/writer M. Corinne Mackey, is performed at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza.
- The Nations of the 4 Directions is founded, providing a support group for LGBT Native Americans.
- The arts organization Fresh Dish is established to support emerging local artists and present diverse LGBT performers from around the country.
- Openly LGBT law enforcement officers take part in the San Diego pride parade for the first time.

- Firefighter Patricia Stone and her lover police officer Natalie Stone come out to the public at the Coming Out luncheon held at WD's on October 11. Patricia becomes the first openly lesbian or gay member of the San Diego Fire Department and Natalie is the first open lesbian in the Police Department, and the third openly gay or lesbian officer.
- San Diego's first LGBT Halloween street party, Nightmare on Normal Street, is held in front of the then unfinished Center on Normal Street, drawing hundreds of participants.
- Walk For Life becomes AIDS Walk San Diego and finds a home at The Center.
- The Gay Community Defense Committee (Comite en Defensa de la Comunidad de Ambiente) is formed in December in response to raids of Tijuana gay-lesbian bars.
- Common Ground, an LGBT youth group, is founded at The Center.

1992

- Members of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Association of UCSD hold their first kiss-in on campus as part of their ongoing efforts to increase their visibility.
- San Diego's first LGBT legal association, The Tom Homann Law Association, is formed.
- Supervisor Leon Williams appoints activist Dr. Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace to the County Human Relations Committee, making her the second woman of African descent and the second openly LGBT person on the 15-member panel.
- The first public meeting of Mayor O'Connor's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Board is attended by over 100 persons.
- The Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center officially opens its new facility at 3916 Normal St. in October. The Center's 1992 budget is \$1,026,992.
- The Lesbian and Gay Archives opens its doors at 4545 Park Boulevard.
- The San Diego Unified School District Board of Education approves a policy prohibiting discrimination against both employees and students based on sexual orientation.

1993

- A new chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is formed in San Diego to monitor the news and entertainment media.
- The San Diego Unified School District board of trustees votes 5-0 to ban the Boy Scouts of America from running programs during class time.

- The San Diego regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) calls on the City Council to enforce the spirit of the Human Dignity Ordinance by revoking the subsidized use of public lands by organizations that discriminate based on sexual orientation.
- The San Diego State University Gay and Lesbian Student Union changes its name to the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Union to reflect its "openness toward members of the bisexual community and our acceptance of the diversity within our community."
- Openly lesbian candidate Chris Kehoe officially launches her campaign for the Third District City Council seat on April 10 in Trolley Barn Park in University Heights. The success of the fundraising campaign for Kehoe, spearheaded by Bill Beck, is remarkable and establishes the political influence of the LGBT community in San Diego.
- Karen Marshall is appointed Executive Director of The Center.
- One thousand San Diego LGBT community members attend the March on Washington on April 26.
- Collections from the San Diego Lesbian and Gay Historical Society are on display at the Public Library downtown, the first time its collections have been open to the community at large.
- The U.S. Postal Service approves a special cancellation for mail to commemorate San Diego Pride Weekend, July 17 - 18, only the fifth time in history and the first time on the west coast that the Postal Service has approved a special cancellation.
- The Diversionary Theatre acquires a new permanent space at 4545 Park Boulevard in University Heights.
- Christine Kehoe wins the Third District City Council election and becomes the first openly LGBT elected official in San Diego.



1993: The Center celebrates its 20 year anniversary.

1994

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation agrees to cease discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- The City of San Diego extends Domestic Partner benefits to all City employees.
- Superior Court judge rules Boy Scouts committed “arbitrary discrimination” by “wrongfully dismissing” Scout Leader Scott Merino.
- More than 500 lesbians hold San Diego’s first Dyke March.
- Qualcomm bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Moms & Me (and Dads Too) is formed at The Center by Carolina Ramos.
- Tijuana holds its first LGBT Pride Parade.

1995

- Christine Kehoe easily wins a second term on City Council with 79% of the vote.
- Bingo begins at The Center.



1996: Stonewall Rally at The Center on Normal Street.

1996

- North County Center opens at 150 Val Preda, San Marcos.
- Qualcomm extends same-sex domestic partner benefits to its employees.
- The San Diego AIDS Foundation closes.
- Protease inhibitors are introduced and deaths from AIDS begin to drop dramatically.
- The FBI appoints an agent as liaison to the San Diego GLBT community.

- San Diego sends over 130 athletes to the Gay Games in Amsterdam.
- San Diego Human Dignity Foundation created.

1997

- San Diego’s 1966 Anti-Cross dressing Law is repealed.
- Due to lack of program space, The Center opens a health counseling facility on Park Blvd. making it the 3rd Center facility.
- Hillcrest falls silent to honor the memory of Mathew Shepard, the 21-year-old Gay man murdered in Laramie, Wyoming.



1998: The Center purchases Craftsman Hall for its new home.

1998

- The San Diego Men’s Chorus makes history as the first openly gay choral group to perform at the White House.
- The Union Tribune rejects an advertisement for the movie “Billy’s Hollywood Screen Kiss.”
- San Diego Pride relocates from The Center to its new Park Blvd. home.
- The Center purchases Craftsman Hall for its new home and celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

1999

- Mama’s Kitchen, a local meal delivery service for AIDS patients, serves its 1,000,000th meal.
- Karen Marshall, The Center’s Executive Director, resigns after 6 years. Art Thompson replaces her as Interim Executive Director.
- An anti-LGBT observer at the Pride Parade hurls tear-gas at parade marchers.
- Financial instability plagues The Center’s move to its new home at 3909 Centre Street.

2000

- San Diego Mayor Golding and other city council members register opposition to Prop 22, the Knight Initiative Limit on Marriage Act.
- Stepping Stone opens a new 29 bed residential recovery facility. 200-plus GLBTQ youth attend “The Other Prom,” held at The Center.
- The Hillcrest Youth Center opens in July. The vision and leadership of Dr. Heather Berberet, Richard Burhenne, Scott Gross and Jim Zians makes this possible.
- Christine Kehoe and Toni Atkins, both openly lesbian, are elected to the State Assembly and Third City Council District, respectively.

2001

- The SD Police Department begins to actively recruit LGBT officers.
- The Brass Rail, San Diego’s oldest LGBT bar, celebrates its 43rd anniversary.
- The Center founds its Public Policy department. ME Stephens, Dale Kelly Bankhead, Sherry Wright, Barbara Cox and Rick Foglia are instrumental in its founding.
- The first Latin Pride festival is held in Balboa Park with over 2000 attendees.
- Art Thompson resigns as Executive Director. Dr. Delores Jacobs becomes Interim Executive Director and in December, after a national search, is selected as the Executive Director of The Center.

2002

- The Center changes its legal name from The Center for Social Services dba The Lesbian and Gay Men’s Community Center to The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.
- The Center eliminates a more than \$250,000 deficit.
- In September The New York Times announces it will print same-sex marriage announcements.
- The Center steps in to manage a troubled AIDS Walk in June. Benjamin F. Dillingham, Bill Beck, Nicole Murray Ramirez and others step up to fill the vacant board of AWSD and to save the Walk.

- The San Diego City Council votes 5 to 3 to approve the Boy Scout lease in Balboa Park despite the Boy Scout’s public refusal to accept gay/bi scouts and scout masters as members.
- The long-awaited renovation of The Center building at 3909 Centre Street begins in August.
- Judge Bonnie Dumanis is elected District Attorney, the first openly lesbian District Attorney in the nation.

2003

- Christine Kehoe is named Speaker pro Tem of the California State Assembly.
- AIDS Walk San Diego returns to The Center.
- In Lawrence v. Texas, the US Supreme Court strikes down sodomy laws.
- On April 24th The Center dedicates its newly refurbished building. The entire San Diego City Council attends the grand reopening, including Mayor Dick Murphy.
- AB205 passes the State Legislature and is signed into California state law, establishing the Nation’s most inclusive set of rights and responsibilities for same sex partners.
- The Massachusetts Marriage decision is issued by the MA Supreme Court.
- Council member Toni Atkins is named Deputy Mayor of the City of San Diego.



2002: (l to r) Delores Jacobs, Executive Director of the Center, Tom Ellerbach, Publisher of Update, Queen Eddie and Dr. Heather Berberet.



MR. THOMAS “THOM” CAREY

Mr. Thomas Carey was a principal founder of the Gay Center for Social Services and a lifelong civil rights activist. A tireless promoter of The Center, Mr. Carey attended every meeting and participated in every project. He also contributed artwork and helped construct leaflets for fundraising, then distributed them — all at the risk of losing his job if his employer discovered he was gay. Mr. Carey was also an active member of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego and marched in the first San Diego LGBT Pride parade.

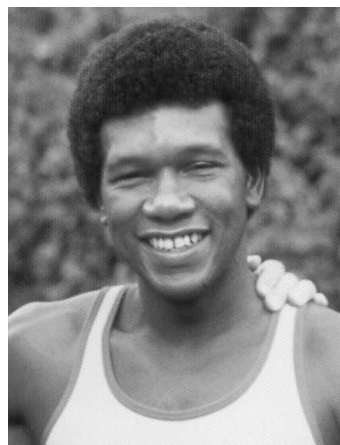
Mr. Carey was born on June 1, 1945, in Goldsboro, North Carolina. His parents divorced when he was very young, and he was raised primarily by his mother in Goldsboro, where he had a large extended family. Like many African-American families in the south during that time, his family was religious and most of their activities centered around church and community events. After high school, Mr. Carey attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. As the civil rights movement of the mid-1960s spread throughout the nation, Mr. Carey participated in “sit-ins” at lunch counters and in other public places, protesting segregation. After graduating with a BA in Broadcast Journalism, Mr. Carey enlisted in the Navy for four years, spending time in Hawaii and San Diego.

Mr. Carey decided to stay in San Diego upon his discharge. He met his second partner, Bernie Michels, in April 1972, when Mr. Carey participated in an academic project at San Diego State University that Mr. Michels conducted. In September of that year, Mr. Carey and Michels attended the first meeting of the Planning Committee, which would develop into the Gay Center for Social Services. Mr. Carey volunteered to be treasurer of the Planning Committee and helped organize the first two fundraisers, which were crucial to opening The Center. He held the position while working full time until July 1973, frequently short of sleep due to all the activity.

In March 1973, as the Planning Committee prepared for their “Carnival” fundraiser and were desperate to sell tickets, Mr. Carey called his mother in North Carolina and asked her to buy two tickets, even though she could not possibly attend. She was not pleased. Mr. Carey had recently come out to her and the rest of his family, causing considerable scandal. She initially refused, but Mr. Carey reminded her of the many times she had encouraged him to buy tickets for church and civil rights causes; she eventually agreed to send the money.

When the Center opened in October 1973, Mr. Carey and several other men facilitated the Men’s Self Development Program, leading evening “rap groups” that focused on issues affecting gay men, such as coming out, coping with relationship and sexual issues, and self-confidence. Mr. Carey and Mr. Michels also worked with a local attorney to formally incorporate and obtain tax-exempt status for The Center. Mr. Carey continued to volunteer at the Center until he relocated to Boston with Michels in September 1976.

While in Boston, Mr. Carey was an office manager at Harvard University and became involved in bodybuilding. He moved to Washington, D.C., with a new partner in 1983, and worked as controller for the World Business Council. Mr. Carey died of AIDS complications in October 1995. His partner, Doug Paradis, died a few months earlier, also of AIDS.



1970S



MR. JOHN CIACCIO

Mr. John Ciaccio became one of the first people to speak publicly about the AIDS epidemic, helping to put a face on the disease after his diagnosis in 1985. Already outspoken and influential in the LGBT community, Mr. Ciaccio challenged the government to confront the spread of AIDS and meaningfully participate in its prevention.

Mr. Ciaccio, born in 1958, was a San Diego native. He graduated from Poway High School in 1976 and studied English, communications and journalism at the University of Denver. While in college, Mr. Ciaccio came out to his Catholic, Italian-American family and vowed to never hide his sexuality again. He co-founded *The San Diego Gayzette* in 1982 and served as the advertising director throughout his life. Along with two other local gay newspapers at the time, *Update* and *Scene*, *The Gayzette* provided needed cohesion and vitality for the San Diego LGBT community. *The Gayzette* focused on LGBT civil rights, military and domestic issues, and was the first area publication to cover the AIDS epidemic in 1982.

Mr. Ciaccio advocated for the government to play a greater role in preventing the spread of AIDS, and engaged in political battles that gained considerable exposure for the LGBT community. He helped organize the first AIDS Candlelight Memorial march, and was a member of the board of directors for the San Diego AIDS Project and the AIDS Assistance Fund. Mr. Ciaccio and two other LGBT community members filed a taxpayer lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department in March 1984, claiming that the Sheriff's Department discriminated against homosexuals in their hiring practices. The three activists — none of whom sought employment at the Sheriff's Department, instead basing their claim on public comments the Sheriff had made regarding homosexuality — were represented by Tom Homann on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU won the case in March 1986, three months after Mr. Ciaccio died of AIDS complications at the age of 27.

Two months before he died, Mr. Ciaccio agreed to participate in a series of stories for the San Diego Union Tribune called "Living with AIDS." The Tribune story gives a detailed portrait of Mr. Ciaccio's emotional journey and physical deterioration, allowing Mr. Ciaccio to use his personal battle with the disease to spread AIDS awareness and compassion.

Mr. Ciaccio was posthumously given the Harvey Milk Memorial Award in January 1986 — the highest award for an LGBT citizen in San Diego. His mother, Helen Ciaccio of Rancho Penasquitos, accepted the tribute in his honor at an annual banquet held in Balboa Park.

The Gayzette was forced to close in October 1986; some attributed its rapid economic decline directly to the AIDS crisis, saying the free paper never recovered its funding after losing Mr. Ciaccio's expertise as advertising director. In 1994, Family Health Centers of San Diego opened the Ciaccio Memorial Clinic, which is the largest freestanding HIV clinic in San Diego County.





MS. BARBARA CRUSBERG

Ms. Barbara Crusberg dedicated her life to human rights and to strengthening the LGBT community through business and community organizations. She was one of the San Diego LGBT community's most beloved activists, with an impressive history of fundraising, volunteering, strong opinions, leadership and relentless work.

Born in 1938, Ms. Crusberg served in the Marine Corps until 1956 when she was "outed" by her superior officer and dismissed for admitting that she was a lesbian. After living in Los Angeles for a number of years, Ms. Crusberg relocated to San Diego in 1975, where she was a manager at Pacific Bell for 32 years. She joined the Metropolitan Community Church in order to connect herself to the local LGBT community and served as a member of the board of directors throughout the 1970s and 80s. Her activism expanded to include the AIDS community, women's rights and politics.

She became involved with the Human Rights Campaign and the City of San Diego, serving for four years as the first openly gay city commissioner appointed to the San Diego Human Relations Commission and co-chairing the Gay and Lesbian Advisory Board under Mayor Maureen O'Connor. In 1992, she received a city proclamation for the fundraising she did with San Diego Youth & Community Services on behalf of homeless youth, and protested the ouster of local gay Boy Scout leaders that same year.

Ms. Crusberg also served on boards for Mama's Kitchen, AIDS Walk, the Metropolitan Community Church, Diversionary Theatre and the Greater San Diego Business Association. She was a member of the advisory boards for Councilmembers John Hartley and Bob Filner. As an AIDS Memorial Task Force co-chair, she helped bring the AIDS Quilt to San Diego in 1993, and was one of the first women recognized by the Imperial Court. After retiring from Pacific

Bell, she managed a Hillcrest printing and graphics company, Missing Ink, for nine years, where she was always willing to donate her services and make contributions to local causes.

Kind and approachable, Ms. Crusberg was well-respected in the community. She demanded equal treatment as a woman serving on predominantly male advisory boards and received it without hesitation. Designated "Businesswoman of the Year" and named "Outstanding Female Citizen" twice, Ms. Crusberg received — among several Nicky Awards — the Lifetime Achievement Award, and was Ms. Gay Pride 2000, then Grand Marshall at the 2001 San Diego LGBT Pride parade.

Ms. Crusberg died in April 2002 after a long battle with cancer. The Pacific Women's Sports Foundation — of which Ms. Crusberg had been a longtime member and supporter — created the annual Barbara Crusberg Scholarship after her death; the scholarship is given to any person who has faced challenges gracefully and has had a positive impact on the community through a sports-related endeavor. The award does justice to Ms. Crusberg's memory; one of her main goals had always been to make sure that others had the resources to make their lives easier.



1970S



MR. JOHN EBERLY

Mr. John Eberly was a founding member of The Center in 1971 and an active member of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego (MCCSD). An only child born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Eberly went to college at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he earned a B.S. in Psychology in 1956. He then moved back to Detroit to get his master's degree in Library Science from Wayne State University, graduating in 1971.

Mr. Eberly worked in the advertising industry in Detroit briefly before deciding to become a teacher. He moved to San Diego after earning his credential, where he was hired by the Chula Vista School District as a librarian and a kindergarten and first grade teacher. He served as President of the Chula Vista Elementary Education Association for several years, working for the school district for a total of 15 1/2 years.

Openly gay, Mr. Eberly became involved in the San Diego LGBT community immediately after relocating from Detroit. He served on The Center's Legal Committee and the Board of Directors in 1973, helping develop The Center from a small charity organization whose funds had to be funneled through Episcopal Community Services to an independent, nonprofit social welfare agency. Mr. Eberly was devoted to The Center; he organized meetings and facilitated discussion groups, tirelessly promoting the importance of The Center for the San Diego LGBT community.

In 1971, Mr. Eberly joined MCCSD and remained an active member throughout his life. He served on the board of directors and as editor of the Prodigal newsletter, helping to modernize and develop the church to accommodate its growing congregation. He started the church's Video Ministry in 1980, managing it for seven years. The Video Ministry produced the cablecast "Reflections of MCC," which was San Diego's longest running television show at the time Mr. Eberly stepped down in December 1987.

Mr. Eberly participated in local politics with the San Diego Democratic Club throughout the 1970s and '80s. He served in various capacities, including as treasurer for five years. In September 1988, the SDDC honored him with the President's Award for his service to the club and his dedication to democratic campaigns and LGBT community issues.

During the last years of his life, Mr. Eberly owned property immediately adjacent to the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego, which housed the AIDS Assistance Fund and Concerned Citizens for AIDS Patients. The income generated from the tenants was only sufficient to cover property ownership costs. Diagnosed with AIDS, Mr. Eberly arranged to transfer ownership of the property to MCCSD in his will, ensuring that the nonprofit lease terms would continue. He also donated a large collection of papers and keepsakes to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of San Diego that document his involvement in the San Diego LGBT community.

Mr. Eberly died at home of AIDS complications in January 1989. He was survived by his longterm partner, Charles Suko, and lifelong friend George Murphy.





MR. DON EDMUNDSON

Mr. Don Edmundson was one of San Diego's premier female impersonators. The first African-American Empress of the Imperial Court system, crowned Empress I Tawny Tann, Mr. Edmundson was well known throughout California as a performer and popular emcee for charity fundraisers.

Mr. Edmundson got his start in several Los Angeles strip clubs, performing in drag to predominantly straight clientele before relocating to San Diego in the early 1970s. Adding a twist to the old adage about meager beginnings, Mr. Edmundson used to joke that during his strip club days, he was so poor he would gather the hair from female strippers up off the floor of the dressing rooms to make his wigs. In truth, his wig collection was exquisite, his aesthetic an elegant 1930s glamour, and his manner always gracious.

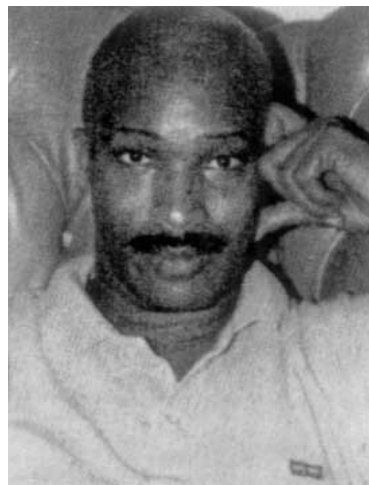
At one time a preoperative transsexual, Mr. Edmundson was open about being gay at a time when all LGBT bars in California had a "no-touch" rule; bar owners could lose their license for allowing same-sex couples to slow-dance, and people caught kissing would be kicked out and often arrested for lewd conduct. After moving to San Diego, Mr. Edmundson worked as lead dancer at the Show Biz Supper Club on University Avenue, where he danced, sang and emceed exclusively in drag.

When Mr. Edmundson ran for Empress I of the Imperial Court de San Diego in 1973, he competed against fourteen other candidates and the competition was fierce. Nine hundred people voted in that first election. Held at the Royal Hotel in downtown San Diego (what is now the Holiday Inn Embarcadero) as part of "The Sandies" awards show, the election was the first gay event ever held at a hotel in San Diego. Mr. Edmundson won and was crowned Empress I Tawny Tann along with Emperor I Omar, a coworker and popular bartender at the Show Biz Supper Club. They chose Black & White as their official color scheme to represent themselves as the popular, accepted couple that they were.

The fledgling San Diego LGBT community formed the Imperial Court de San Diego in 1973 to be noticed, to attract public acknowledgment of LGBT community members, and to further relations between the LGBT community and the non-LGBT community through fundraising and charity. The Imperial Court soon became an influential organization because it was one of the few LGBT organizations in San Diego; there was no San Diego Democratic Club or Greater San Diego Business Association, and the Center for Social Services was barely two years old.

Mr. Edmundson's role as Empress required him to host charity fundraisers for local organizations ranging from the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego to Guide Dogs for the Blind. A skilled emcee with a quick wit, Edmundson's year-long reign inspired him to continue fundraising and charity work throughout the 1970s and '80s.

Mr. Edmundson moved to Hawaii in the late 1980s, where he continued to perform in shows and worked in an art gallery. Diagnosed with AIDS, a fundraiser was held for him in March 1990 in San Diego to help pay his medical bills, but he died in Hawaii before the money could be given to him. Instead, the funds were given to his mother, who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, as part of a memorial service in his honor.



1970S



MR. NEIL GOOD

Mr. Neil Good ran for the San Diego City Council in 1987, becoming the second openly gay candidate to run for political office in San Diego history. He finished third in the primary for the 8th Council District, proving that sexual preference was not a deterrent to political success. His mainstream campaign earned him the unbiased respect of civic and district leaders.

Born in Manchester, New Hampshire, Mr. Good lived briefly in Boston before moving to San Diego in the 1950s with his family and settling in Lemon Grove. After high school, Mr. Good served in the Navy then attended Grossmont College. While earning his degree in Psychology, Mr. Good became active in student politics and decided on a career in journalism. He was an intern for two summers at the San Diego Union Tribune, then wrote for the Lemon Grove Review. He was a reporter for the San Diego Daily Transcript and the San Diego Independent, then founded and was the first publisher of Uptown, a local LGBT newspaper. He also owned a travel agency from 1978-1984.

Mr. Good had been active in politics for sixteen years prior to running for San Diego City Council. He worked in the state Capitol for Senate President pro Tempore James R. Mills from 1970 to 1974, then moved back to San Diego and worked as an aide to county Supervisor Leon Williams for twelve years. He was chairman of the Democratic County Committee from 1976 to 1978, where he started a newsletter and was a hugely successful fundraiser. He was appointed by the governor in 1977 as president of the Structural Pest Control Board, running an unsuccessful bid for county assessor that same year.

Mr. Good's broad interests and disdain for political hypocrisy led his political pursuits; no human rights issue was beneath his concern. Known to be quick-witted and skilled at compromise, he helped develop the San Diego County Human

Relations Commission charter, was a member of the Environmental Health Coalition and the Central City Association, and served on the boards of the Crime Victims Fund, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, Urban League, and Catholic Community Services. He also founded an AIDS live-in organization called Community Actively Supporting AIDS and did fund-raising for Fraternity House, a hospice for people with AIDS.

Mr. Good continued his involvement in local government after the election, sponsoring the San Diego City Council Reform Initiative, which would have added four more seats to the City Council. He was a partner in Grossman-Symington-Good Public Relations Firm when he died of hepatitis in August 1989 at the age of 41.

Mr. Good was survived by a daughter, Jennifer, of San Diego. The City of San Diego contracted with the Alpha Project to open a 4,300 square-foot facility serving the needs of the city's homeless population; The Neil Good Day Center opened in 1991, honoring Mr. Good posthumously as the first openly LGBT person in San Diego history to have a building named after them.





MR. DON HAUCK

Co-founder of Update, the first LGBT newspaper in San Diego, Mr. Don Hauck dedicated much of his later professional life to helping to create and sustain a stable, positive, cohesive and inclusive LGBT community.

Mr. Hauck was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and attended John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, for three and half years before enlisting in the Navy. After his discharge, he was employed by the Navy as a civilian in the South Pacific. He returned briefly to the United States, settled in Los Angeles, then left again and traveled in Europe. After moving to San Diego in 1965, Mr. Hauck worked as a private investigator, a part-time bartender and then as a manager in the building supply business, finally opening his own fencing company in the early 1970's.

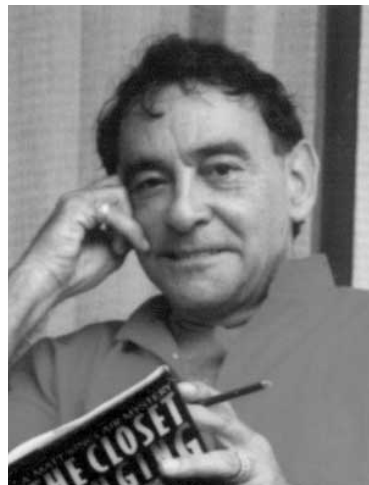
A few years later, Mr. Hauck founded the company Dawn Media, and served as the local distributor and advertising representative for national and local LGBT publications such as The Advocate, Drummer magazine, Los Angeles-based Newswest and San Diego's Pacific Coast Times. When the Pacific Coast Times relocated to L.A., was renamed Coast to Coast Times and subsequently folded, Mr. Hauck and his friend Howard Rouse recognized the need within the San Diego LGBT community for a local news resource.

The first edition of Update was assembled on a kitchen table and published in March 1979. The lead story, "Police Harassment at the Barbary Coast," involved alleged police harassment when two men were arrested and jailed on lewd conduct charges for dancing together at a club. Mr. Hauck remained Update's publisher throughout his life, helping the biweekly publication grow to a circulation of 15,000 in San Diego County. For their tenth anniversary, in 1989, San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor declared March 29 "Update Day" in San Diego for the paper's contribution to civil rights in the San Diego community.

Mr. Hauck was a founding member of the Greater San Diego Business Association, a nonprofit organization commonly referred to as San Diego's LGBT Chamber of Commerce, which links LGBT businesses as well as other companies committed to the progression of civil rights. He also helped start the National Gay & Lesbian Press Association.

Reinforcing a stable, cohesive and inclusive LGBT community was extremely important to Mr. Hauck. He had an active social circle, often entertaining people at home or at nearby restaurants, and held weekly luncheons with Dawn Media staff, friends and business associates to encourage positive community relationships. He donated generously to many LGBT organizations, but often requested that he be unacknowledged publicly.

Mr. Hauck died in June 1992 after being in poor health for over a year. An annual full scholarship for an LGBT journalism student was established in his honor shortly thereafter. In his last will and testament, which he called his "final editorial," Mr. Hauck bid farewell with the reminder: "Carry the torch — I'll be watching!"





MR. TOM HOMANN

Mr. Tom Homann was a civil rights attorney who fought for First Amendment and LGBT rights for almost twenty years in San Diego. Proclaiming a desire to resist authority as much as possible, Mr. Homann decided early on to make his career “fun and interesting” by litigating constitutional issues. Distrust of government and skepticism for the way the government utilizes power were his guiding principles.

Born in Mattoon, Illinois, Mr. Homann moved with his family to California in 1952. After high school in Santa Maria, Mr. Homann went to the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated in 1971. He moved to San Diego in 1974 and attended Western Law School, passed the bar exam in 1978, and went to work for George Haverstick, a local LGBT attorney.

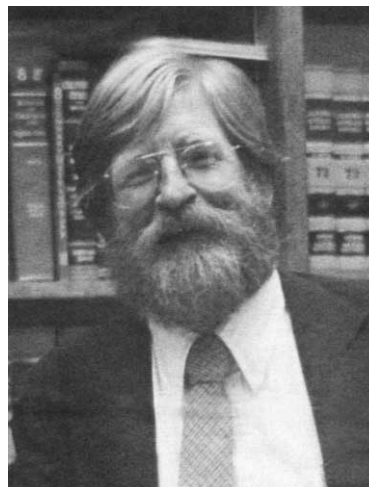
Mr. Homann’s legal career was relatively short, but during that time he made huge advances for the LGBT community. In 1974, along with Jess Jessop, Gary Rees and Nicole Murray-Ramirez, Mr. Homann challenged the city to issue a permit for the first LGBT pride march. Because of openly hostile attitudes toward LGBT community members, Mr. Homann and Mr. Haverstick had to resort to legal action to obtain the permit. Though they were successful, Mr. Homann continued to fight the city throughout the 1980s to establish formal guidelines for LGBT parades and events.

Mr. Homann believed that the unconventional people who challenged social norms were the most in need of good legal representation and the least likely to get it. He represented two sailors with AIDS that the Navy wanted to discharge without medical benefits because they were gay, and sued the San Diego County Sheriff with John Ciaccio when the sheriff tried to discriminate against hiring LGBT deputies. That suit resulted in the Sheriff’s Department changing their hiring policies.

Mr. Homann also understood that seemingly mundane zoning and licensing laws imposed by the government were often covert methods used to restrict First Amendment rights. He fought against restrictions on local topless bars and bathhouses, and contested the city’s closure of the F Street adult bookstore and attempts to limit the materials that adult bookstores sold.

Mr. Homann served on the ACLU’s board of directors and was a past chair of its Litigation Committee. He did much of his legal work as a volunteer attorney for the ACLU, and would not accept fees from the people he represented who had AIDS. In 1979, the Harvey Milk/Tom Homann Student Scholarship Program was founded by the Tom Homann Law Association in his honor. The scholarship assists San Diego area students in achieving their professional goals, forging future community leaders that ultimately benefit the San Diego LGBT community. He was awarded the ACLU’s Ceil Podoloff Award in 1990 for his dedication to civil liberties, battling police misconduct and LGBT and First Amendment rights violations.

Mr. Homann died of AIDS complications in 1991, at the age of 42. On the night of his death, he received the Harvey Milk Democratic Club Award for his legal work representing LGBT rights and community members. In February 1992,



the Tom Homann Law Association — referred to as San Diego’s LGBT bar association — was founded to continue the focus of his legal efforts, and received The Center’s Jess Jessop Founder’s Award in 2000.



MR. ROBERT “JESS” JESSOP

Mr. Robert “Jess” Jessop was one of the group of original founders of the San Diego LGBT Center and the Lesbian and Gay Historical Society of San Diego. A visionary and an activist, he recognized the needs of the people around him and created ways to provide for them. Frequently signing his letters “Yours In The Struggle,” Mr. Jessop is remembered for his political organization and community devotion.

Jess Jessop was born in 1939 in Baltimore. He served in Vietnam as part of the Marine Combat Unit, where he refused to accept the Silver Star — the third highest combat decoration — because of his opposition to the war. He moved to San Diego in 1969 and enrolled at San Diego State University, where he became involved with the SDSU Gay Liberation Front in 1970, serving as vice-president, then president. He organized the first openly LGBT support in local politics, for mayoral candidate Jack Walsh, during that time.

Along with Tom Homann and Nicole Murray-Ramirez, Mr. Jessop fought to obtain city permits for the first Pride parade in 1974. He was a charter member and spokesperson for Gay Alliance for Equal Rights in 1979, and participated in the first LGBT March on Washington. Mr. Jessop supported the first local LGBT political campaigns, working on Al Best’s campaign for city council in 1979 and Neil Good’s city council campaign in 1987.

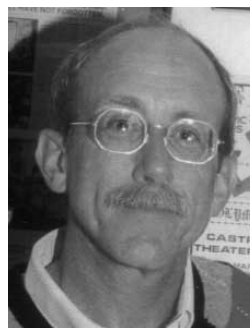
The San Diego LGBT Center began in 1971 as an answering machine. The answering machine was a twenty-four hour hotline — people who needed military or LGBT counseling could call the number, leave a message and Jessop or one of a small group, named “the Planning Committee,” would call them back. The initial 1971-1972 planning committee for what would become The Center for Social Services, Inc., included Patricia Byers, Thom Carey, Patricia Clutchy, Peggy Heathers, Jess Jessop, Clint Johnson, Bernie Michels, George Murphy, Jerry Peterson, Gary Rees, John Senter, Cynthia

Wallace and Jerry White. This group knew that the LGBT community needed more than phone counseling, and worked to open an organization that could provide for the community’s particular education, health and social needs.

Over the next two years, the group met once a week to map out the elements that such an organization would provide. By September 1973, Jess Jessop, Bernie Michels and the Planning Committee had gathered enough money to open The Center for Social Services in a ten-room, two-story house in Golden Hill. With Mr. Jessop serving as executive director, The Center began to realize the vision of community pride and health that the Planning Committee had hoped to create.

To establish a strong, positive community and sense of self-worth, Mr. Jessop recognized that LGBTs must understand and appreciate their roots. He founded the Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego in 1987 to combat the sense of cultural isolation many LGBT community members feel from not knowing their history. Renamed the Lesbian and Gay Historical Society, the collection of original documents, records and cultural artifacts helps to record and preserve the diverse lives and accomplishments of LGBT people throughout San Diego.

Mr. Jessop was a names historian for the Names Project Tour when the AIDS Quilt came to San Diego in 1988. He was inducted into the San Diego Hall of Fame in 1979, received the Harvey Milk Memorial Award for community service in 1988, and was San Diego LGBT Pride Grand Marshall twice — in 1977 and 1989. On July 19, 1988, Mayor Maureen



O’Connor proclaimed Jessop’s 49th birthday to be “Jess Jessop Day” in San Diego. Jess Jessop died of AIDS in 1990. “Yours In The Struggle” was memorialized on his AIDS Quilt panel, and became the Center’s Gala 30th Anniversary theme in 2003.

1970S



MR. CLINT JOHNSON

Mr. Clint Johnson was a successful San Diego nightclub owner, entertainer, fundraiser and community activist. A popular local personality, he was Emperor XIV of the Imperial Court of San Diego and was able in that role to raise desperately needed funds for many AIDS causes and LGBT organizations.

Before moving to San Diego in the early 1960s, Mr. Johnson lived in Los Angeles and sought employment as an actor. He tried out for a part in *West Side Story* during that time; the director, taking one look at him, said “Too tall, too blond — next!” The quote followed him for the rest of his life, prompting relentless teasing from his friends and the San Diego LGBT press.

Mr. Johnson worked at local bars *Swing* and the *Brass Rail* as a bartender before opening the *Show Biz Supper Club* — San Diego’s first nightclub with female impersonators — with business partner Greg Poole in the late 1960s. *Show Biz* enjoyed a “high class” reputation; the performers were talented dancers and singers and their costumes were exquisite. A *Gone With the Wind* mural covered one wall, surrounded by framed and autographed photos of celebrity guests who had visited the nightclub, including Bob Hope and the San Diego Chief of Police. Mr. Johnson’s long-term partner, Johnny Moore, was the chef and Mr. Johnson was in charge of the nightly shows, changing them often to encourage frequent patronage. When the *Show Biz* stage was not in use for performances, Mr. Johnson held fundraisers for local LGBT causes.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Poole ran *Show Biz* until the early 1980s, when they closed the nightclub and opened San Diego’s first country-western LGBT bar, *Bee Jay’s*, in its place. After choosing not to renew the lease on the building several

years later, *Bee Jay’s* moved to a new location. Mr. Johnson continued to hold fundraisers at *Bee Jay’s*, helping organize the first AIDS Assistance Fund benefit during that time, and contributing to an annual Thanksgiving dinner for the AIDS community. A talented dancer, he taught country western dance lessons as a hobby, and performed at local charity events and LGBT Pride festivals with his dance troupe — Clint Johnson and *Bee Jay’s On-Tap Cloggers* — throughout the 1980s and early ’90s.

Needing a change, Mr. Johnson closed *Bee Jay’s* and relocated to Arizona with Moore in the late 1990s, where he continued teaching country western dance. He was a natural entertainer until, literally, the day he died — of a heart attack, mid-sentence, while teaching a women’s country western dance class. Mr. Johnson is survived by his long-term partner, Johnny Moore of *Snowflake*, Arizona.





MS. CORRINE “MARTIE” MACKEY

Ms. Corrine “Martie” Mackey was an activist and a writer. An African-American lesbian, Ms. Mackey was particularly aware of minority oppression; she focused throughout her life on unifying the individual oppressed communities she embodied, often getting up at four o’clock in the morning to write about it.

Born in 1950, Ms. Mackey grew up in Chicago, but lived in San Francisco and Oregon for much of her adult life. She was stranded in San Diego when her pickup truck broke down and never left; the unexpected detour became a metaphor for her to stop searching for a place and instead make her place from what she already had. Ms. Mackey wrote “The Gathering,” with that metaphor in mind. First staged in 1991 at the Lyceum Theater during Black History Month, “The Gathering” is a four-part production about individual characters’ struggles for acceptance while being subjected to multiple layers of discrimination.

Ms. Mackey and other nonwhite LGBT community members often felt “locked out” of the San Diego LGBT movement, which was predominantly organized by its white, middle-class members. Some of these community leaders recognized the imbalance and sought to include women and minorities. Still, the LGBT movement did not focus on other civil-rights issues that affected its nonwhite members, such as poverty and a sense of cultural isolation. As the war against AIDS and the struggle for LGBT equality and social justice roared in the 1980’s, racism continued to flare up, even in Hillcrest.

Disheartened with the lack of support for African-American LGBT community members and looking to unify them, Ms. Mackey and four friends formed LAGADU, Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United, in 1989. The small group organized fellowship programs and educational forums that emphasized safe sex and leadership skills. LAGADU faced some of their biggest challenges from African-American

church leaders and their parishioners; many people were not ready to accept homosexuality and feared the AIDS epidemic in the LGBT community.

Ms. Mackey wrote about her struggle to form a cohesive identity — to process the manifold emotional impact of facing discrimination as an African-American lesbian while losing countless friends to AIDS, and to record history as it was being made. She addressed misrepresentation of African-Americans and lesbians in the press, and read her work in venues throughout San Diego. Her feature articles appeared in the national African-American journals BLK and ACHE, as well as the San Diego Reader, Gay and Lesbian Nation, and San Diego Lesbian Press. She wrote the editorial column “Det’s Daughter” for the Gay and Lesbian Times, and authored “When We Come Breathing,” a performance arrangement of stories, poems and songs.

She served on the board of The Center and the San Diego Police Department Shooting Review Board. She was a member of the Human Dignity Ordinance Task Force and was a volunteer instructor for the San Diego Police Academy. Corrine “Martie” Mackey died of cancer December 21, 1992, at 42, survived by long-term partner Phyllis L. Jackson.



1980S



MR. GARY REES

Mr. Gary Rees was a prominent San Diego businessman and a dedicated community member. Born in Dover, Ohio, Mr. Rees graduated from Ohio State University in 1969. He taught high school briefly before relocating to San Diego in 1971 to serve as an ensign in the Navy. He was a founding member of The Center during his time in the Navy and helped establish the Military Counseling Program at the Gay Center. Upon his discharge as an officer in 1974, Mr. Rees became The Center's Executive Director until 1975.

Mr. Rees wrote a letter in 1977 in response to a scathing commentary on homosexuality, titled "The 'Other Woman' Turns Out to Be a Man," in the October 31 issue of *The Los Angeles Times*, written by a woman whose husband had left her for another man. Mr. Rees expressed his personal experience with being deeply closeted, choosing to terminate two marriage engagements during his twenties rather than risk making "emotional casualties" of the women he would have married. He also related how he had left his profession as a high school teacher because he could not give support to his LGBT students by offering himself as a positive role model, for fear of losing his professional respect. Instead, he watched his LGBT students suffer, their self-esteem plummeting in an effort to 'fit in' just like he did. Mr. Rees asserted that if LGBT people are denied positive role models, they will continue to live duplicitous, confused lives and cause pain to people like the author. That realization caused him to seek a life in which he could live openly, creating happiness rather than misery and frustration.

A workaholic since his teenage years, friends remember Mr. Rees as "always doing something." He owned three businesses in Golden Hill; Signs of Life, an antique store, Excelsior Movers and a consulting firm called Fiscal Focus, which specialized in advertising, promotions and fundraising. He at one time published the *Neighborhood Reporter*, a small

newspaper distributed in the Golden Hill community. Former chairman and director of San Diego Walks for Life — the precursor to AIDS Walk San Diego, he also helped found the AIDS Assistance Fund, and the Lesbian and Gay Archives.

Mr. Rees was an excellent fundraiser. He raised funds for The Center, AIDS Walk, the Briggs Initiative, and any civil rights cause or political campaign that benefited the LGBT community. In 1989, figuring that it was easier for many businesspeople to write a check every month rather than volunteer their time, he created the Nifty Fifty Club, which consisted of businesses and individuals who pledged \$50 per month for a year to pay for administrative costs related to San Diego Walks for Life. Even his 40th birthday party was a benefit to raise money for the LGBT community. He received both a Nicky Award and a San Diego Log Cabin Club award for outstanding community service in 1986, and a plaque from San Diego Walks for Life in 1987.

Mr. Rees died August 13, 1990, in his Golden Hill home of complications due to AIDS. He was 43. He was survived by his long-term partner, Joseph Merta of Golden Hill. At the 1990 AIDS Walk shortly after Mr. Rees died, his 2-year-old nephew, Dylan, was the youngest person to march, in honor of his uncle.





MR. ROBERT “ROB” SHEPARD

Mr. Robert Shepard was the fifth executive director of The Center and a founder of the Gay Veterans Association. Active in LGBT community building until the end of his life, Mr. Shepherd is also remembered for his work as a local psychotherapist, offering counseling to LGBT couples throughout the community.

Mr. Shepard was born and raised in Miami, Florida. After graduating high school, he received both a bachelors and a master's degree in psychotherapy from the University of Miami. He then joined the Navy and returned to Miami after his discharge, working as an educator for disabled and autistic people. He then moved to Chicago for seven years, where he was the director of a school for the disabled in nearby Skokie, Illinois.

After settling in San Diego in 1970, Mr. Shepard became active in The Center for Social Services, eventually succeeding Richard Burhenne as executive director, and served from mid-1979 to 1980. Mr. Shepard was the last director of The Center to serve at the 2250 B Street address. This was a time before any government funding came to The Center in the form of HIV/ AIDS monies, and The Center depended on donations from the local community for support. Most of Mr. Shepard's efforts during his term — besides the constant issue of finding funding — went into developing professional programming and facilitating the move of the Center to its next location at 30th & Beech.

In early 1980, Mr. Shepard passed The Center's management to Carolyn Innes and pursued counseling and case management at the San Diego Veterans Center. He also turned his attention to founding and supporting the Gay Veterans Association.

A caring and witty man, Mr. Shepard was an excellent psychotherapist, even providing marriage counseling for members of the LGBT community. He is remembered for his sharp mind, quick laugh and broad smile. With his shirt tail often half out and a comical grin on his face, Mr. Shepard could put the most hesitant and shy individuals completely at ease almost instantaneously.

Diagnosed with AIDS in 1989, Mr. Shepard continued to be active in veterans' organizations and the local LGBT community until six weeks before his death. Mr. Shepard was honored with a commendation for his efforts on behalf of the San Francisco earthquake victims in 1989 by the Gay Veterans Association. He died at home at the age of 53 due to AIDS complications, requesting that his ashes be scattered at sea off the coast of Miami.



1970s



DR. A. BRAD TRUAX

Dr. A. “Brad” Truax was a San Diego physician who dedicated his life to human rights, particularly involving the AIDS epidemic. He used his reputation as a doctor and his political connections to draw attention to AIDS as a worldwide public health issue, and worked to obtain better funding and laws to support people with AIDS.

Born in Pennsylvania, Dr. Truax graduated from Duke University in 1968. He received his medical degree in 1972 from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and did his internship in Santa Clara. Dr. Truax specialized in aviation and underwater diving medicine in the Navy, but was honorably discharged in 1977 for being open about his homosexuality.

In 1978, Dr. Truax opened a private practice in Hillcrest with two other physicians. He was an important LGBT representative in local political circles, and advocated for the rights of the LGBT community, serving as a Carter delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention, then as president of the San Diego Democratic Club from 1981-1984. He also founded the United San Diego Elections Committee in 1981, and was appointed by Supervisor Leon Williams to be one of the first members of the San Diego County Human Relations Commission in 1985.

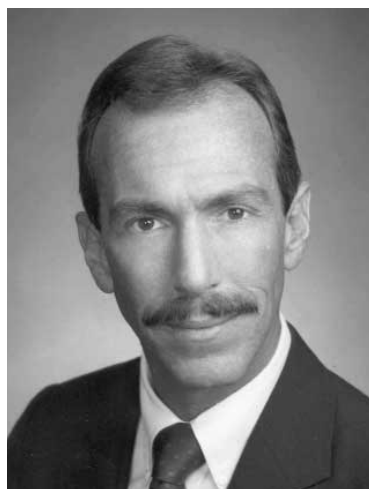
As AIDS devastated the LGBT community and Dr. Truax treated many people with HIV/AIDS, he recognized that the lack of awareness and education about AIDS would have equally severe consequences outside the LGBT community if the government did not act quickly. In 1983, Dr. Truax persuaded San Diego Mayor Roger Hedgecock to establish a task force on AIDS then drafted a strategic plan for the county on how to respond to the crisis. Dr. Truax served as chairman of San Diego County’s Regional AIDS Task Force until June 1988.

Dr. Truax, caring and dedicated, was also pragmatic and resolute; once he decided on the best course of action, he carried through with it regardless of controversy. While

getting dressed one morning in June 1987, Dr. Truax discovered that he had a purple lesion known as Kaposi’s sarcoma, and subsequent tests proved that he was infected with the AIDS virus. He went public about his diagnosis a few months later, hoping that his story would influence more people to take precautionary measures and be sympathetic to those who were already infected. He received the Dr. Howard Brown Award, named after the founder of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force, that same year.

In 1988, Dr. Truax asked the Board of Supervisors to close San Diego’s bathhouses to reduce the spread of AIDS. His stance angered many LGBT community members who saw the ordinances as infringing on their already limited civil rights, however, Dr. Truax felt the nature of the threat warranted the intrusion. In September 1988, the AIDS Assistance fund named a six-bedroom home, used primarily as an emergency facility for AIDS sufferers, Truax House in his honor.

Seventeen months after his diagnosis, at the age of 42, Dr. Truax died of AIDS complications. The San Diego Regional Task Force on AIDS created the annual Dr. A. Brad Truax Award. The award is presented annually on World AIDS Day to persons or organizations who achieve outstanding results in political and social AIDS activism.





MR. ROBERT WALSH

Mr. Robert Walsh spent his life fighting for LGBT rights and fighting to improve the lives of those in LGBT communities across the nation. Born in Concordia, Kansas, Mr. Walsh was a talented singer in his youth, and performed nationally with a show called “Up With People.” He met his first partner when he was 18, while serving as the director of “Kansas State Sing Out.”

As a Sociology major at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Walsh found support, role models and inspiration while studying the history of gay people as a minority group. He began attending the Metropolitan Community Church at this time, and remained a member throughout his life.

In 1980, Mr. Walsh and his partner bought a ranch in Lafayette, Louisiana, eventually meeting a few other LGBT couples. Recognizing their lack of support and need for community, Mr. Walsh started an informal chapter of the MCC in Lafayette, which is now a permanent establishment in Lafayette and a strong leadership organization in the local LGBT community. He also started a newsletter at the time to get information out to the small congregation, which quickly turned into Lafayette’s first gay newspaper. Mr. Walsh named the paper TLC and was its editor, reporter, proofreader, typesetter and secretary. He hand-distributed each issue to 68 bars and 18 organizations all over the state.

TLC survived clashes with the Ku Klux Klan and the mafia, and made Mr. Walsh an area spokesperson for LGBT and civil rights political issues. He worked against several pieces of legislation, including Louisiana State Bill 1084, which, similar to California’s Briggs Initiative, sought to discriminate against LGBT teachers, and joined Louisiana’s chapters of NOW to fight against the Family Protection Act of 1980. His group founded the Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus, and held the first Stonewall Pride celebration in 1982.

Mr. Walsh moved to San Francisco in 1983, needing a change from the hectic job of running TLC. While there, he wrote for the California Voice and founded the California Eagles — the Bay Area’s largest motorcycle club and the first club to admit women.

Diagnosed with AIDS in February 1988, Mr. Walsh relocated to San Diego and worked at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Hillcrest. Later that year, he sued a local chiropractor who refused to treat him based on his sexual orientation and AIDS status. Though at the time it was not illegal to discriminate against LGBT individuals in California, Mr. Walsh filed suit based on California disability laws, which include people living with AIDS, and won.

He also started an LGBT self-defense group in 1988 called the Lavender Angels that encouraged members of the community to speak out about LGBT hate crimes. The group stressed nonviolence, distributing whistles for people to use to call for help when threatened or attacked. Mr. Walsh, who estimated there was one LGBT attacked every day in San Diego, dressed up as a clown to draw attention to himself and went into local LGBT bars to educate people about hate crimes.

Mr. Walsh died of AIDS complications in the early 1990s, having hung up his clown suit after an official organization



protecting LGBT citizens against violence was finally started. He left behind a legacy of LGBT establishments, including the Lafayette Metropolitan Community Church, TLC, the California Eagles and the Lavender Angels.

1980S



MR. JERRY WHITE

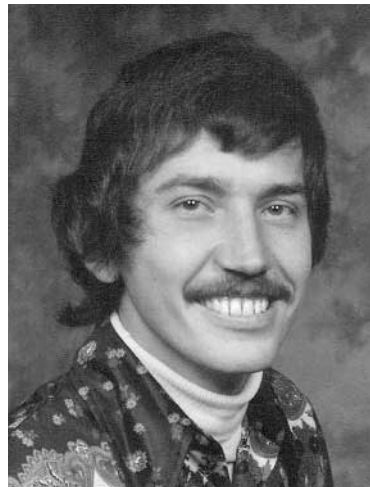
Mr. Jerry White was an activist in the San Diego LGBT community while still a student in college in the early 1970s. Majoring in social work at San Diego State University and participating in student politics, he also volunteered at Palomar College Student Help Center, where he participated in Human Sexuality Week to spread LGBT awareness. He served on the Founder's Committee of The Center in his spare time, helping Bernie Michels, Jess Jessop and the other members hold fundraisers at local bars and develop the various services the organization would provide. He also served as a group facilitator and peer counselor on the Men's Self-Development Committee, a support group affiliated with The Center that helped gay men develop life skills and self-confidence.

Mr. White was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1943, relocating to California with his family as a child. After receiving his bachelor's degree from SDSU, he moved to Santa Barbara in 1977 to attend the University of California, where he graduated with a master's degree in counseling psychology.

In 1983, before the nation was fully aware of the impact of the AIDS epidemic, Mr. White wrote a grant application to start the first statewide AIDS education effort. The resulting \$15,000 in state allocated funds led to the creation of the Tricounties AIDS Project, which served Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. He trained area health care workers, spoke at public meetings about AIDS awareness and helped take care of AIDS patients who had been deserted by their families during that time. The public education effort inspired compassionate treatment of people with AIDS during a time when little was known about the disease.

Mr. White helped organize twelve other AIDS agencies in the Santa Barbara area, including the Central Coast AIDS Education and Assistance Fund. In 1985, the state doubled the grant money for the Tricounties AIDS Project, adding Kern County to Mr. White's territory. Diagnosed with AIDS himself, he temporarily moved to Seattle and worked as an AIDS counselor before returning to Santa Barbara.

Mr. White died peacefully at his Santa Barbara home in March 1989 of AIDS complications. Family, friends and many prominent members of the community mourned his death. He was survived by his partner, Charles Mace.



THE SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR

Nomination Form and Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

Nominations for the San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor are a community-wide activity open for participation by all community members. Community members who have made significant lifetime contributions to the San Diego LGBT Community and who meet The Wall's specific criteria can be nominated by any member of San Diego's LGBT community.

Nominations are to be accompanied by a completed Nomination Form, a brief biography of the nominee, contact information for community members that are able to offer further background information on the nominee, and at least one black and white photograph of the nominee.

Completed materials should be mailed to The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor Committee, c/o The Center, P.O. Box 3357, San Diego, CA 92163

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Initial inductees to The Wall were researched, nominated, and elected by a committee of community members representing many of San Diego's LGBT community organizations: The Community Wall of Honor Committee. The Community Wall of Honor Committee consists of a minimum of six members, including: representatives of The Center, the Imperial Court de San Diego, the Lambda Archives, San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, San Diego LGBT Pride, and two at-large community members. The role of the committee is to disseminate and collect nomination forms, ensure that timely and appropriate background research is conducted, select final inductees, and to organize and produce the annual induction ceremony and Community History Book.

Nominations for the San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor are a community-wide activity open for participation by all community members. Community members who have made significant life-time contributions to the San Diego LGBT Community and who meet The Wall's specific criteria can be nominated by any member of San Diego's LGBT community.

Nominations are accepted by the Wall of Honor Committee throughout the year until September 30th of each year. On September 30th nominations for the coming year's induction are closed and the committee begins to collect the research that will allow brief biographies to be written for each potential honoree. Nominations received after September 30th will be considered in the subsequent year.

Following the compilation of the nominations and background research, in January of each year the San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor Committee meets to select the year's inductees. Each nomination is examined to make certain that the criteria for inclusion are met. Selection is made by majority vote of the committee. Honorees are announced in May, one month prior to the dedication and induction ceremony held annually in June.

SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR CRITERIA

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor is intended to recognize persons who, while residing in San Diego County:

1. Have made a notable contribution toward the advancement of LGBT equal rights/hate crime protections or towards raising community consciousness of those issues. (Dr. Martin Luther King/Cesar Chavez Rule)
2. Have played a significant role in establishing/leading/enhancing organizations, non-profits, businesses, professional offices, movements, committees, clubs and/or individual efforts that have benefited the LGBT community. The role may include monetary contributions but may not be exclusively financial in nature. (Florence Nightingale Rule)
3. Have by design or circumstance fulfilled a role of historic significance in promoting or calling attention to the need for equal rights/hate crime protections for the LGBT community. (Rosa Parks Rule)
4. Have as a person living openly LGBT, by their singular talent, courage, conviction, industry, dedication and/or sacrifice benefited/inspired humanity and by doing so served as an exceptional role model for all citizens to emulate and/or admire. (Mother Teresa Rule)

CHECKLIST OF NOMINATION MATERIALS

- 1. Completed Nomination Form,
- 2. Brief biography of the nominee,
- 3. Contact information for community members that are able to offer further background information on the nominee, and
- 4. At least one black & white photograph of the nominee (preferably several)

WHERE TO MAIL

Nomination Forms and all accompanying nomination materials should be mailed to:

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor Committee c/o The Center, P.O. Box 3357, San Diego, CA 92163

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR NOMINATION FORM

Please type or block print legibly. Please complete all of the information requested (front and back) and attach a brief biography of the nominee, with a minimum of one black & white photo of the nominee.

Date of nomination submission _____

Full name of nominee _____

Name of community member making the nomination _____

Mailing address of community member making the nomination _____

Telephone number of community member making the nomination (Home) _____

Telephone number of community member making the nomination (Mobile) _____

Email address of community member making the nomination _____

Which of the enclosed San Diego Community Wall of Honor criteria do you believe this nominee meets?

Briefly describe the ways you believe the activities and community contributions made by the nominee meet these criteria.

Please describe anything else about the activities and contributions of this nominee that you believe should be considered.

Contact information for others who can provide background information on the nominee

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Email _____

Relationship to nominee _____

Relationship to nominee _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Relationship to nominee _____

COMMITTEE USE ONLY Information complete

Date nomination received _____

Committee member responsible for nomination packet

Date community member nominating was contacted to
acknowledge receipt _____

YES I WANT TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CENTER!

Sign Me Up For "I BELONG"!

- \$5 per month (\$60 annually)
 \$10 per month (\$120 annually)
 \$15 per month (\$180 annually)
 \$20 per month (\$240 annually)
 \$25 per month (\$300 annually)
Other Amount 1 Time Gift _____ Monthly _____
 Cash Check Master Card Visa AmEx

Please increase my level For "I BELONG"!

I am currently giving \$_____ per month
I would like to begin giving \$_____ per month



The Center's "I Belong" program allows community members and businesses to split their annual gifts into convenient monthly credit card payments. This innovative program allows many community members to more easily plan for and track their community commitments and support.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____ Bank required Security Code* _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

**MC/V: 3 digits located near the signature of your card. AMEX: 4 digit # located on the front of your card*

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Hillcrest Youth Center | <input type="checkbox"/> The Other Prom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Marriage Project | <input type="checkbox"/> The LGBT Community Coalition Breakfasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Bruce M. Abrams Library | <input type="checkbox"/> AIDS Walk 2004 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Women's Resource Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Senior Project | <input type="checkbox"/> David Bohnett Cyber Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breast Cancer Support Group | <input type="checkbox"/> The General Fund: <i>All 50 projects and services</i> |

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Shawn Ingram, Director of Development
The San Diego LGBT Community Center, PO Box 3357, San Diego, CA 92163
phone: 619-692-2077 x204 • fax: 619-260-3092
singram@thecentersd.org • www.thecentersd.org

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www.thecentersd.org/email.htm



The San Diego LGBT Community Center

3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA 92103 • 619.692.2077

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3357, San Diego, CA 92163

www.thecentersd.org