At the close of our organization’s 40th year of existence, we have much to celebrate, and exciting developments to announce related to our online presence, organizational structure, and fundraising.

Twenty nineteen was marked above all by our inaugural Queer History Conference, #QHC19, which welcomed over 300 people from around the United States and beyond. The conference, held June 16 through 18 at San Francisco State University (SFSU) and co-hosted by the GLBT Historical Society, included 41 panels, a standing room only keynote by Susan Stryker, and three receptions. Attendees ranged from faculty and graduate students to public historians and community members, with a strong presence of those in K-12 education. Enthusiasm was high, and panels well-attended and energetic. In responses to the post-conference survey, attendees praised the breadth, quality, and distribution of panels and papers, and the strong opportunities for networking throughout conference events. Representative comments noted “generous” exchanges between junior and senior scholars, “a strong presence of people of color and of trans and nonbinary presenters,” and a “very positive atmosphere which was critical in an academic sense but also convivial.”

Many lauded the conference for its affordability, especially its subsidized registration fee and the availability of dorm housing. Several appreciated the location at SFSU as providing both a retreat from downtown San Francisco and a proximity to many LGBTQ history resources.

We are deeply pleased with the conference’s success and could not agree more with the many attendees who praised the skills and responsiveness of the conference co-chairs, Amy Sueyoshi and Nick Syrett, as well as the conference coordinator, Lexi Adsit. We again thank the program committee: Howard Chiang,
René Esparza, Will Kuby, Amanda Littauer, Kirsten Leng, Víctor Macías-González, Jen Manion, Wendy Rouse, Nikita Shepard, Yorick Smaal, T.J. Tallie, and Sarah Watkins. According to the post-conference survey, areas for improvement centered primarily around accessibility, A/V support, and the need for a greater number of gender-neutral bathrooms. We appreciate this and all feedback and commit to addressing these issues moving forward.

We are excited to repeat the Queer History Conference and propose to continue it as a biennial conference held in odd-numbered years. Based on feedback from Amy and Nick, we plan to again hold the conference in San Francisco—save the date, June 2021—with the goal of rotating to other cities beginning in 2023. While we have many reasons for hosting the conference in San Francisco again in 2021, we are especially appreciative for the institutional support Amy has been able to provide through SFSU. We will solicit a new program committee early in 2020 and issue a Call for Papers later that year. Looking ahead to #QHC23, we will also accept bids for host institutions and cities.

Beyond QHC, we continue to work on growing the CLGBTH, including through our online presence. Our newsletter has been a popular, well-read venue for book, film, and exhibit reviews, as well as calls for conferences and prizes and our seasonal co-chairs’ column. But in recent years, most members have opted to receive the newsletter digitally rather than on paper, and many request more frequent updates to our website. As a result, we are moving the newsletter content fully online beginning in January 2020. In consultation with our outgoing webmaster, newsletter editor, and the governing board, we have merged newsletter and website labor into a new role of website editor, helping us relay information to members and supporters more quickly, with less expense, and without using paper or ink. Our website format will also be better integrated with our social media platforms, which we hope to continue to grow.

As a part of this transition, please join us in welcoming two new incredible talents to our team. As our inaugural website editor who can lead our strategic shift to digital, we have recruited Kevin C. Quin, a Cornell University doctoral student in Africana Studies and LGBTQ Studies. Kevin is a skilled, public-facing scholar with an extensive digital presence, especially through Black Perspectives, the African American Intellectual History Society blog. We are also most fortunate that Caroline Radesky, a visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, has accepted our invitation to serve as our Review Editor. This position, slightly reconceived from the previous position of book review editor, will help us continue to broaden the breadth and scope of reviews to include pedagogical works, films, museum exhibitions, and more. Since the newsletter will exist entirely online, reviews will be posted exclusively to our website, with the opportunity to publish them throughout the year. Caroline’s strengths in the history of gender, feminism, and sexuality, especially her transnational approach and her unpacking of transhistoricity, will no doubt be invaluable assets to our field and the CLGBTH’s new initiatives. Welcome, Kevin and Caroline!

Of course, all this news is a bit bittersweet, as it means we say goodbye to other talented, generous, and committed colleagues who are cycling out of roles in the CLGBTH. We are deeply indebted to the time and efforts of Andrew Ross, who served as our webmaster for
nearly five years—generously extending his tenure to ease our own entry as co-chairs. Dan Royles, who is also a member of our current governing board, will cycle out of his other position as newsletter editor. Dan worked closely with April Haynes, our recent book review editor, who has added so much to the organization’s vision. As co-chairs, we cannot stress enough how thankful we are to Andrew, Dan, and April, who have dedicated countless hours to making the CLGBTH better for all of us. Your generosity of spirit, time, and energy has been invaluable.

We are also happy to report that, in consultation with the governing board, we are in the process of creating a new administrative position: a CLGBTH executive director. Many other organizations—both large and small—have a role like this in place. This position will not replace or supersede the co-chair or governing board duties, and to maintain the will of our members who elect the co-chairs and members of our governing board, the executive director will not have voting power. Instead, this new position will allow us to consolidate many of the tasks of the secretary-treasurer—a role currently filled by Emily Skidmore, who we are most fortunate to have on board. The reason for creating an executive director position is to ensure that we retain greater institutional memory and consistent financial and organizational practices amidst the turnover of co-chairs and members of the governing board. The executive director will hold a longer-term limit (five years) and as a result will help ease leadership transitions.

On the heels of the success of our inaugural Queer History Conference, we will soon announce plans for an ambitious fundraising campaign. While we have been successful at growing our quite modest coffers over the past couple of years, we remain committed to redistributing those funds to those who need it most and find new ways of supporting those
whose talents and efforts keep our field and profession so strong. We hope to launch a capital campaign to help us provide meaningful research and travel grants in perpetuity. In the meantime, we ask you to make a donation of any amount to help us live up to our name and mission of growing LGBTQ history and politics.

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you at the 2020 meeting of the American Historical Association—#AHA20—where we will hold 17 panels on a wide range of topics, as well as a tour of the In the Life Archive at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, our annual members’ meeting, and the ever-popular evening reception. At the reception, we will announce the winners of this year’s Gregory Sprague, Audre Lorde, and Allan Bérubé prizes (the latter is underwritten by the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco). Kindly join us in thanking our prize committee members. This year’s Sprague and Lorde prizes are staffed by Zeb Tortorici (chair), Sarah E. Watkins, and Elliott Powell. The Bérubé prize committee is made up of Jennifer Brier (chair), Rachel Corbman, and Eric Gonzaba. At our annual AHA reception, be sure to wear or purchase your CLGBTH fanny pack—introduced at #QHC19 and celebrating “history from the bottom up”—or to grab some CLGBTH stickers, which proclaim “Queer History. Uneraseable.” If you would like to publicize additional local events to take place during #AHA20—such as book parties, local history talks, or a night out—please feel free to post this to the CLGBTH listserv at clgbthistory-list@clgbthistory.org or by tagging us on Twitter @CLGBTH.

Finally, 2020 will be the culminating year of our leadership as co-chairs of the CLGBTH. In fall 2020, we will hold election for new co-chairs and five new members of our governing board.

Please don’t hesitate to talk with us if you are interested in serving on the board or as a co-chair! We would love to see you run, and we welcome your interests and all members’ visions for the CLGBTH.

In solidarity,

Julio Capó, Jr.
Florida International University
Emily K. Hobson
University of Nevada, Reno

The American Historical Association (AHA) will hold its annual meeting January 3-6 in New York City. As usual, CLGBTH is offering a full slate of paper panels, roundtables, and tours that explore the queer past. See you in the Big Apple!

Friday, January 3, 12:15-3:15pm
Tour of LGBTQ Materials at the Schomburg Center

Friday, January 3, 1:30-3:00pm
Commemorating the Stonewall Uprising: Transnational and National Retrospectives on Movements and Monuments

Sutton Center (New York Hilton, Second Floor) – joint session with World History Association
Chair and Comment: Kevin Mumford, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Panel:
Sylvea Hollis, National Park Service, Northeast Regional Office
Molly K. McGarry, University of California, Riverside
GVGK Tang, Independent Scholar

**Friday, January 3, 3:30-5:00pm**

**A History of Authenticity**

Beekman Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Emily K. Hobson, University of Nevada at Reno

Papers:

“The True and Genuine Story of Paul Bunyan”: Commercializing the Lumberjack Image, 1900–20
Willa Hammitt Brown, Harvard University

Artificial Authenticity? Eugen Steinach and the Surgical Creation of True Men
Tom Butcher, University of Virginia

Grey Owl Indian Craft Co.: Perceptions of Color and “Fake Indians” in 20th-Century America
Kevin Young, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Queering the Global City in Canada, Mexico, and the United States
Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Gabriel N. Rosenberg, Duke University

Papers:

Queer Movie-Going in Urban Mexico: Identity, Community, and Taste after 1930
Anne Rubenstein, York University

Bathhouse Raids in Canada, 1968–2004
Tom Hooper, York University

Queer Futures and Colonial Pasts: Robert Mapplethorpe and Samuel Delany Imagine New York City
Pete Sigal, Duke University

Comment: Julio Capó Jr., Florida International University

**Saturday, January 4, 8:30-10:00am**

Sexuality, Surveillance, and Bureaucracy in Cold War America

Murray Hill West (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair and Comment: Sarah E. Igo, Vanderbilt University

Papers:

Known Homosexuals: Surveillance and Scandals in the Early Cold War
Timothy Stewart-Winter, Rutgers University–Newark

Understanding the Gay World: Antihomosexual Policing and the Politics of the Courtroom
Anna Lvovsky, Harvard Law School

The Politics of Paper: Homosexuality, Criminal Records, and the “Shadow Carceral State” in Postwar America
Dan Ewert, Princeton University

“To Fight for an End to Intrusions into the Sex Lives of Americans”: Gay and Lesbian Resistance to Sexual Surveillance and Data Gathering, 1945–72
Nikita Shepard, Columbia University

Whither the Spinster? Sexuality, Labor, and Race in Defining and Locating Women Alone
Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Monica Mercado, Colgate University

Panel:

Molly Brookfield, University of Michigan
Chelsea Del Rio, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York
William Kuby, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Traci Parker, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Saturday, January 4, 10:30-12:00pm

Historicizing Heterosexualities in the United States

Murray Hill East (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

Chairs: Rebecca L. Davis, University of Delaware, Michele Mitchell, New York University

Panel:
Serena Mayeri, University of Pennsylvania
Sarah B. Rodriguez, Northwestern University
Renee Romano, Oberlin College
Marc Stein, San Francisco State University
Heather R. White, University of Puget Sound

AIDS and the State

Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

Chairs: Katie Batza, University of Kansas, David Kelly, Independent Scholar

Papers:
After the “Straight State”: Sexuality and Social Reform during California’s HIV/AIDS Crisis
Stephen Colbrook, University of Cambridge

Democracy, HIV/AIDS, and the Rise of the European Union
Louie Dean Valencia-Garcia, Texas State University

Nancy Brown, Purdue University

AIDS and the Clinton Presidency: The Persistence of Stigma
Clayton R. Koppes, Oberlin College

Saturday, January 4, 12:30-1:30pm

CLGBTH Membership Meeting

Holland Room (New York Hilton, Fourth Floor)

Saturday, January 4, 1:30-3:00pm

Queer Preservations: LGBTQ Archives across New York

Murray Hill East (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

Chair: Jason Baumann, New York Public Library

Panel:
Cheryl Beredo, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Olive Casareno, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York
Caitlin McCarthy, The LGBT Community Center
Colette Montoya-Sloan, Adelphi University-Manhattan Center
Stephen Petrus, LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College
Red Washburn, Kingsborough Community College, City University of New York

Saturday, January 4, 3:30-5:00pm

The Unexpected Activists: AIDS Activism beyond New York City and San Francisco

Murray Hill East (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

Chair and Comment: Dan Royles, Florida International University
Papers:

*HIV/AIDS Activism and Advocacy in the Early Years of the Two Spirit Movement, 1988–98*
Daniel Winunwe Rivers, Ohio State University

“That’s How Jesus Loves”: Tammy Faye Bakker, Televangelism, and AIDS
Emily Suzanne Johnson, Ball State University

The Ordinance Project: AIDS Activism and Nondiscrimination Legislation in Kansas City, Missouri
Austin Williams, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Navigating “Nowhere”: Building a Medical AIDS Response in the Rural Heartland
Katie Batza, University of Kansas

**Saturday, January 4, 7:00-8:00pm**

LGBTQ Historians’ Reception
Rhinelander Gallery North (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

**Sunday, January 5, 8:30-10:00am**

Queering Suffrage: Toward an Intersectional History of Women’s Suffrage
Gramercy West (New York Hilton, Second Floor) – joint session with the Coordinating Council for Women in History
Chair: Pippa Holloway, Middle Tennessee State University

Papers:

Queer Solutions: Lessons from Earlier Lives
Trisha Franzen, Albion College

Queering the Suffrage Archive: Building an Intersectional Suffrage History
Rachel Guberman, Schlesinger Library, Harvard University

Political Rhetoric and Personal Relationships: Sophonisba Breckinridge and the Suffrage Movement
Anya Jabour, University of Montana

Private Lives, Public Personas: Queer Alliances in the Suffrage Movement
Wendy Rouse, San José State University

**Sunday, January 5, 10:30am-12:00pm**

Global Queer History: Themes, Methods, and Approaches
Gramercy West (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Sarah E. Watkins, Independent Scholar

Papers:

Africanizing “Queer African Historical Studies”
Marc Epprecht, Queen’s University

“Subjects of Satisfaction”: Microhistory, the Late 19th-Century Colonial Press, and the Politics of Pederasty in a French Penal Colony
Ross G. Forman, University of Warwick

Queering the Visual History of the Sexual Revolution
Jennifer Evans, Carleton University

Inscribing Transgender across the Pacific
Howard Chiang, University of California, Davis

Beyond Binaries: Queer, Lesbian, and Trans Masculinities in the 20th-Century US
Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Jen Manion, Amherst College
Papers:
“Passing” Butches: The Convergence of Butch and Transgender in the Mid-20th-Century US
Alix Genter, Independent Scholar and Editor
Tending the Bulldagger Archive: Identificatory Practices, Negotiations, and Iterations of Lesbian Masculinity
Sasha T. Goldberg, Indiana University
Breastfeeding While Butch: Navigating the Hyper-Feminine Discourses Surrounding Breastfeeding, 1956 to the Present
Emily E. Skidmore, Texas Tech University

Sunday, January 5, 1:30-3:00pm
Trans Identities between State Coercion and Self Assertion: New Histories of 20th-Century Germany, Israel, and Britain
Gramercy West (New York Hilton, Second Floor)  
Chair: Pieter M. Judson, European University Institute
Papers:
Trans Identities and “Cross Dressing” in Nazi Germany: Trans People as a Discrete Target of State Violence
Laurie Marhoefer, University of Washington
Crossing Borders and Demolishing Boundaries: The Connected History of the Israeli Transgender Community, 1953–86
Iris Rachamimov, Tel Aviv University
The Pilgrimage to Casablanca: Jan Morris’s Conundrum and Trans Authorship in 1970s Britain
Gil Engelstein, Northwestern University

Sunday, January 5, 3:30-5:00pm
The Politics of Guns in the Late 20th-Century United States
Gramercy West (New York Hilton, Second Floor)  
Chair: Kevin M. Kruse, Princeton University
Papers:
From American Riflemen to American Rifleman: Partisanship and the National Rifle Association
Cari S. Babitzke, Boston University
Julio Capó Jr., Florida International University

Claiming Space: Culture, Resistance, and Queer World-Making in the 20th-Century US
Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)  
Chair: Timothy Stewart-Winter, Rutgers University–Newark
Papers:
Black Power Sampled and Remixed: Sex-Positive Black Feminism in Early Street Lit
Naomi Extra, Rutgers University
Rhinestone Cowboys: Gay Rodeos and Queer Community Building in America, 1976 to the Present
Justin Salgado, Texas Tech University
The Poets Press: Diane Di Prima, Publishing, and Queer Community Building
Danielle Dumaine, University of Connecticut
Claiming “Street Power”: Poetry and Performance in the Early Black Power and Gay Liberation Movements
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Andrew Lester, Rutgers University
Gun Control and the Legacies of War
Clayton Howard, Ohio State University
Comment: Michelle M. Nickerson, Loyola University Chicago

Interdisciplinary Methods for Queer and Trans Pasts
Regent Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair: Howard Chiang, University of California, Davis
Papers:

Historicism, History, and Theory: A History of Method for the History of Sexuality
Greta LaFleur, Yale University

Trans-Tonalities: Sensation and Gender Transformation in 18th-Century Atlantic Revivals
Scott Larson, University of Michigan

Uncovering the Gay World of Mexico City, c. 1930–1960, at the Intersection of Transnational History, Cold War Historiography, and the Nota Roja
Víctor M. Macías-González, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

Homophile Aesthetics and the Queer Politics of Visual Culture
David S. Churchill, University of Manitoba

Monday, January 6, 9:00-10:30am
Where Did Gender and Sexuality Go? Conversations on Latin American History
Central Park West (Sheraton New York, Second Floor)
Chair: Elizabeth Q. Hutchison, University of New Mexico

Policing and Criminalizing AIDS
Clinton Room (New York Hilton, Second Floor)
Chair and Comment: Jennifer Brier, University of Illinois at Chicago
Papers:

Incarcerated Women’s Insights in the Struggle against AIDS
Emily K. Hobson, University of Nevada at Reno

“Robert P.” and Steven Farmer: The Courts and Media Coverage in Washington State’s First Forcibly Taken HIV/AIDS Blood Test
Michael Diambri, University of Vermont

Informed Consent and HIV Criminalization in the Military Justice System
Natalie Shibley, University of Pennsylvania

“Gay Activist Means a Black Tie Dinner at $100 a Head”: Gay Conservatism, Civic Liberalism, and Antiradicalism in AIDS-Crisis Los Angeles
Nic John Ramos, Brown University
Gay Rights and the Mormon Church: Intended Action, Unintended Consequences by Gregory A. Prince is a needed text at the intersection of legal, LGBT+, and religious history. Prince’s project takes on the gargantuan task of piecing together the influence and involvement of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the gay rights movement from the 1960s to present. With unprecedented access to documents and sources within and connected to the hierarchy of the Church organization, Prince forms the narrative of its effect on the LGBT+ rights movement and the movement’s effect on the Church; however, at the same time, Prince’s effort shows a lack of critical and inclusive engagement with his sources that makes the text less critically engaging to those who have read LGBT+ history and theory.

As Prince explains, the text is not meant to be a chronological history of facts; instead, he focuses around certain events that clearly connect the Church to various legal and political battles involving gay rights in the United States of America. He is very clear that the Church has, in the past, made a large investment in countering homosexual marriage rights, and because of that, his own historical retelling is mostly focused on the issues surrounding mostly homosexual people, specifically gay men, rather than other queer identities and rights.

The book is separated into thirty-one chapters. The first five chapters cover the genesis of Prince’s project and the Church’s entrance into the political realm of protection or neglection of legal rights. In these chapters, Prince explains his view that the Church’s views of LGBT+ experience and identity, and thus the basis for its political actions, come out of a misunderstanding of what Prince believes is a biological, epigenetic basis for homosexuality, and builds an argument for how the Church came about its first interactions with gay rights policies.

Prince covers various legal rulings, amendment creations, and political moves taken by the Church to legally enshrine marriage as a union between one man and one woman: in Hawaii, the Church’s involvement in Baehr v. Lewin and the efforts toward a constitutional amendment (Chapter 6); in California, Propositions 22 and 8 (Chapters 8 and 15); in Utah, Amendment 3 and SB 296 (Chapters 9 and 23); and throughout the United States, legal cases such as Hollingsworth v. Perry, Ferguson v. JONAH, Kitchen v. Herbert, and Obergefell v. Hodges (Chapters 18 and 22).

In addition to the Church’s influence on and participation in legal and political battles, Prince briefly covers changes in the Church’s internal politics and beliefs around LGBT+ individuals. For example, he discusses a memorandum that was created by one of the Church’s chief legal experts, apostle Dallin H. Oaks (Chapter 5); various Church publications, like God Loveth His Children and Mormonsandgays.org (Chapters 13 and 21); and the Exclusion Policy, a policy that labeled same-sex married couples as apostates and forbade their children to participate in saving ordinances until they turned 18 and could disavow same-sex marriage (Chapter 26).
Prince also wrestles with the effects of the Church’s involvement with LGBT+ rights. Through a large amount of ethnographic interviews, Prince is able to uncover much of the tenor of the Church’s effect on people. For example, in chapters that discuss the backlash to the Church (7 and 16), Prince shows, through analysis of personal stories and private emails gathered for the purpose of the book, how the Church reacted when its public visage was hurt after Prop 8 and how current and former members reacted to the Exclusion Policy.

Prince concludes the book with various chapters on the parts of queer identity that usually do not get much space when discussing the legal foundations of marriage or right protection. In chapters titled, “Trans,” (27) “Intersex,” (28) “Suicide,” (29) and “What’s Next?” (31), Prince attempts to answer and frame some of the questions and conversations that will continue in and around the Church. He argues for the Church to accept a biological, epigenetic view of homosexuality in order to bring its views up to “current science”; however, as will be discussed below, the lack of authorial conversation around these various topics shows the need for more discourse in these very fruitful historical subjects.

The book is not without its faults. First and foremost, we must attend to author and audience. Prince, a white, heterosexual, cisgender male, active member of the Church, is not writing to historians or academia; despite being published by an academic press, the book is clearly written to and for a lay audience, namely members of the Church. Prince uses the text as a tool to allow members to not only interrogate what their tithes have done in regard to the hierarchical Church’s imposed views of homosexuality and gay rights, but also see a path forward for the Church’s doctrine and public engagement, namely his, which is an acceptance of the biological, epigenetic cause of homosexuality to improve the theological and communal acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Indeed, Prince himself, despite this being his third historical publication, is not an academically trained historian. His academic career provided him with degrees in dentistry and pathology, and he spent much of his career in the biotech industry. This comes as a boon and a detriment to his project. His writing reaches his audience well, but the historical and theoretical rigor lack the honing of formal training.

For example, as I have stated, he sets aside at the beginning of the text lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and other queer identities because he believes there is a dearth of sources to tie them into the Church’s crusade against gay rights and lives. But then, at the end of the text, he attempts to approach them in solo chapters that denigrate their identity and don’t provide the room they require as identifying characteristics within queer identities. In this attempt—and in his understanding—he, for example, explains in chapter 27, “Trans,” that “transgender” is an umbrella category that covers various “flavors”: “within the transgender cluster are such diverse self-identities as transvestite, transsexual, drag king, drag queen, gender fluid, androgynous, genderless, gender-queer, and others” (267). Indeed, in this way the entire text shows a disregard for queer theory and conceptualizations.

Even so, this book is a good primer for a field of study that is ripe for historical inquiry. It is one
of the only historical texts, thus far, that approaches the Church’s influence on LGBTQ+ lives in a historical methodology. It is necessary, always, to begin a journey somewhere, and Prince’s *Gay Rights and the Mormon Church* is hopefully that start to a rigorous historical inquiry into a US-based religious organization that has dealt with and has large influence on every single queer life in America.

Adam McLain
Harvard Divinity School

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Support the Committee on LGBT History!

We’re committed to furthering the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer pasts.

We also have an ambitious vision for the future: a stronger organization, a recurring queer history conference, and research grants program to support cutting-edge work in the field.

We need your support to make this vision a reality. Please [make a donation of any amount](#) to the Committee on LGBT History today, by clicking the link or scanning the QR code to the right. We can’t do this without you!