

archeion

stonewall library & archives

september 2009



Exciting events are coming to Stonewall this autumn. In addition to our regular array of film screenings, book club and exhibition by a local artist—see the calendar on the back page—two notable visitors come to Fort Lauderdale in September. Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis makes a special appearance at a V.I.P. event on Sunday, September 13, at the International Swimming Hall of Fame; Stonewall is one of the beneficiaries. Adorable Johnny Diaz brings his new novel to Stonewall on Saturday, September 19. See page 3 for more details for both these must-attend events.

The fall brings two fascinating exhibitions focusing on gay and lesbian history. **Turn the Beat Around**, focuses on the era of disco. To be held in the Charles L. Ross Gallery in the Stonewall Museum, this investigation into the music that made a generation dance will be augmented by items from our archives, including posters and albums. *It's not too late to donate disco-related items hiding out in your closet.* The music starts with a very special opening reception on Wednesday, October 14. The ArtServe auditorium will be transformed into—well, we're not going to say Studio

54—you'll just have to come see for yourself. After all, you can't stop the music. Or the dancing queens.

The second exhibition, **For Women Only**, in the George Hester Gallery, explores the history of places and organizations dedicated strictly to the female gender. This comprehensive survey details such groups as the Daughters of Bilitis, who published *The Ladder*, and "womyn-only" events such as the Michigan Womyn's Musical Festival. In keeping with the theme, a preview on November 1 will be *for women only*. The official opening reception takes place November 2.

Many more wonderful events are coming to Stonewall during the 2009-2010 season. One of the more compelling, *The Harlem Renaissance: As Gay as It Was Black*, is an exhibition of the immensely significant artistic period that defined black culture in the 1920s and 1930s. April brings the second annual GALLA Festival. We're already in contact with prominent authors.

All of these events cost money to produce and as you know, Stonewall is a non-profit, member-supported organization. Hint, hint.

Coming Your Way

For Women ~~MEN~~ Only
an Exhibition

MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

"My partner, Robert Graham, and I grew up during a period when gay rights virtually did not exist. We've watched with interest the changes that have taken place, providing gay men with an identity they never enjoyed before. We see this as an ongoing process and we see our legacy as a way of continuing the process. We plan for a major contribution from our estate to be given to Stonewall Library & Archives."

—Paul Fasana

JOIN THE
**WHITMAN
SOCIETY**
BY REMEMBERING
STONEWALL
IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE

FOR INFORMATION OR
QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
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Charles L. Ross *Editor and Art Director*
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NOW and Then

During the women's movement in the 1970s, feminism and lesbianism were inextricably interwoven. Many women discovered their lesbianism through their involvement in feminism, while others found feminism after discovering their lesbianism or coming out. Some women even considered themselves political lesbians, being physically involved only with women, not out of true expression of the sexuality but in protest of the patriarchy. While such a connection between the women's rights and the lesbian rights movements is to be expected today, what is surprising is that the association between the movements persisted in the '70s, despite the often rocky relationship between lesbian feminists and straight feminists.

Lesbians did much of the work of the feminist movement, yet they had only two options for feminist involvement. Many lesbians resisted joining major feminist organizations, such as the National Organization for Women (NOW), run by straight women. NOW concerned itself first with rights general to all women rather than lesbian rights specifically. Furthermore, NOW tried to conceal all traces of lesbianism and lesbian pride in its members in order not to offend the political right. This attempt to pander to the opposition led to NOW's having some discriminatory policies, such as forcing its members to wear skirts. However, some gay women, especially as the women's movement progressed, did join NOW and decided to submit to its rules and image.

Although NOW lacked even a central address and telephone number in the mid-70s, the organization fancied itself the leader of the feminist movement. NOW's presumption of having this role led to tensions between the organization and other feminists, as did NOW's attempts to straighten its image, often to the exclusion of lesbian feminists. In 1974, during a public march in Tallahassee, Florida, NOW demanded that a group of lesbian demonstrators wearing lavender armbands not participate in its march. The women in lavender refused to listen to NOW, insisting that it was not NOW's march but everybody's march.

Despite such difficulties, feminists of all sexualities faced government scrutiny and harassment. "Jill," a member of the board of directors of a local feminist organization, said that the government tapped their telephones and recorded the license plates numbers of members. When emceeding at a feminist rally, "Patricia" was given a ticket for parking illegally in a spot where a police officer told her she could park. She later talked to the officer, and he said it was his fault and that he would take care of the ticket.

However, two years later, Patricia was almost arrested for that ticket. Her near arrest occurred immediately after Patricia and some other women stood up to the chief of police, because police officers had protected the attackers of a lesbian couple. The entire ticket affair, she suspects, was orchestrated so that the police would have something with which to charge her if she ever "misstepped."

In addition to the commonality of the feminist causes, this element of government and police interference unified the different factions of feminists. The greater the opponents to the women's rights movement were, the more the actions of lesbian and straight feminists coalesced into a single revolution.

This article was written by Elizabeth Santo from research gathered at the Stonewall Library & Archives from oral histories donated to the library's archives by Old Lesbians Organized for Change (OLOC) and CLIO.



JOHNNY DIAZ

will read, discuss and autograph his new novel, *Beantown Cubans*, a tale of friendship, 'familia' and finding a place to call home at Stonewall Library & Archives on

Saturday, September 19 at 2:00PM.

One of the few gay Latino writers in the United States writing contemporary gay Hispanic fiction, Johnny Diaz is a Boston Globe journalist, writing about pop culture, style trends and Hispanic-related stories. As a reporter for *The Miami Herald*, he shared in the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the federal seizure of Elian Gonzales and its aftermath.

Copies of *Beantown Cubans* will be available for purchase.



Writer's Workshop Strengths and Weaknesses

a four-week workshop lead by Joyce Sweeney at Stonewall Library & Archives

Mondays: **September 21 • September 28**
October 5 • October 12 • 7:00-9:00PM

Enrollment is limited to 12 writers so sign up today!

This workshop is free and open to the public.

Call 954-763-8565 to register.

There are four components to good writing. Most people are good at two of them and need to work on the other two. The goal of the workshop is for participants to get a good sense of their individual strengths and weaknesses and work on bringing up all four elements. Participants should bring 15 pages or less of a work-in-progress to the first class.

Joyce Sweeney is the author of fourteen novels for young adults and has received numerous writing awards. Her three ongoing workshops in creative writing have so far produced twenty-seven published authors.



JOYCE SWEENEY
Author, Workshop Leader, Manuscript Critiques



Stonewall Library
& Archives
invites you to join
our humanitarian trip

CUBA TODAY

**November
20 to 28, 2009**



Our trip over the Thanksgiving holiday will be an unforgettable opportunity to travel in a small group of friends while experiencing life in Cuba today. Please contact Jack Rutland for more details. 954-763-8565

This humanitarian program is sponsored by the Bringing Hope Foundation, Inc., and licensed to travel to Cuba by the U.S. government to deliver humanitarian supplies to benefit the Cuban people.



*The
Golden
Homecoming*
a VIP
Reception
with



**Olympic Gold Metalist Greg Louganis and
Jeanne White-Ginder, mother of Ryan White**

Sunday, September 13, 2009 6:30-8:30 PM

International Swimming Hall of Fame
One Hall of Fame Drive, Fort Lauderdale

During the 1988 Olympic diving competition, Greg Louganis hit his head on the diving board. He was inspired to continue by recalling the courage of Ryan White, a hemophiliac diagnosed with AIDS, who was ostracized at schools and restaurants. Louganis won the Gold Medal for 3-meter springboard diving and gave it to Ryan White. Two years later Ryan died. On September 13, Jeanne White-Ginder, Ryan's mother, will present the gold medal to the International Swimming Hall of Fame, reuniting it with Louganis' other medals.

Tickets: \$100; available at www.ISHOF.org or calling 954-6536

This evening benefits Stonewall Library & Archives, International Swimming Hall of Fame, Broward House and Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center.



september calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

* starred events are free and open to the public

september 1 - 30

ArtsUnited Exhibition Jorge Leon: Watercolors

monday september 14

Artist Reception 6:30 – 8:00PM at Stonewall, George Hester Gallery*

tuesday september 1

Stonewall Book Club

Read the book, then come discuss it. *We Disappear* by Scott Heim. (November: *Nureyev* by Julie Kavanaugh) 7:00PM at Stonewall*



friday september 4

Behind the Lavender Screen: Cinema Classics
Edward II (1992) Provocative Derek Jarman take on English history; with the impossibly chic Tilda Swinton as a very bitter queen. 7:00PM at Stonewall*



friday september 11

Out Boys Movie Night
Film screening and discussion following. *Were the World Mine* (2008)
Gay musical fantasia based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*; cue the fairies. 7:00PM at Stonewall*



sunday september 13

Golden Homecoming:
An Evening with Greg Louganis and Jeanne White-Grinder
Meet Olympic legend Greg Louganis and Ryan White's



mother, Jeanne White-Ginder, at a cocktail party benefiting Stonewall, The Swimming Hall of Fame, Broward House and Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center. International Swimming Hall of Fame, One Hall of Fame Drive, Fort Lauderdale. 6:30 - 8:30 PM. For tickets: www.browardhouse.org/louganis/index.html

thursday september 17

SNAP

Social Network of Active Professionals. \$10 suggested donation.

6:00 – 8:00PM. Call 954-763-8565 for details.



friday september 18

Ciné/Cinema/Film
Foreign-language film screening and discussion. *Year Without Love* (2005; Spanish with English subtitles) A struggling Buenos Aires poet chronicles his struggle against AIDS. 7:00pm at Stonewall*



saturday september 19

Distinguished Authors Lecture
Series: Johnny Diaz
Reading from his recently published novel *Beantown Cubans*. The author will be available to sign copies of his book after the reading. 2:00PM at Stonewall*



friday september 25

Out Girls Movie Night
Film screening and discussion. *The Early Works of Cheryl Dunye* (1990-1994)
Brilliant fusing of black and queer culture from our very own lesbian Spike Lee. 7:00PM at Stonewall*



sunday september 27

Opera Group
Video screening and discussion.
1:00PM at Stonewall*

