



# Archeion

JOURNAL OF QUEER ARCHIVES  
STONEWALL NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

# Archeion Returns

Welcome to the new *Archeion*.

As we enter yet another new era of information sharing, *Archeion* offers a mechanism for critical, thoughtful discussion that presents new perspectives on LGBTQ history and present-day queer life.

Our focus is on the research and exhibition of materials found in our substantial archival holdings, totaling six million pages that reflect LGBTQ history.

In this issue, we present two recent exhibitions: *BLK – The National Black Lesbian and Gay News Magazine* and *Elected Sisters – Pioneering Bi, Lesbian and Trans Political Leaders*, as well as contributions by Che Gossett, Joe Tolbert Jr., Dr. Rachel Corbman, and Jamie Grace Alexander. Additionally, we present *Stonewall News*, along with other items of interest.

We welcome your letters, input, comments, support, and criticism. Please send them to [info@stonewall-museum.org](mailto:info@stonewall-museum.org) to be included in future issues and help shape our collective conversations.

**Hunter O’Hanian** is the Executive Director of the Stonewall National Museum & Archives.

# Archeion

JOURNAL OF QUEER ARCHIVES  
STONEWALL NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

February 2021

Stonewall National Museum & Archives began publishing *Archeion* in 2001 and published it until 2011. SNMA published other periodicals with a variety of names during the interim. The new *Archeion* series, which began in February 2021, is published quarterly (February, May, August, and November). Copies are mailed to the home address of all Stonewall members.

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Andy Johnson

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*Archeion* seeks comments and submissions from readers.

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**Cover** (in descending order):

Lady J'ai, Kathy Kozachenko, Althea Garrison, James Baldwin, Barbara Smith, Elaine Noble, Djola Branner, and Deborah Glick.

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# Where Critique and Joy Co-exist

Dear reader,

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for this opportunity to shape the vision of a new iteration of *Archeion*. As with any reboot comes a reimagining of what is necessary and critical in this moment, particularly in relationship to queer archives, queer cultures, and LGBTQ identity. The journal seeks to address, unpack, critique, and care for the inherent multiplicities and intersections in the lived experience of queer people.

The goal for *Archeion* is to spark a deep sense of collectivity, care, and empathy while holding true to the notion that community (and by extension unity) can be, and is, flawed. It's a turning towards the truth of how racial capitalism, heteropatriarchy, the history of colonialism and genocide, and a host of other interrelated systems of oppression have both shaped and misshaped our goals of equity and freedom. It's a turning towards our blind spots and troubled history, naming them,

facing them, and working towards filling those gaps. It's also remaining grounded within notions of joy, feeling, and pleasure. In adrienne maree brown's book *Pleasure Activism*, she writes, "Pleasure is the point. Feeling good is not frivolous, it is freedom." Critique and joy co-exist.

Our first four contributors to the journal – Che Gossett, Joe Tolbert, Jr., Dr. Rachel Corbman, and Jamie Grace Alexander – arrive from distinct professional and personal backgrounds. It is their unique voices that contextualize and animate the archival holdings of SNMA. Their reciprocity allows us to view the material differently. Gossett offers their thoughts on BLK within the framework of Du Bois's notion of a double consciousness: Blackness and queerness, noting their "critical intimacy." Tolbert puts forth a poetic gesture to Alan Bell, BLK's founder, as a way to assert agency and reclaim Black queer identity.

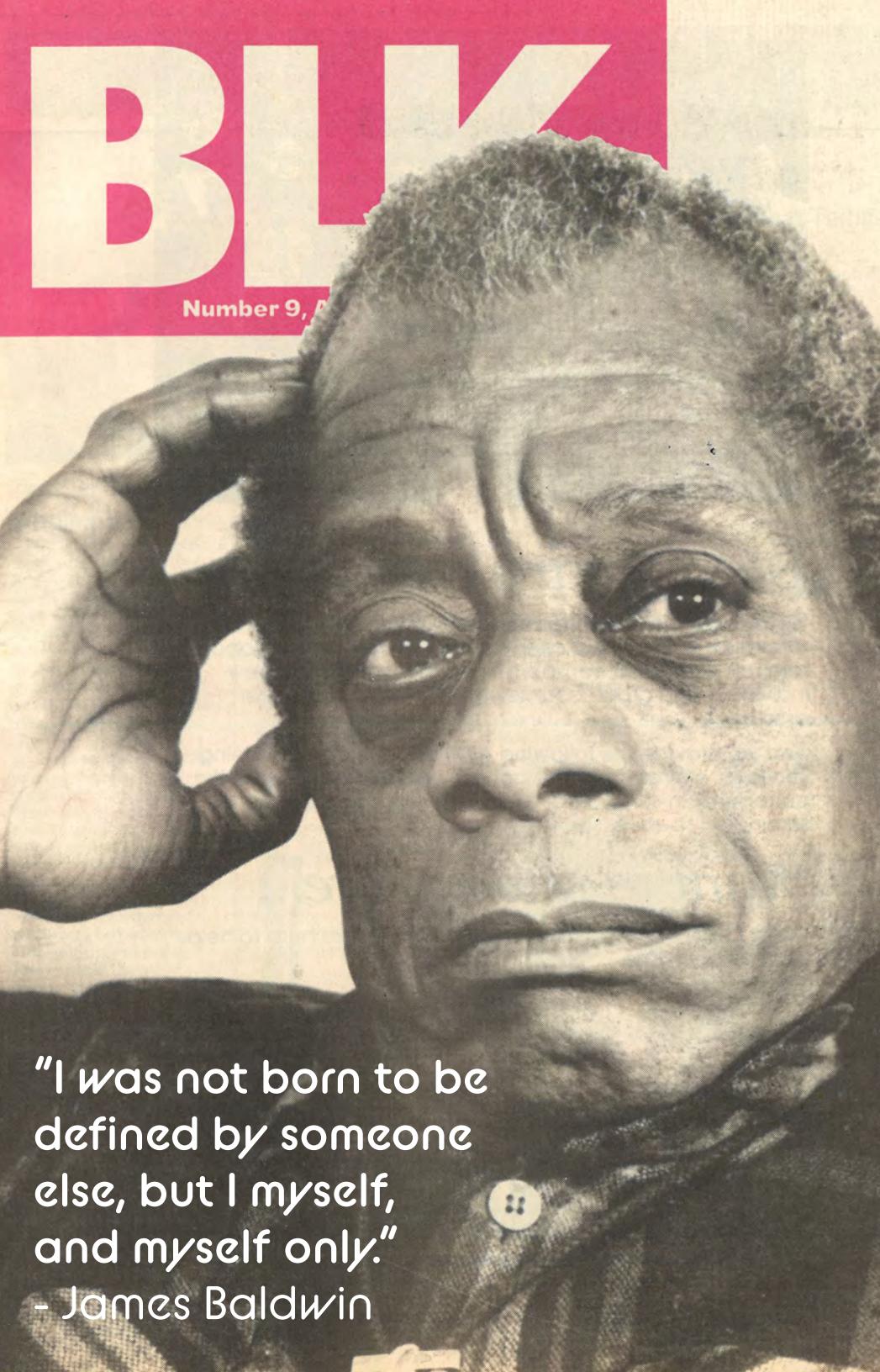
Dr. Corbman extends to us a connection between *Elected Sisters* and the "Trans-Lesbianic Follies" in order to underline the historical weight of LGBTQ women in politics. While Alexander poetically desires and imagines a more radically queer, trans, and femme political future.

I am indebted to the contributors for offering their words, spirit, and energy to this project. It is in collaboration with these writers, poets, organizers, and academics that *Archeion* can serve as a space of risk, experimentation, and care.

**Andy Johnson**, editor of *Archeion*, is a DC-based writer, editor, curator, and art historian.

# BLK

Number 9, August 1989

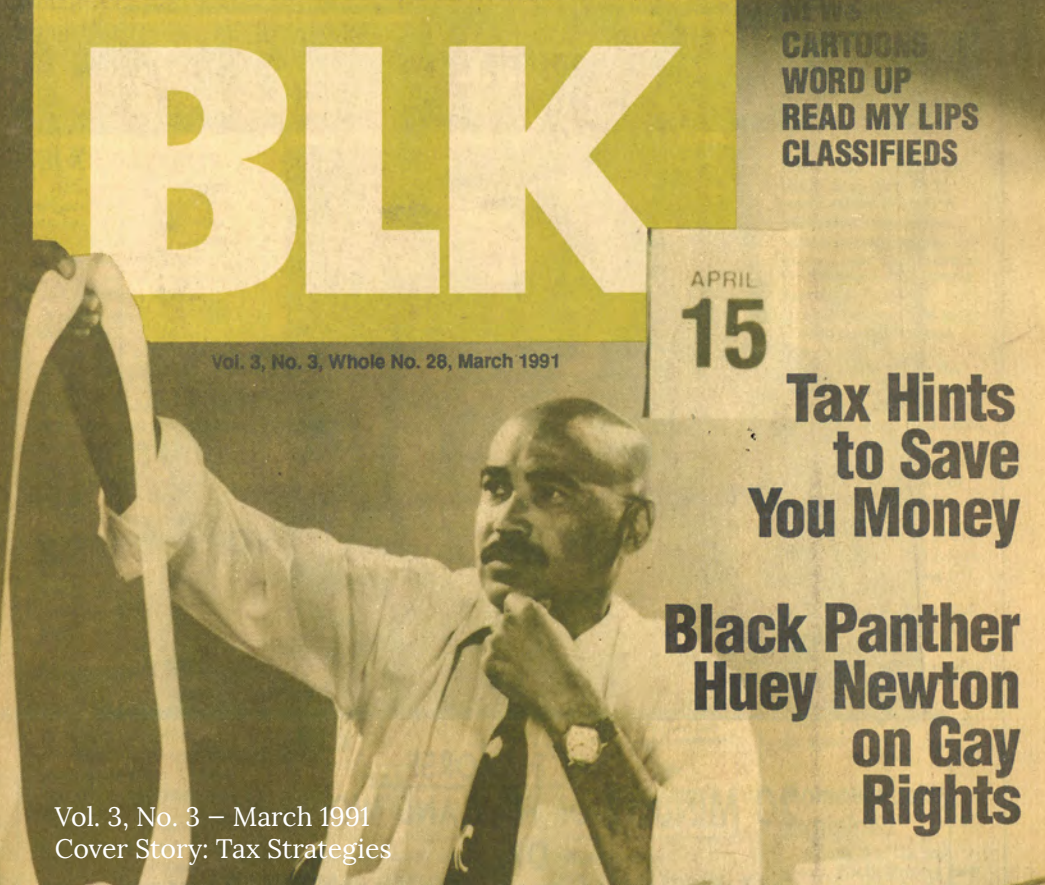


"I was not born to be defined by someone else, but I myself, and myself only."

- James Baldwin

Founded in Los Angeles by Alan Bell, BLK was created to be a voice for marginalized lesbian and gay African American communities in the United States. BLK was first published on newsprint then grew into a full color, glossy magazine featuring contemporary news stories, provocative interviews, and articles about sports, music, film, literature, AIDS, politics, and social issues that affected the communities it represented. The magazine had a broad focus. Its feature articles brought forward many powerful voices including Pat Parker, Audre Lorde, Huey P. Newton, Barbara Smith, James Baldwin, and many more. Additionally, each issue looked at how HIV and AIDS disproportionately impacted Black women and gays.

◀  
Vol. 1, No. 9 – August 1989  
Cover Story: James Baldwin



The March 1991 issue of *BLK* provided helpful tax tips for the community, an often overlooked and assumed civic skill. More importantly, nonetheless, the issue featured an open letter from the Black Panther Supreme Commander, Huey P. Newton (1942-1989). Coalition building was a highlight of the Panther's ethos, and as such, Newton sought to engage with the LGBTQ community, knowing their buy-in was instrumental to imagining a more equitable future. In the letter, Newton writes, "We

must gain security in ourselves and therefore have respect and feelings for all oppressed people." Newton understood that while certain struggles may appear different on the surface, at their core, oppression speaks the same language. Newton continues in his letter stating "We should be willing to discuss the insecurities that many people have about homosexuality. When I say 'insecurities,' I mean the fear that they're some kind of threat to our manhood."

The cover of issue number thirty-three featured theatre troupe, Pomo-Afro-Homos (Post-Modern African American Homosexuals), which included Djola Bernard Branner (b. 1957), Brian Freeman (dates unknown), and Eric Gupton (1960-2003). From 1990 to 1995, Pomo-Afro-Homos performed pieces that showed issues Black gay people

dealt with on a daily basis; some titles include – *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life* and *Dark Fruit*. The group was based in San Francisco and performed nationwide, including a performance at Lincoln Center. Their work, however, was rejected by some organizations, including the National Black Theatre and NPR.



**"What I find most rewarding is talking to other Black gay men and realizing how empowering the work is for them."**  
- Djola Branner

BLK's commitment to a radical politics of liberation culminated in the cover and featured interview of their September 1990 issue, featuring the words of the inimitable Audre Lorde (1934-1992). The cover featured a Dagmar Schultz-Berlin photograph of the self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." Lorde cemented her anti-

capitalist stance when she asserted, "It's pretty absurd to talk about capitalism triumphing when you look around and see our oceans dying, the air is polluted, the dollar is failing on the world market, the United States is the largest debtor nation in the world. How has capitalism triumphed?"

"I think all art by its nature must be revolutionary. In times that are as sick and as critical as now, how can any art not be revolutionary. If it's not, then it is something other than art."  
- Audre Lorde



Vol. 2, No. 9 – September 1990  
Cover Story: Audre Lorde

Vol. 2, No. 6 – June 1990  
Cover Story: Barbara Smith



that a happy life is about possessions. We need to get to some place about liberation and about what is really important – beauty, joy, peace, and place for people to live and food to eat.”

In the June 1990 issue, the editors featured Barbara Smith (b. 1946) with a lengthy interview and a cover. The pioneering lesbian, feminist, writer, educator, and political revolutionary shared her thoughts on the role of writing and literature in the Black lesbian and gay communities, stating “I think the responsibility of Black lesbian and gay writers is to tell the truth.” Additionally, Smith underscores her commitment to care and community when she contends, “What we need to give up is the false ideology that makes us think

BLK: *The National Black Lesbian and Gay News Magazine*, 1988-1994 was on view at SNMA from July 13 – August 28, 2020.

# A Fabulous Darkness\*

“He had left his queer thought-world and come back to the world of motion and men. He looked now for the first time sharply about him, and wondered he had seen so little before. He grew slowly to feel almost for the first time the Veil that lay before him and the white world.” - Du Bois<sup>1</sup>.

In the chapter “The Coming of John” from *The Souls of Black Folk*, the protagonist’s world is radically shifted. A split occurs between the perspective of the world before and then after, and there is an incommensurable difference between the two. His consciousness – in the sociogenic sense – is now doubled. This queer thought-world both enables and solicits him to view the normative world aslant. Suddenly, the world is inverted. He sees diagonally across and through it, noticing the anti-blackness which would have been disavowed because it so saturates every aspect of the lifeworld. This awareness of the anti-black metaphysical axis of the world enables him to see the “oppression that had not seemed

oppression before.”<sup>2</sup> Blackness and queerness are not the same; however, what might they create in their critical intimacy? This is one of the questions that is answered through the archives and exhibition of BLK. We see that black queer struggle is against anti-queerness, and anti-blackness (and the anti-queerness of anti-blackness) is trans-national and has always been radical and revolutionary – from Simon Nkoli in South Africa to Audre Lorde’s literary activism in Germany. The BLK archives and exhibition speak to what Laura Harris calls the “aesthetic sociality of blackness”<sup>3</sup> and to the aesthetic sociality of queer and trans Black radical movements.

—  
\* The title is a homage to Samuel Delaney’s novel *The Einstein Intersection*, which was originally to be titled “A Fabulous, Formless Darkness.”

1. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, “The Coming of John,” in *The Souls of Black Folk*, ed. Brent Hayes Edwards (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2007), p. 157.

2. Du Bois, 157.

3. Laura Harris, *Experiments in Exile: C. L. R. James, Hélio Oiticica, and the Aesthetic Sociality of Blackness* (New York, NY: Fordham University Press, 2018).

**Che Gossett** is a Black non binary femme writer and a 2020-2021 graduate fellow at the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University.

# A Possible Impossibility

I.  
To you, we were an impossibility.  
Too Black. Too gay. Too lesbian. Too bisexual.  
Defined by your stories we were  
Deviants deserving of a plague.  
Deviants that will lift up our eyes in hell. We say no more.  
No longer giving you the right to speak for us.  
We are breaking our silence. Defining ourselves for ourselves.  
We make us. We shape us. Our tongues are untied. We speak.

II.  
Alan Bell, creator of BLK magazine, we say your name.  
You gave us back to ourselves whole.  
You gave us our heart breaks.  
You gave us our beautiful Black joy.  
You gave us our Blackness  
but not at the expense of our queerness.  
To the ones responsible for stopping the  
spread of AIDS we were a high risk and a low priority.  
Through the neglect and denial of the impact of AIDS on  
the Black community you helped us to choose pleasure safely.  
You challenged us to not accept a second rate life.  
Challenged us to be active in politics here and abroad.  
To work together – Black lesbians and Black gay men.  
To work together to demand change of systems  
that intend to render our living impossible.  
You showed us the power of using our voices.  
BLK is a declaration that we are the possible impossibility.  
A declaration that we are here. Have always been here.  
Black and Lesbian.  
Black and Gay.  
Black and Bisexual.  
Black and Proud.

**Joe Tolbert, Jr. (Joe T.)** is a minister, art critic, and the founder and lead cultural strategist of Art at the Intersections.



# Elected Sisters:

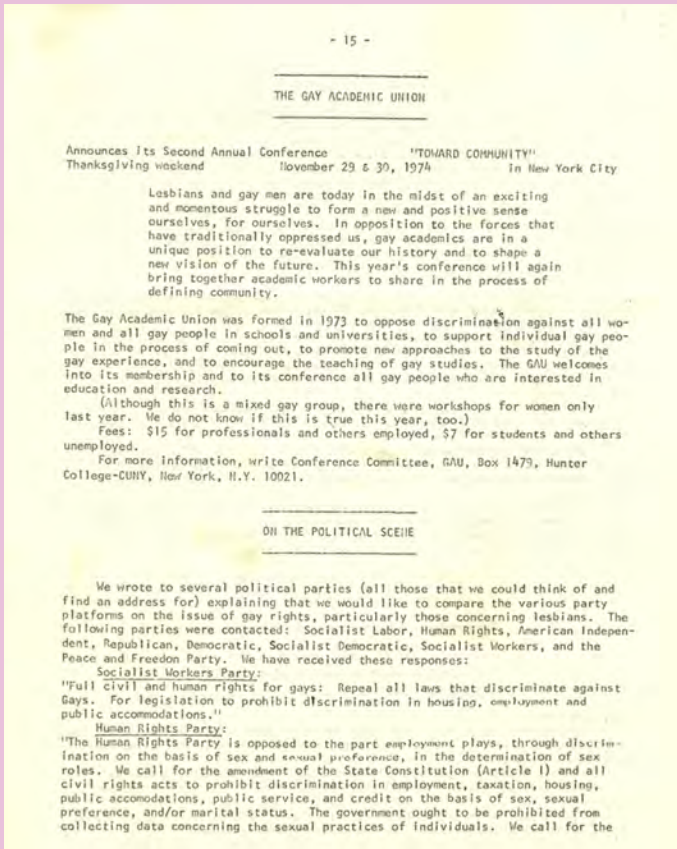


Pioneering Bi, Lesbian, and  
Trans Political Leaders

Though a woman is currently the Vice President of the United States of America, no woman has ever been elected president of the United States. Some have tried, none have made it. However, since the 1970s, many women have been elected to other public offices. The 2018 mid-term elections broke the record for the highest number of women elected to federal office. Many of those women are members of the LGBTQ community, including Sharice Davids's re-election to the House of Representatives and Sarah McBride's win to become the first trans state senator in US history. As the number of women running for public office has grown over the past years, LGBTQ women have put themselves forward early and often. But it has come at a cost – they have had bullets shot at their windows; they have endured insults and harassment; their lives and families have been threatened. According to the Victory Fund, a nonpartisan political action committee devoted to electing LGBTQ candidates, today there are well over 700 LGBTQ elected officials.

*Elected Sisters: Pioneering Bi, Lesbian, and Trans Political Leaders* shined a spotlight on individual trailblazers in the history of LGBTQ representation within American politics. The exhibition underscored the complex relationship between identity and politics, illustrating the notion that identity politics are at times complicated and contradictory.

◀  
Kathy Kozachenko, elected to the City Council, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1974); Human Rights Party



◀ Page 15 from the *Lesbian Connection* (1974) by Ambitious Amazons in East Lansing, Michigan. It was a unifying and informational publication that spoke specifically to the potential of political organizing amongst the lesbian community.

Also in 1974, Elaine Noble became the first openly LGBTQ woman elected to a state legislature in the US. Her district, located in the Fenway/Back Bay neighborhoods of Boston, contained more than 250,000 constituents. She said that it was a very “ugly campaign” – shootings damaged her home and campaign windows. Noble won her first election by 56% of the vote.

During her time in office, she was instrumental in establishing the first State Ethics Commission and introduced the first gay-rights bill in the Massachusetts Legislature. In

1976, she was elected for a second two-year term, winning 90% of the vote. After two terms in state legislature, Noble ran for US Senate, making her the first openly LGBTQ woman to seek that office. Although she did not succeed in that race and never held another elected office, she remained in politics and public affairs.

Elaine Noble (pictured below, center), elected to the Massachusetts State House of Representatives (1974); Democratic Party



In 1974, three years before Harvey Milk’s election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a college student named Kathy Kozachenko campaigned openly as a lesbian woman and won a seat on the Ann Arbor city council on April 2, 1974. The day after the election, The New York Times introduced Kozachenko as “a student at University of Michigan who described herself as a lesbian.” Her election was not without opposition. Republican city councilman Clyde William Colburn

claimed to be outraged, not only by Kozachenko, but also by two other council members – Jerry DeGriek and Nancy Wechsler – who came out after they were elected. DeGriek and Wechsler were successful in adding the words “sexual orientation” to the city’s antidiscrimination ordinance. After losing his seat the same year Kozachenko won, Colburn grumbled to the media, “This city is being taken over by hippies and faggots!”

Born the youngest of seven children in Hahira, Georgia, Althea Garrison is known for being the first transgender woman elected to a state legislature in the United States, although she was outed against her wishes

and chose not to use the term transgender to describe herself. In 1992, Garrison was elected (as a Republican) to serve a district covering Roxbury and the South End in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.



Althea Garrison, elected to the Massachusetts State House of Representatives (1992); elected to the Boston City Council (2017, seated 2019); Democratic, Republican, and Independent parties

She served only a single term from 1993-1995 as she was defeated in her first bid for re-election by a narrow margin. On many votes, she voted with Democrats in the legislature rather than with Republicans. She supported labor unions, public housing, and homeless veterans. However, she opposed abortion, same-sex

marriage, affirmative action, and gun control. Through individuals such as Kozachenko, Noble, and Garrison, we begin to understand how identity politics can at once build and sustain community, while at the same time risks reducing political interests to one facet of identity.

a weekly forum for new england

**MEDIA & GAYS - P. 6**

the gay community news

25¢

VOL. 2 NO. 21 NOV. 16, 1974

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**OTHERFUND ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY BOARD**

*By STAFF*

The official selection of a fifteen member Community Board has been announced by Otherfund, Inc. the Boston community's "Gay United Fund."

The purpose of this board, according to Otherfund staff member Denise Vitale, is to "review proposals for funding which are submitted to the Board, and make the necessary decisions as to what can be funded and for how much."

Asked by GCN what projects are being considered, Patrick Thomas explained that it was too early to tell. "The proposal packets were sent out over a month ago to many areas of the community, and are presently being prepared." Thomas stated that Nov. 15th is the preliminary deadline for proposals, and after that date it will be able to tell the number and nature of projects.

Otherfund staff member Ian Johnson stressed that this selection of people should be thought of as neither a "popularity poll" nor a list of "community heroes." The criteria was that the individual: 1) Have a demonstrated awareness of community needs 2) Work well in group decision making 3) Be able to consider impartially, consistently, and philosophically between various community interests, 4) Be able to make the necessary commitment, and 5) As a whole, represent the incredible variety and difference within the community.

"It is not merely "the leaders," stated Johnson, "since the heads of existing organizations were explicitly ineligible, as well as the financial people of groups, because it would be an obvious conflict of interest."

According to the present schedule, the Community Board will be meeting in January and make its final decision by January 31st. The actual fund-raising campaign will be conducted from April to June of next year, based on the plan set by the Community Board.

Questioned by this reporter on the methods of raising the money, Otherfund staffer Greg Hanftan explained that such plans are not yet finalized, but Otherfund is presently seeking candidates for the heads of the following seven divisions: Gay Individuals, Straight Individuals, Gay Businesses, Straight Businesses, Major Benefits, Foundations, and Grants, and Publicity. Otherfund is presently seeking its tax exempt status, and its attorney, Richard Rubin, sees no problem securing this federal designation. This will greatly aid in the fundraising, stated Hanftan, since contributions can deduct it from their income tax.

The method of selection of the Community Board was explained by Pat Everling, another staffer, as being "essentially a staff decision." Nominations were publicly solicited, but few responded. The staff consulted many people, and drew up a large list based on the previously mentioned criteria. Many were eliminated because of conflict of interest, or no time. The remaining were evaluated for variety and interest, and the result was the fifteen shown on this page.

"Although the staff is tired and we made an attempt to consider everyone, there are undoubtedly many qualified individuals missing, simply because we are not aware of them," remarked Everling.

(Continued on page 2)

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**POLICE RECRUIT FIRED: In Company of Admitted Gay**

*By STAFF*

Only eighteen hours before they were to be made permanent police patrolmen, three police recruits were fired from their jobs. One of the recruits, Ronald J. Grant, was fired, according to the dismissal letter from Police Commissioner DiGrazia, for being in the company of an admitted homosexual. Mr. Grant, assigned to the Division of Training and Education in District 4 was said to be seeking aid in his case from the Frings organization and from Elaine Noble, representative to the State House from that area.

Mr. Broderick, chairperson of the Boston Patrolman's Association, angered by the police department at this time," stated that the association would be taking the case to Suffolk Superior Court this week against DiGrazia to ask for a hearing on the dismissal. Said Mr. Broderick, "Many of us in the police department are in the company of homosexuals daily, or have relatives who are homosexuals. Does that mean we have to separate ourselves from our relatives or refuse to see our friends? If I have to talk to Rep. Elaine Noble, an admitted homosexual, do I have to worry about being brought up on charges?"

The Chairperson added that the police department had, only this year, instituted a series of lectures by the Rev. Dan McGaw of the Homophile Community Health Service to explain the needs and problems of the homophile community in an attempt to better relate between gays and the police. "After that excellent start at creating good will, this action is ridiculous and will set things back to the atmosphere of the '50's again," he stated.

Commissioner DiGrazia's charges stem from an incident in the early morning hours of October 22 when Mr. Grant, off duty, and in the company of a gay patron, was jumped in the area of District 4. Both men were badly beaten and stabbed as they fought off their attackers. The recruit, in the dismissal letter, was also accused of falsifying his report of the incident. Chairperson Broderick stated, however, that the report was completed accurately and turned in by Mr. Grant.

**WARNINGS!**

Gay men continue to be the victims of arrests at the third floor men's room at the Boston Jordan Marsh store. It is advisable to avoid that location to avoid the chance of arrest.

In addition, there have been recurring reports of police activity on "The Block," bounded by Arlington, Berkeley, Marlborough Streets, and Commonwealth Avenue. They are persisting in the use of FIO (Field Interrogation/Observation) reports, which they have been using to keep records on gay people without arresting them. Local gays are advised to STAY OFF THE BLOCK at all possible costs.

Finally, reliable sources have informed GCN that State Police are planning to crack down at the rest area on Rt. 1 in Burlington some time this week. Burlington gays take note!

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**ELAINE NOBLE VICTOR BY 59%: WINS EVERY PRECINCT**

Ward 4  
Pct. 10  
Noble 135  
Cimino 118

Ward 5  
Pct. 2 9 10  
Noble 484 484 256  
Cimino 313 238 216

Ward 21  
Pct. 1 2 TOTALS  
Noble 262 118 1710  
Cimino 153 56 1184

*photos by Ramona Emmerich*

Tension movers waiting for the count.

*photos by Ramona Emmerich*

Elaine Noble with victory in hand!

November 16, 1974 edition of Gay Community News announcing Nobel's success in her first campaign.

Elected Sisters: Pioneering Bi, Lesbian, and Trans Political Leaders was on view at SNMA from September 1 - November 6, 2020.

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# On wanting a transdyke for president

## Spill Tea

We stain the official carpet.  
We represent only ourselves & each other. We are posterity.

White nationalists destroy property  
dressed in regalia they are actively genociding  
Boston water turned brown & fragrant that night, 1773

## Tea is disruptive truth

Tea is a secret the girls hold  
--keep safe. To escape their past & become themselves  
Tea is Jennicet at the White House  
& Obamas reply "this is my house."

Tea is knowing. **Tea is reckoning.**



▲  
Shawna Alexander presides over a dimly lit wedding well before same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015. Photo courtesy of the University of Baltimore Special Collections.

## Then political work is a pageant

concessions enacted through a dance, a scale above survival.  
A late acknowledgement of previous cultural work  
that has brought us to consensus.

## What is political work to a Queen?

Ballots cast with tongues & double taps  
My place in community earned through times my back has become  
bridge for doc martens & converse to trod.

Thankless unfinished work I inherit from transcestors  
Spectrally calling "y'all better quiet down"  
When I near our history vellus hairs stand at attention

To argue for one's life, choice  
to argue that we exist at all is the political trap expected of us.  
We push the culture from bed. My bed is a community center.  
I take home many strays.

**Jamie Grace Alexander** is an artist/activist who has led advocacy and legal efforts in support of trans and gender-nonconforming people in Maryland. Her latest project *The Baltimore Queer Paper* is a revisionist history for her local community.

# Mainstream vs. Movement

In focusing on individual life histories, *Elected Sisters* implicitly gets at a set of tensions between mainstream and movement politics that are also explored in Loretta Lotman's "Trans-Lesbianic Follies" (1976). A satirical review of lesbian politics, the play's first vignette features a panel of two lesbian activists at the Gay Academic Boredom (GAB) conference: Susan Zimmerperson, a "well known lesbian separatist," and Irene Valient, an activist best known for her "recent election to city office." On the one hand, Zimmerperson exemplifies a lesbian feminist desire to invent a new world outside of patriarchy. She, for example, begins her remarks by rejecting the panel's "hierarchical" and "non-egalitarian" structure and advocating for a "loving, open discussion." On the other hand, Valient represents a cohort of activists who instead aim to enter – and hopefully change

– public life through elected office. Valient's political ambitions are scrutinized in the play. The moderator, for example, asks Valient if she is a CIA operative. "Well, I was talking to Bill Colby and George Bush [then the outgoing and incoming CIA director] just last week and they assured me I am not," she snaps back. Ultimately, the "Trans-Lesbianic Follies" was performed just once at a Gay Academic Union conference, where it was protested by lesbian feminists who did not appreciate the satire. While the archived script offers some insight into the substance of movement debates, the play's fraught reception evidences the intensity with which these battles were fought in the 1970s and, by extension, the challenges of representing this history today.

**Rachel Corbman** received a Ph.D. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Stony Brook University, and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department at Wake Forest University.

## Dispatches

*Dispatches reflect notable moments and achievements within LGBTQ culture around the globe. With each issue, we feature important milestones in our collective story.*

- ▶ In 2020, Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham released their highly anticipated book *Black Futures*. A collection of letters, conversations, recipes, memes, poetry, and so much more, the book is an archive of collective memory and a testimony to the radical possibilities of Black creativity.
- ▶ *New Queer Photography*, edited by Benjamin Wolbergs and published by Verlag Kettler in 2020, introduces over fifty queer photographers whose work pushes, contradicts, subverts, and affirms queer identity through the photographic medium. Including artists at different stages of their career, *New Queer Photography* is an exploration into the nuances of queer life.
- ▶ The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, located in New York City, recently announced their fourth cohort of artist fellows for 2021. With an intentional focus on queer artists of color, the cohort includes: Anna Parisi, Bassem Saad, Eva Wo, Felicita "Felli" Maynard, Kearra Amaya Gopee, Leasho Johnson, Maksaens Denis, María José Maldonado, Patricia Cruz, Pó Rodil, Shikeith, Sinan Tuncay, and Vick Quezada.
- ▶ The novels *Memorial* by Bryan Washington and *The Prophets* by Robert Jones, Jr. have arrived at a time when the complex tapestry of Black queer life has taken up its rightful place in American literature. While rooted in distinctly different time periods, both novels invest in the multiplicity, intimacy, resilience, and struggle of Black queer life under the pressures of systemic racism and homophobia.

**S'Wall News highlights important updates, news, and achievements from within Stonewall National Museum & Archives.**

- ▶ Our efforts to digitize the SNMA archival collection received a large boost when the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation agreed to support our efforts. Expected to begin in early 2021, the digitization will allow the museum to broaden its reach and access and ensure a more reliable preservation of the museum holdings. Progress will continue throughout the next two years.
- ▶ With Covid-19 still affecting the ability/desire to meet in person, our virtual programming will continue throughout 2021. To date, we have offered more than forty programs (all available at Stonewall-Museum.org) featuring a wide variety of LGBTQ writers, artists, curators, and thinkers.
- ▶ We have been pleased to participate in a nationwide network of LGBTQ archives, libraries, and museums designed to help strengthen the field and offer more opportunities to researchers and scholars. Over the next year, we hope to help each other in fundraising, community engagement to build local collections, create opportunities for mentorship, and explore systems that provide simultaneous search across multiple archives.
- ▶ Hundreds of new books have been added to the library over the past few months as donations pour in on a weekly basis. Specifically, we have brought in 37 titles published in 2020 and 2021, and more than 200 titles from earlier years.
- ▶ The Board of Directors, staff, and key volunteers are working on a new strategic plan for the next three years to help shape the future of the organization. It is expected to be announced in Spring 2021.

## Support

SNMA receives support from the following institutions and donors like you.



Funding for this project is provided in part by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.



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Jackson Davidow

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