Putting Queer History on the Map: International Media Come Calling at the GLBT Historical Society

Greg Milam (left) from Britain's Sky News visited The GLBT History Museum in March 2013 to interview Gerard Koskovich about exhibits on the history of marriage equality.

Marking its third anniversary on January 13, The GLBT History Museum has grown into an institution recognized by media worldwide as a reference for queer public history. The museum also is increasingly earning notice in travel guides beyond the United States. The visibility of the museum has drawn media attention to the archives of the GLBT Historical Society, as well.

"We're always delighted when the international media knock on our door," said Gerard Koskovich, communications consultant for the GLBT Historical Society. "When journalists from outside the U.S. report on the museum, ask for the historical angle on current news stories or come looking for archival images, they give us an opportunity to share the little-known stories of our past with people around the world."

In 2013, media reports on the museum and archives appeared in some 20 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Spain. Among the outlets that ran coverage are La Repubblica, a national newspaper in Italy; Britain's Sky News; and Tongyu, a website in China for lesbian and bisexual women and transgender people.

The GLBT History Museum also is now widely featured in travel books, websites and apps, including guides published by Eyewitness Travel, Lonely Planet and Time Out, all of which are distributed in numerous languages and countries. The hip French travel publisher Petit Futé even gives the museum a five-star rating in its just-released 2014-2015 California guide.
For a regularly updated sampling of media reports on the museum and archives, visit the GLBT Historical Society website. In addition, links to breaking coverage appear regularly on the society’s Facebook wall.

**San Francisco Offers a Challenge: Raise $17,000 In New Donations, Get $17,000 Grant From City**

The City of San Francisco has issued a challenge to the GLBT Historical Society in the form of a $17,000 matching grant to support The GLBT History Museum. To qualify, the society must raise an equal amount from new individual donors or increased gifts from past donors.

"Thanks to the City's challenge grant, every dollar you give to support our queer history work will be doubled," says Paul Boneberg, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society. "If you give $10, the city will turn it into $20 -- and if you give $500, the city will make it $1,000. That means there's never been a better time to become a member or make a donation."

Boneberg notes that current donors also can play another vital role: "Ask your friends and colleagues to make a donation -- and let them know that the city will match what they give dollar for dollar. You'll help us reach the new supporters that are key to securing funds for the museum and our exciting new Main Gallery exhibition planned for this year."

Donations are welcome by credit card or check and can be made online or by mail. The GLBT Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit; all donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by U.S. law. To help the society reach its goal of $17,000, donate today.

**Grocery Shoppers Bag Support for Historical Society**

The new Whole Foods supermarket in San Francisco's Castro District is offering grocery shoppers an opportunity to support the GLBT Historical Society as one of the first beneficiaries of its Nickles for Nonprofits program. Whenever shoppers bring in their own reusable bags, they can choose to donate their five cents in bag-fee savings. Whole Foods will split 100 percent of the donations between the Historical Society and the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco. The donation period runs through January 19. The store is located at 2001 Market St. at the corner of Sanchez Street in San Francisco.

**Museum Program Offers Queer View of Comic Books**

**History Talk**

**Flame On! Nuclear Families, Unstable Molecules And the Queer History of The Fantastic Four**

Thursday, January 9
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

A complete run of The Ladder, the first national lesbian publication in the United States, is held in the Periodicals Collection. The January 1958 issue greeted the new year with a cheeky cover illustration featuring Mary Poppins.
Released to popular acclaim in 1961, The Fantastic Four tells the story of anti-Communist space adventurers who gain extraordinary powers when cosmic rays alter their physiology. In this talk, Ramzi Fawaz explores the surprising evolution of the Marvel Comics series, which uses the mutated bodies of its heroes to depict the transformation of the bread-winning father, doting wife and bickering male siblings of the 1950s nuclear family into icons of 1960s radicalism: the left-wing intellectual, the liberal feminist, the political activist and the potential queer.

Fawaz is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; his research and teaching focus on American literary and cultural studies, queer theory and visual-culture studies. His current book project, *The New Mutants: Comic Book Superheroes and Popular Fantasy in Postwar America*, will be published by NYU Press in 2015. He is one of the cofounders of the Sexual Politics/Sexual Poetics Collective, a new national queer theory working group.

Admission: $5.00 (general); $3.00 (California students); free for GLBT Historical Society members.
third Saturday of every month; no appointment needed. Hours subject to change; before visiting, check the [GlBT Historical Society website](http://www.glbthistorical.org).