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August 1966: Compton's Cafeteria Riot

*Pivotal San Francisco event preceded Stonewall*

Forty-eight years ago this month, a cafeteria in the Tenderloin was the site of one of the first known instances of
collective, militant queer resistance to the police harassment of LGBT people. **Compton's Cafeteria**, at the corner of Taylor and Turk streets, was a popular hangout for queens and "hair fairies," as transwomen were known, because they were generally unwelcome elsewhere in the city, even at gay bars.

**Cross-dressing was illegal at the time** and police harassment of transpeople was common. But by 1966, the status quo was shifting. Vanguard, the first known gay youth organization in the U.S., had formed in San Francisco with the assistance of Glide Memorial Church. Dr. Harry Benjamin, who had an office in San Francisco, had published a groundbreaking book arguing that transsexualism was a physiological phenomenon that warranted supportive treatment.

In August of that year, when a police officer attempted to arrest a trans woman at Compton's, she threw her coffee in his face, sparking a riot that lasted for two nights, resulting in property damage and arrests. The event marked a local turning point; harassment of transpeople declined, and support services for transpeople increased.

For more information, see "Screaming Queens: The Riot at the Compton's Cafeteria," an Emmy-winning documentary by **Victor Silverman** and former GLBT Historical Society executive director **Susan Stryker**.
Sup. Wiener helps secure $150,000 grant

The City of San Francisco has increased its support for the GLBT Historical Society by allocating $150,000 to the organization in the new city budget. Supervisor Scott Wiener championed support for the Historical Society during the budget process, for which we are most grateful.

These funds will help us maintain the GLBT History Museum and relocate our world-renowned archives -- a move made necessary by a significant increase in the rent for its current location near SFMOMA.

This support comes as many individuals, corporations and foundations have responded to the Society’s appeal for assistance in June to meet our challenges regarding the museum and archive. We thank those donors for their support!

In the Archives and Out on 18th Street

In the Archives
The **Valencia Rose Café** at 766 Valencia St. near 19th St., was highly influential in the Bay Area queer performance scene during its short existence (1982-1985). School teacher and comedian **Tom Ammiano** (now a California State Assembly Member) booked the venue's popular Gay Comedy Nights, which boosted the careers of **Reno, Lea Delaria, Marga Gomez**, queer ally **Whoopi Goldberg** and others.

Over the years we have collected extensive materials related to the Valencia Rose, most recently including 20 VHS tapes of performances from the venue's final month, donated (and mostly recorded) by **Dirk Alphin**, the venue's operations manager. Alphin and others associated with the Valencia Rose later operated **Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint**, another beloved performance space that's well-documented in our archives.

### Out on 18th Street

What could be sexier (among the smart set) than a GLBT History Museum t-shirt? You'll find our t-shirts, mugs, totes, postcards and other items for sale at the museum. These items express your pride, your
heart, and your intelligence all at the same time -- and the proceeds support the collection, preservation and exhibition of priceless artifacts of LGBT history.

Upcoming Events

History is Now: Generations (Re)united

On Tuesday, August 5, from 7 to 9 p.m., come to the GLBT History Museum for "History is Now: Generations (Re)united," a gathering organized by API Equality - Northern California. Build community, share stories, and check out "History is Now: The Dragon Fruit Project," one section of "Queer Past Becomes Present," the new exhibition in the museum's Main Gallery. The Dragon Fruit Project is an intergenerational oral history project by and for the LGBTQ Asian & Pacific Islander community.

$5 donation requested; members always admitted free.

First Wednesday means free admission

August 6 is the first Wednesday of the month, which means free admission all day to The GLBT History Museum, courtesy of the Bob Ross Foundation.

Remembering José Julio
On Tuesday, August 19, GLBT Historical Society project archivist Juliet Demeter will be among the panelists to present "Honoring Our Hero: Remembering José Julio Sarria" at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center. We'll celebrate the community leader and Imperial Court founder on the first anniversary of his death.

Get details and tickets here.

Visit Us (Online or in the Flesh)

Curious about our vast queer past?

Like and follow us on Facebook, and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

For exhibitions and programs, join us at...

The GLBT History Museum
4127 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
415-621-1107 / www.glbthistorymuseum.org
Open Sunday noon-5 p.m.; Monday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

For research at our Archives, come to...

The GLBT Historical Society
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