



**GLBT**  
**Historical**  
**Society**  
*museum & archives*

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**October LGBTQ History Programs Highlight  
1989 Castro Sweep, Life of a Closeted Father,  
GLBT Historical Society Archives**

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**San Francisco** — The program series for October 2019 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the 30th anniversary of the Castro Sweep Police Riot of 1989, a century of life stories that a closeted gay man shared with his daughter prior to his death and the behind-the-scenes world of the society's archives. All events take place at the GLBT Historical Society Museum at 4127 18th St. in the Castro District. For more information, visit [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).

**Living History Discussion**

**Remembering a Police Riot: The Castro Sweep of 1989**

Thursday, October 3

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

On Friday, Oct. 6, 1989, San Francisco police responded violently to a small, peaceful ACT UP march protesting government neglect of people with AIDS. Nearly 200 San Francisco Police Department officers — half of all those on duty — invaded the Castro district for more than three hours, beating activists and passersby, systematically sweeping all pedestrians from seven city blocks and placing thousands in businesses and homes under virtual house arrest. The event came to be known as the Castro Sweep Police Riot. It resulted in three years of civic turmoil, including protests demanding accountability, lawsuits that cost the city some \$250,000 in settlements and numerous disciplinary proceedings that revealed the weakness of the city's civilian police oversight system. The Castro Sweep remains the single most massive police attack on LGBTQ people and people with AIDS in the history of San Francisco. To mark the 30th anniversary, a panel of veteran activists will recount their memories of the sweep and its aftermath and discuss the evolution of relations between the SFPD and the LGBTQ community. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/327iKSx>.

### **Illustrated Talk**

#### **My Dad's Closet: A Father, a Daughter and Their Secret**

Friday, October 11

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

In this illustrated presentation, organized for National Coming Out Day on October 11, San Francisco resident Laura Hall recounts the life story of her gay father, Ralph, from 1918 to 2008. Hall was 24 when her father came out to her in 1975. She learned that in the late 1930s, her father had been in a relationship with a musician in Los Angeles. But two arrests for homosexual activity sent him back into the closet, prompted him to enlist in the Army and ultimately led him to marry a woman. With a panoramic sweep covering the conservative Central Valley oilfield culture of Ralph Hall's youth, to his double life in postwar America, to his care for dying friends during the AIDS crisis, this universal love story — a preview of Laura Hall's recently completed memoirs — is a window into the life of a man who felt that he had no choice but to live in the shadows. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2Zo4eJq>.

### **Community Event**

#### **Opening the Vault: A Spotlight on the Archives**

Sunday, October 13

12:00–3:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

October is both LGBTQ History Month and American Archives Month. To mark these celebrations, visitors to the GLBT Historical Society Museum on Sunday October 13 will have a special opportunity to learn more about the society's archives. Archives staff members will show and discuss a number of rare items from the archives that are not customarily on display at the museum. They will also discuss their behind-the-scenes work, describe the society's extensive holdings and explain the process for proposing donations to the archives. There is no charge for this event beyond the standard museum admission fee.

### **ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

Open since January 2011, the GLBT Historical Society Museum is the first stand-alone museum of its kind in the United States. Its Main Gallery features a long-term exhibition on San Francisco LGBTQ history, "Queer Past Becomes Present." Its Front Gallery and Community Gallery host changing exhibitions. The institution also sponsors forums, author talks and other programs.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum is a project of the GLBT Historical Society, a public history center and archives that collects, preserves and interprets the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the communities that support them. Founded in 1985, the society maintains one of the world's largest collections of LGBTQ historical materials. For more information, visit [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).

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**GRAPHICS:** The following images may be reproduced only in association with coverage of the GLBT Historical Society program series. Credits noted in captions are mandatory.

### **October 3: Living History Discussion**



Police arrest a man during the Castro Sweep (1989); photo by Marc Geller, used with permission.

**October 11: Illustrated Talk**



Ralph Hall (1946) and his daughter Laura (1953); photos courtesy of Laura Hall.

### October 13: Community Event



The stacks of the GLBT Historical Society's archives; photo by Dave Earl.

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