



GLBT  
Historical  
Society  
*museum & archives*

July 31, 2020

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Mark Sawchuk  
(415) 777-5455 ext. 8  
mark@glbthistory.org

---

## September LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Estate Planning, Patient Zero Myths and San Francisco Disco Star Sylvester

---

**San Francisco** — The program series for September 2020 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight tools for financial estate planning, the history of the concept of “Patient Zero” in epidemics and the indelible performances of San Francisco’s beloved disco diva Sylvester (1947–1988). All events take place online and are free; registration is required for access to the Zoom link, but the events are also streamed live on our Facebook page. For more information, visit [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).

### Workshop

#### **Leaving a Legacy: Financial Estate Planning**

Friday, September 4

12:00–1:00 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free

Careful financial planning ensures that our legacies live on by providing for our spouses, partners, children, relatives and friends. The second event in our two-part series offering estate-planning tools and resources for LGBTQ people, this workshop focuses on a range of financial-planning strategies and instruments. Attorney Alma Soongi Beck will discuss wills, living trusts, powers of attorney, marriage and domestic partnership considerations, document language for nonbinary and transgender people, property tax and co-ownership issues for unmarried couples who are not domestic partners. This event will include a Q&A session for those who register in advance. Learn more about this series and how to plan for the future at [glbthistory.org/legacy](http://glbthistory.org/legacy). More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3e1StWh>. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/2O9O4ev>.

### Author Talk

#### **Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic**

Saturday, September 12

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

The search for a “patient zero” — popularly understood to be the first person infected in an epidemic — has been key to media coverage of major infectious-disease outbreaks for more than three decades. Yet the term itself did not exist before the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s. At this event, historian Richard A. McKay will read selections from his book *Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic* (University of Chicago Press, 2017) which examined how this idea came to exert such a strong grip on the scientific, media and popular consciousness. The book, which used materials in the GLBT Historical Society’s archives, focuses on the life of Gaëtan Dugas, a gay man who received widespread posthumous infamy when he was incorrectly identified as patient zero of the North American AIDS outbreak. McKay will also engage in a conversation with historian Gerard Koskovich about his archival research and take audience questions. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2CUgW8N>. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/30Y97H0>.

### **Community Event**

#### **Mighty Real: A Celebration of Sylvester**

Wednesday, September 16

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Online forum

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

To celebrate the birthday of the iconic San Francisco disco diva Sylvester (1947–1988), join us at this event that will highlight the GLBT Historical Society’s archival holdings documenting the singer’s life and times. In a recorded video, the society’s registrar Ramón Silvestre will present some of the Sylvester-related objects in our Art and Artifacts Collection. We will also be presenting clips of some of our archival footage, including a scarce video of what was waggishly billed as the diva’s 40th birthday celebration in 1987 — although the star was only 38 at the time. This footage features some moving clips of Sylvester performing sentimental standards backed by a jazz band. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3f8lZ1e>. Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/2P9RiiD>.

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

The GLBT Historical Society is 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).

-- end --

**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.

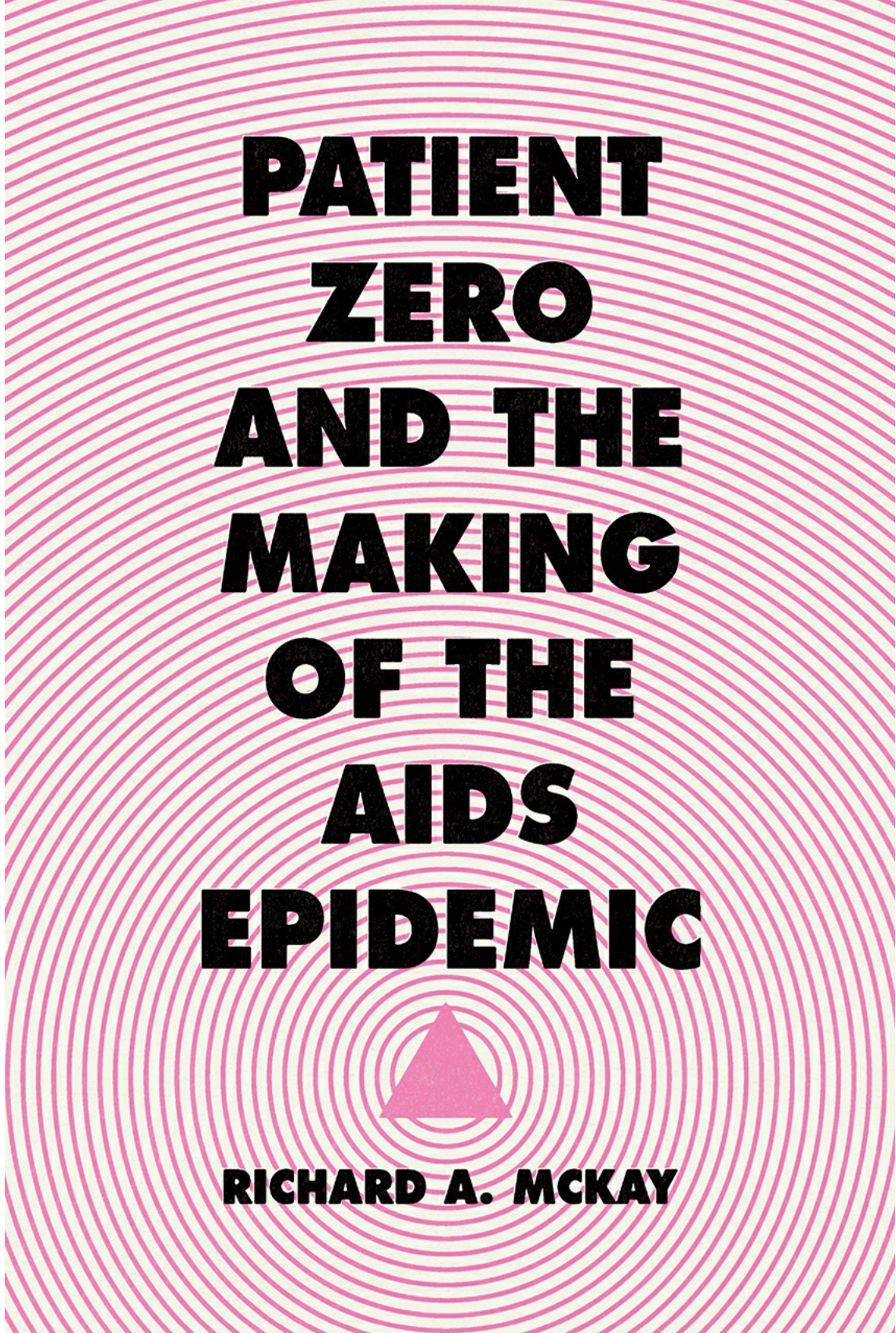
**September 4: Workshop — Financial Estate Planning**



Photo of Alma Soongi Beck courtesy of same.

**September 12: Author Talk — Patient Zero**





**PATIENT  
ZERO  
AND THE  
MAKING  
OF THE  
AIDS  
EPIDEMIC**

**RICHARD A. MCKAY**

Cover of *Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic*, 2017, courtesy of Isaac Tobin and the University of Chicago Press.

September 16: Community Event — Sylvester





Sylvester sings at the Castro Street Fair, ca. 1980; photo by Robert Pruzan, Robert Pruzan Collection (1998-36), GLBT Historical Society.

The GLBT Historical Society | (415) 777-5455 | [info@glbthistory.org](mailto:info@glbthistory.org) | [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org)

