



GLBT  
Historical  
Society  
*museum & archives*

October 2, 2019

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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

---

## November LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Artwork of Gilbert Baker, Life of Randy Shilts, History of Twin Peaks Tavern

---

**San Francisco** — The program series for November 2019 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the art and activism of rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker, the life of journalist and *And the Band Played On* author Randy Shilts and the history of the iconic Castro bar Twin Peaks Tavern. 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).

### **Exhibition Opening**

#### **Performance, Protest & Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker**

Friday, November 1

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5 | free for members

A new exhibition at the GLBT Historical Society Museum uses textiles, costumes, photographs and ephemera to paint a complex portrait of San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker (1951–2017), who designed the iconic rainbow flag as a symbol of the LGBTQ community. First displayed at the 1978 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade, the flag has transcended its humble, hand-sewn origins to become an internationally recognized symbol. Yet the success of this design has in some ways overshadowed the larger story of its creator and his exceptional creative work.

Curated by Joanna Black and Jeremy Prince, this exhibition examines how Baker blurred the lines between artist and activist, protester and performer, emphasizing his intuitive understanding of the ways art can serve as a powerful means to address political and social issues. By exploring the less well-known dimensions of Baker's wide-ranging oeuvre, it places the rainbow flag back into the unexpected and evocative context of his exceptional life as an activist and artist. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2moxAVB>.

## **Author Talk**

### **Reconsidering Randy Shilts: America's AIDS Chronicler**

Thursday, November 7

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

As the author of the landmark 1987 book *And the Band Played On*, San Francisco journalist Randy Shilts became the most recognized chronicler of the AIDS epidemic in the United States. Professor Andrew E. Stoner, an associate professor of communication studies at California State University, Sacramento, will discuss his new book, *The Journalist of Castro Street: The Life of Randy Shilts* (University of Illinois Press, 2019). This biography traces the remarkable life of the brash, pioneering journalist, whose relentless work ethic and belief in the power of journalism illuminated the contours of the AIDS crisis but whose assertions about the epidemic made him a controversial figure in the LGBTQ community. It also considers other aspects of Shilts's experience, including his struggles with alcohol and substance use, as well as his personal battle with AIDS. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2oLWVtB>.

## **Film Screening**

### **Through the Windows: Documenting Twin Peaks Tavern**

Thursday, November 21

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

With its plate-glass windows looking out on the corner of Castro and Market Streets, the landmark San Francisco gay bar Twin Peaks Tavern is not only one of the Castro's most beloved establishments, but also a living testament to the revolutionary idea that LGBTQ people should be seen and celebrated rather than hide in the darkness of alleys and behind blacked-out windows. Filmmakers Petey Barna and Bret Parker will present their new documentary "Through the Windows" about the history of Twin Peaks, featuring deeply personal interviews that illuminate the history of the bar and the lesbian owners who transformed it from a straight working-class tavern into a gay landmark in 1972. The film recounts the ways this establishment has provided a feeling of home, family and emotional nourishment for its patrons every day of its 47-year history. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2oM8Jw1>.

## **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).

-- 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.

### November 1: Exhibition Opening



Gilbert Baker as Pink Jesus in the 1990 International Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, 1990; photograph by Robert Pruzan, collection of the GLBT Historical Society.

### November 7: Author Talk

# THE JOURNALIST OF CASTRO STREET



## The Life of RANDY SHILTS

Andrew E. Stoner

Cover illustration of *The Journalist of Castro Street*, courtesy of University of Illinois Press.

**November 21: Film Screening**

...it was the end of an era

TWIN PEAKS



Poster for "Though the Windows"; photo by Adam Habib and graphics by Susan Bradley, used with permission.



Twin Peaks Tavern, 1973; photograph by Henri Leleu, collection of the GLBT Historical Society.

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

