



History in the Making

*Progress Report
on Events and Activities*

October 6, 2005



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“**A**ny group with enough money can buy or renovate a building, distribute press releases, and proclaim the creation of a new Community Center. *Never mind asking the community what it wants, some might think.* Instead, the logic goes, build it and they will come. After all, that approach might be the easiest. But would a Center built on such a shaky foundation last? Without adequate preparation, research, and community outreach, any effort to create a Community Center runs a great risk of crumbling, or worse, of not truly supporting or being supported by the community it purports to serve.”

Jason P. Lorber
President and Founder
Aplomb Consulting
Calling for an Inclusive Community Center
November 15, 2001

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*We, the Board of Directors of The Center,
are pleased to present the following information about The Center's
history, its mission, its financing, and its activities.
Maintaining openness and transparency about The Center's
activities are of the highest priority.*

*This progress report provides a comprehensive historical overview
and corresponding milestones of The Center's
programs and services and income and expenses.*

*The Center's mission is to celebrate, strengthen, and support
community among the GLBT residents and organizations
of Metropolitan Washington, DC.*

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The Center is Planned

- 1999 The Cherry Fund and Whitman Walker Clinic form an **Ad Hoc Committee For a DC Community Center**.
- November 15, 2001 The Cherry Fund and the Ad Hoc Committee For a DC Community Center publish a **research report** that identifies support for a community center in DC. The report funded at \$75,500 and produced by Aplomb Consulting is entitled, *Calling for an Inclusive Community Center: A research report of the thoughts and perceived needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area*. The report concludes that there is “clear support for the DC Community Center idea” and that “over 90% (of those surveyed) said they would certainly or possibly financially back such a project.”
- May 29, 2002 The Cherry Fund forms an **Organizing Committee**, which later morphs into a **Steering Committee**, and serves as the platform for the **Board of Directors**.

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The Center is Founded

December 10, 2002 The Center is founded with the filing of its **Articles of Incorporation** and approval of its **By-Laws**.

May and June, 2003 The Center sponsors and exhibits at **Black Pride, Youth Pride, and Capital Pride** and continues to do so every year thereafter.



October 7, 2003 ~ Thurgood Marshall Center, Washington, D.C. ~ Matt Foreman, Executive Director of NGLTF, addresses an audience of 30 at the second series *Protecting Ourselves* of The Center's first program entitled, *Empowering Ourselves and Our Relationships: A 4-Part Educational Series on Domestic Partnership*. Mr. Foreman is joined by moderator Edwin Craft, Dr.P.H., LCPC, founding Director on The Center's Board of Directors; Pat Hawkins, Ph.D, Associate Executive Director of External Affairs and Policy, Whitman Walker Clinic; Dan Bruner, Associate Director for Litigation and Advocacy, Whitman Walker Clinic; and Michele Zavos, Attorney at Law.

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- September 30, 2003 The Center launches its **first program** of its kind in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area entitled, *Empowering Ourselves and Our Relationships: A Four Part Educational Series on Domestic Partnership*. Held in four separate locations and dates over the Autumn of 2003, over 100 people attend The Center's first program which brought together knowledgeable and expert speakers and leaders from The DC Government's Office of GLBT Affairs, DC Coalition of Black Gays and Lesbians, The DC Government's Office of HIV/AIDS, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Whitman-Walker Clinic, Metropolitan Community Church, All Souls Unitarian Church, Bet Mishpachach, Hilton Alexandria Old Town, and American University's Washington College of Law, among others. The Center also publishes an Information Guide on *How to Register for Domestic Partnership in Washington, D.C.*
- October 23, 2003 The Center receives its **first donation** from The Cherry Fund in the amount of \$10,500.
- December 2003 The Center hires its **first paid administrative resource person**.
- February 9, 2004 The Center receives its **second donation** from The Cherry Fund in the amount of \$10,000.
- March 8, 2004 The Center receives its **501(c)(3) tax exempt status**.
- April 2, 2004 The Center receives its **third donation** from The Cherry Fund in the amount of \$162,000.
- June 2004 The Center's **Associates Program** launches creating a channel for community members to support The Center.
- June 7, 2004 Along with Whitman Walker Clinic, The Center co-hosts the **Town Hall Meeting** at George Washington's Marvin Center held during Capital Pride.
- June 9, 2004 Along with the Rainbow History Project and held at the Sumner School, The Center co-hosts a *History Talk* with DC's legendary **Jack Nichols**. Mr. Nichols discussed his connections and history in Washington, D.C., his life with his partner, his writings and books, and his favorite authors.



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- July 21, 2004 **Screen on Stead**, The Center's outdoor movie series which in association with One in Ten screens fun and enjoyable movies to the GLBT community free of charge, launches with the screening of *Sordid Lives*. The Center follows up with *The Wizard of Oz* on September 25, 2004. Over 1,000 people combined, attend this series.
- September 18, 2004 Held at the Marvin Center of George Washington University, The Center conducts **Youth Career Day** to discuss choosing a career and entering the workforce. Jointly sponsored by the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) and the Out Crowd of George Washington University, knowledgeable panelists included speakers from the DC Government's Office of GLBT Affairs, University of Maryland, the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) of the Metropolitan Police Department, Accenture, Fairfax County Public Schools, Georgetown University, Mautner Project, Service Employees International Union, National Organizers Alliance, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Torpedo Factory Arts Center, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), One in Ten, Pepsi, Congressional Research Service and the law office of Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg, among others.
- October 2004 The Center launches **Voter Registration** efforts with volunteers stationed throughout DC.

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The Center Opens

- February 24, 2005 The Center opens its **first office space** and holds its *Welcome Home! Open House* with over 250 people from the community in attendance. Partners sharing space with The Center include Brother Help Thyself (BHT) and Metro DC's chapter of Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (Metro DC PFLAG).
- February 24, 2005 Held in conjunction with the grand opening, **Art in Community** launches. Quarterly exhibits, showcasing local GLBT artists, continue to be held at The Center.
- March 24, 2005 The Center's **Executive Advisory Council** holds its inaugural meeting in the community conference room. Within weeks over 15 groups are meeting at The Center including: BHT's Board of Directors, PFLAG-DC's Board of Directors, The Center's Board of Directors, Triangle Artists Group, Boys and Books, Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies, Girth and Mirth, Centaur Club, Gay Men's Chorus, AQUA, AQUA-Youth, Coalition to Clarify DC Human Rights, the Scarlet Fund, GLBT Executive Directors Monthly Lunch, Your Mom – GLBT Acting Troupe, among others.
- April 25, 2005 The Center launches **Focusing On Our Elders: A Community Forum**. This first meeting is widely attended and continues to meet monthly at The Center. Organizations participating include: Mautner Lesbian Caregivers, Metro Retirees, Older Wiser Lesbians (OWLs), Prime Timers, Rainbow History Project, and Whitman Walker Lesbian Services.
- May 23, 2005 **The Truth About Crystal Meth** educational forum launches at Titan Bar. With over 75 people in attendance, The Center brings together knowledgeable and expert speakers from the Gay and Lesbian Liaison

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Unit (GLLU) of the Metropolitan Police Department, the DC Government's Department of Health, Whitman Walker Clinic, among others. The Center's effort to address the use and abuse of crystal methamphetamine continues and morphs into the DC Crystal Meth Working Group. This group now includes over 25 people and includes representation from the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Youth Pride Alliance, the Lambda Center, Prevention Works, Help for Independent Prostitutes (HIPS), BHT, Northern Virginia Aids Ministry (NOVAM), and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), among others. MetroWeekly follows the story from its birth and reports periodically to the GLBT community.



May 23, 2005 ~ Titan Bar, Washington, D.C. ~ Brett Parson, Sergeant of the Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) addresses 75+ people at The Center's *Truth About Crystal Meth* educational program.

May 28, 2005

The Center hosts ***Spoken Word Slam*** at the Wyndham City Center Hotel during DC's 15th Annual Black Pride.

June 6, 2005

Along with Whitman Walker Clinic, The Center co-hosts the ***Town Hall*** at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) building held during Capital Pride.

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June 22, 2005

Screen on Stead for 2006 launches with *Mommie Dearest*, which is then followed up with *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on July 20, 2005, and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* on August 17, 2005. In total (for three movies combined), over 2,500 people attended the second annual outdoor movie series produced by The Center. The program is made possible with support from community partners The Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) of the Metropolitan Police Department, DC Parks and Recreation, BHT, Burgundy Crescent Volunteers, PFLAG-DC, and In the Life; Gold Sponsors Avenue Settlement Corporation, Comcast, *MetroWeekly*, and Universal Gear; and Silver Sponsors Bang Salon and Spa, Café Luna/Skewers, The Church of the Pilgrims, Cox and Cox Realty, Dupont Title And Settlements, Eagle Bank, Manhunt, and JR's Bar and Grill.

August 2005

From January through August, The Center raises close to \$50,000 in grants and donations so far: a \$15,000 grant from the Scarlet Fund; a \$4,000 donation from The Cherry Fund; a \$6,000 grant from The David Bohnett Foundation for computer workstations, internet connectivity, and maintenance, plus an in-kind grant of hardware and software for The Center's David Bohnett CyberCenter; over \$9,000 in corporate sponsorships; and, almost \$12,000 in community donations.



September 24, 2005 ~ Nation, Washington, D.C. ~ Volunteers coordinated by Cookie Buffet (far right) pause for a quick photo as they raise over \$1,500 at *Wig Aid - Special Edition*.

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- September 24, 2005 **Wig Aid – Special Edition** is launched. Held at Velvet Nation, this event raised over \$1,500 for a new social marketing campaign to address use and abuse of crystal methamphetamine in our community. Donations from the event will benefit The Center and SMYAL.
- September 25, 2005 The Center launches **Elder OUTreach - Social and Volunteer Opportunities for LGBT Elders**. Held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library Auditorium from 2pm – 4pm, this program brought together 30+ representatives from various organizations and attendees to speak on social and volunteer opportunities available for GLBT elders. Participating organizations included: the DC Government’s Office on Aging, the GLLU, The Center’s Elder OUTreach, Whitman Walker Lesbian Services, Burgundy Crescent Volunteers, Mautner Project Lesbian Caregivers, Metro Retirees, Older Wiser Lesbians (OWLS), Prime Timers, Rainbow History Project, and the Senior Health Resources.
- October 1, 2005 The Center raises \$500 for Whitman Walker Clinic and walks in the annual **AIDS Walk Washington**.
- November 2005 The Center plans the grand opening of its **David Bohnett CyberCenter**, a state-of-the-art computer lab open to the public. The CyberCenter is to be comprised of six workstations fully-loaded with hardware and software and will be open to the public for internet access and eventually trainings and tutorials.



October 1, 2005 ~ AIDS Walk Washington ~ Center Board Members walk in the annual AIDS Walk and raise \$500 for Whitman Walker Clinic.

THE DC CENTER FOR GLBT PROUDLY PRESENTS

Empowering Ourselves *and* Our Relationships

FREE
& Open
to the Public!

A FOUR PART EDUCATIONAL SERIES ON
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

PART 1

✓ Registering Ourselves

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2003
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
MAYOR'S PRESS ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Explains what government services are available for gay couples along with the policies, benefits, & resources

- **Wanda Alston**
Special Assistant to Mayor Anthony Williams
GLBT Affairs, DC Government
- **Ivan Torres**
Acting Administrator
DC HIV/AIDS Administration, DC Government
- **Carlene Cheatham**
Chair, DC Coalition of Black Gays & Lesbians

PART 2

✓ Protecting Ourselves

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2003
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
THURGOOD MARSHALL CENTER
1816 12TH STREET NW

Focuses on legal, financial, family & immigration issues affecting GLBT couples along with legal provisions that couples can put into place, with or without registering, to protect themselves & their families

- **Matt Foreman**
Executive Director
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
- **Dr. Pat Hawkins**
Associate Executive Director, External Affairs and Policy, Whitman-Walker Clinic
- **Dan Bruner**
Associate Director for Litigation and Advocacy
Whitman-Walker Clinic
- **Michele Zavos**
Attorney at Law

PART 3

✓ Blessing Ourselves

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2003
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH
16TH AND HARVARD ST. NW
PIERCE HALL

Features church & religious leaders & support service organizations & focuses on spiritual & religious options, ceremonies, services, & event & party planning

- **Reverend Candace Shultis**
Metropolitan Community Church of DC
- **Reverend Robert Hardies**
All Souls Unitarian Church
- **Rabbi Bob Saks**
Bet Mishpachah
- **Kate Ressman and Kim Roper**
KCK and Company
- **Kiri Van Haaren**, Hilton Alexandria Old Town

PART 4

✓ Questioning Ourselves

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2003
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
620 21ST STREET NW
STRONG HALL

Debates the pros & cons of Domestic Partnership and gay marriage, how to determine what is right for you, & what you should be considering

- **Nancy Polikoff**
Professor, Washington College of Law
American University
- **Peter Rosenstein**
President, PDR and Associates
- **Graham N. Murphy**
Out Crowd, George Washington University

Register online at www.TheDCCenter.org.
All events are accessible by the Metro.
Light refreshments available.

www.TheDCCenter.org



Mission Statement

Washington DC is fortunate to be one of the few districts and/or states to offer *Domestic Partnership*.

The Mayor and government of the District of Columbia fully support domestic partnership services and have provided user friendly information for those wishing to register as domestic partners.

While some couples are waiting to see if gay marriage becomes a reality, there are steps that GLBT couples can take right now to protect themselves and their families.

This “How to Guide” was developed to help educate our community and provide vital information that might not be so readily available.

The Center will be a home for metropolitan Washington, DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community.

It will support the community's diverse cultural, artistic, social, recreational, spiritual, educational, civic, and other contributions and interests.

The Center will do so by developing and implementing its own programs, providing communal resources and space for partner organizations, and connecting people and external community-based organizations with each other.

How to



Register For Domestic Partnership in Washington DC

Guide & Information



www.TheDCCenter.org

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www.TheDCCenter.org

What is Domestic Partnership?

Domestic partnership is a public service offered by the government of the District of Columbia. The law which created Domestic Partnership is the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992 (DC Law 9-114, effective June 11, 1992).

This law authorizes unmarried persons, whether of the same sex or different genders and regardless of one's place of residence, to register as domestic partners in the District of Columbia.

If one of the partners works for and was employed by the District government after 1987, registration also enables the partners to be eligible to receive certain health care insurance coverage.

All domestic partners are entitled to have the same rights as family members to visit their domestic partners in the hospital, and nursing homes; and have the right to make decisions concerning the treatment of one's domestic partner's remains after the partner's death.

Partners must register as domestic partners in order to take advantage of the benefits that the law provides.

1) **Talk it over**

Make sure you've communicated with each other on what domestic partnership means for each of you.

2) **Educate yourselves**

Find out how domestic partnership legally and financially formalizes your relationship. Additional services like living wills and power of attorney may provide more of a legal bond for your relationship.

3) **Apply**

Both persons seeking domestic partner status must appear in person with a completed and signed application form and fee payment. To qualify:

- a. Each person must be at least 18 years of age and competent to contract;*
- b. Each person must be the sole domestic partner of the other person;*
- c. Both persons must share a mutual residence (you will need to prove this)*
- d. Each person must not be married; and*
- e. There is not a pending termination of domestic partnership for either person.*

Signatures of each partner must be notarized on the application form. Both partners must bring the application to the Vital Records Division and provide proof of residency and identification.

Department of Health
Vital Records Division
825 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 442-9303

Why Domestic Partnership?

GLBT people and couples in the DC Metro area should be aware of their rights and lack of rights; and educated on available resources and options on what they can do right now to formalize their relationships.

In our society, heterosexual, married couples have status and recognition anchored by 1000+ laws that support and protect them. These laws along with the customs, rituals, and traditions set the ground rules for all aspects for heterosexual couples from legal, financial, to family.

As a community, we need to understand how we are protected, how we are not protected, how we can empower ourselves, how we can gain recognition, and how we can put support mechanisms in place to formalize, protect, and celebrate our relationships.



Youth Career Day

September 18, 2004

12 noon – 6pm

George Washington University

A fun and interactive workshop for GLBT Youth
on 3 stages of Career development:

✓ Applying to college ✓ Choosing a career ✓ Entering the workforce

Topics include:



- Finding the school that's right for you
- Getting in: applications, essays, & interviews
- Paying for college
- Being out on campus
- Job search strategies
- Applying for a job: cover letters & resumes
- Interviewing with confidence
- Being out at work



Free box lunch and light refreshments provided
along with an open chat lounge and closing reception

Sponsored by: The DC Center, SMYAL, and the Out Crowd

Register online at www.TheDCCenter.org.
GWU is accessible by the Metro.

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The Leather Community Wants You to Know

The Truth about Crystal Meth

an interactive, educational discussion

that will talk about what crystal meth is, what it does to your body, why it is a crisis, and what you can do to help prevent substance abuse

When: Monday May 23, 2005

Where: Titan Bar
1337 14th Street NW

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Speakers:

- **Jason Hendrix**, International Mr. Leather 2004
- **Brett Parson**, Sergeant, Gay & Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU), Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department
- **Kevin Shipman**, Manager, Office of Special Populations, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA), DC Department of Health
- **Yasir Shah**, Program Assistant; Counseling, Testing, & Referral, HIV/AIDS Administration, DC Department of Health
- **Edward Liu**, Health Educator, man2man, Whitman-Walker Clinic
- **Dr. David Schwartz**, Ph.D.

Sponsors: Brother Help Thyself (BHT)
The Center – Home for GLBT in Metro DC
Titan Bar

Producers: Jose Gutierrez
Michael Sessa



Free and Open to the Public.
Light Snacks Provided.



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The Board of Directors

Michael Sessa, President
Neil Alexander, Vice President
Robert Baldre, Treasurer
Christine Grisham, Secretary
Peter Hahn, Chief Communications Officer
Edwin Craft, Dr.P.H., LCPC
Farrah Darbouze
Colleen Dermody
Jeff Englar
Donald Hitchcock



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Income and Expense Calendar

Income and expenses are provided for informational purposes only.

1999			
	Income		0
	Expense ¹		0
2000			
	Income		0
	Expense ¹		0
2001			
	Income		0
	Expense ¹		0
2002			
	Income		0
	Expense ¹		0
2003			
	Donation from The Cherry Fund ²	\$10,500	\$10,500
	Board Retreat - Fundraising Exercise	\$450	\$10,950
	Major Expenses		\$10,950
	Contractor ³	\$1,920	\$9,030
	Advertising ⁴	\$2,993	\$6,037
	Other ⁵	\$653	\$5,384
2004			
	Donation from The Cherry Fund ⁶	\$172,000	\$177,384
	Community Donations	\$965	\$178,349
	Major Expenses		\$178,349
	Contractor ⁷	\$42,435	\$135,914
	Advertising ⁸	\$11,792	\$124,122
	GLBT Community Sponsorships and Dues ⁹	\$7,300	\$116,822
	Screen on Stead	\$5,957	\$110,865
	Interactive Strategies - Website ¹⁰	\$5,469	\$105,396
	PR (hospitality, travel, meetings)	\$4,743	\$100,653
	Printing	\$3,473	\$97,180
	Insurance	\$2,000	\$95,180
	Miscellaneous	\$1,825	\$93,355
	Phone	\$1,500	\$91,855
	Storage	\$1,200	\$90,655
	Rent	\$881	\$89,774

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2005			
Scarlet Fund Beneficiary		\$15,000	\$104,774
Screen on Stead Corporate Sponsorships		\$9,230	\$114,004
Screen on Stead Community Donations Collected		\$6,165	\$120,169
David Bohnett Foundation Grant		\$6,000	\$126,169
Associates Program Donations		\$5,101	\$131,270
Cherry Fund Beneficiary		\$4,000	\$135,270
Metropolis Fund Donation		\$2,500	\$137,770
Major Expenses			\$137,770
	Contractor ³	\$24,886	\$112,884
	Rent	\$22,116	\$90,768
	Programs	\$17,998	\$72,770
	Interactive Strategies - Website	\$10,269	\$62,501
	Contractor ¹¹	\$10,033	\$52,468
	Telephone, Teleconference, DSL	\$6,087	\$46,381
	Advertising	\$5,420	\$40,961
	Insurance	\$2,698	\$38,263
	Printing	\$1,957	\$36,306
	Miscellaneous	\$1,271	\$35,035

- 1 Expenses incurred on behalf of The Center were paid directly by The Cherry Fund.
- 2 Center bank account opened 10/23/2003 per Center financial report.
- 3 Administrative resource person hired on a contract basis to manage the day-to-day operations of The Center.
- 4 Advertising for the Center's first program, Empowering Ourselves and Our Relationships.
- 5 Miscellaneous fees and supplies.
- 6 Per Center financial report \$10,000 deposited on 2/9/04 and \$162,000 on 4/2/04.
- 7 Administrative resource person dedicated to support of programs and services and search for office space.
- 8 Advertising for Center programs and services in the Washington Blade and Metro Weekly.
- 9 Sponsorships or dues of Black Pride, Youth Pride, Capital Pride, National Coalition for LGBT Health, NALGBTCC, and NGLTF.
- 10 Contract to upgrade website spans 2004-2005.
- 11 Strategic and business planning.

As of August 31, 2005