



The BAY AREA REPORTER



50

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Cynthia Laird, News Editor, Bay Area Reporter

news@ebar.com; 415-861-5019

HIGH-RES IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

GLBT Historical Society celebrates The Bay Area Reporter's five decades of LGBT news reporting

Founded in 1971, the Bay Area Reporter will commemorate its 50th anniversary with a special issue on April 1, 2021, featuring articles recounting the highlights of five decades of the publication. The GLBT Historical Society will host an online panel discussion on April 2, 2021 and will open an online exhibit of the B.A.R.'s history on April 26, 2021.

Regarded for its advocacy journalism and for producing original reporting on news and culture from an LGBTQ perspective, the B.A.R. is a historic record of the early LGBTQ rights movement in San Francisco, the AIDS crisis, the journey to marriage equality, and the current struggle for transgender rights.

On April 1, 2021, find the print commemorative print edition in news racks around San Francisco, or download the commemorative edition on <https://issuu.com/bayareareporter>

Visit [http:// www.ebar.com](http://www.ebar.com)

Through April 2022, we'll publish short articles of highlights from each year.

Publisher Michael Yamashita

Michael Yamashita, who started as an assistant editor in 1989, was the general manager from 1995 until succeeding founding publisher Bob Ross and publisher emeritus Thomas Horn in 2017. He is the first Asian-American to own and publish a legacy LGBTQ publication in the U.S.

"I'm humbled to have witnessed the victories and losses for our community over the decades. It's been my privilege to have worked with the many writers,

photographers, drivers, and staff who dedicated their efforts to achieving LGBTQ equality,” he said.

News Editor Cynthia Laird

Since becoming news editor in 1999, Cynthia Laird said she has seen tremendous changes in the LGBTQ community and has prioritized articles pertaining to LGBTQ communities of color, the transgender community, queer youth, and more. "We have worked to diversify our coverage and I think we've done a good job, though there is always room for improvement."

"When I look back at the archives, it's true that the paper really catered to the gay white male community. That was where the paper started," said Laird, who began as an assistant editor at the paper in 1996. "But I think it's a testament to our publishers, particularly Michael Yamashita, who took over in late 2017, that the B.A.R. in more recent years has worked to cover – and include – voices from all of the letters of the LGBTQ acronym."

Laird said the milestone anniversary is important given that many LGBTQ publications are no longer around. "LGBTQ newspapers still play a vital role in keeping the community informed in a way that the mainstream media does not. We approach all of our articles through a queer lens, and I think readers have appreciated that over the years."

Arts & Nightlife Editor Jim Provenzano

Jim Provenzano, who has been both a B.A.R. editor and freelance sports writer since 1992, encouraged his contributors to recount the history of the Bay Area Reporter's coverage in theatre, music, dance, and nightlife (even our notorious 1990s gay escort ads): "I've asked a dozen of our writers to reminisce, but to also document historical highlights from each decade. This issue will definitely become a collectors' item."



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LIVING HISTORY DISCUSSION | THE BAY AREA REPORTER AT 50: WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT OF LGBTQ HISTORY

- Friday, April 2, 2021
- 6:00 PM 7:30 PM

In this special discussion commemorating the 50th anniversary of the publication that has become the community's newspaper of record, a group of activists, writers and culture-makers will recount their relationship to and history of the BAR. The panel will be moderated by Terry Beswick, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, and

panelists include Gwen Smith, “Transmission” columnist for the BAR; Hank Plante, an award-winning, veteran Bay Area journalist; Paul Henderson, executive director of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (SFDPA); Marga Gomez, an award-winning Latinx performer and comic; Sharon McNight, a Tony-nominated singer and performer; and Michael Yamashita, the BAR’s publisher.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

This event will take place online. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with a link and instructions on how to join the webinar as an attendee. The event will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GLBTHistory/> and then archived on our YouTube page at <https://bit.ly/2UyGVbG>.

ADMISSION

Free | \$5 suggested donation

Register online here: <http://bit.ly/3ub9mw1>

ASL INTERPRETATION

ASL interpretation provided upon request. Please write at least three days in advance of event to leigh@glbthistory.org.

JOIN THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Become a member of the GLBT Historical Society for free museum and program admission, discounts in the museum shop, and other perks: www.glbthistory.org/memberships.

The Bay Area Reporter at 50:

Writing the First Draft of LGBTQ History

A special online exhibit about the Bay Area Reporter’s first 50 years guest-curated by Rick Gerharter. Opening April 26, 2021, visit www.glbthistory.org

Look for monthly BAR-hosted panels online through April 2022 on [YouTube](#).

<http://www.ebar.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/BayAreaReporter>

<http://twitter.com/eBARnews>

<http://www.instagram.com/bayareareporter/>

