

## CLAGS ORGANIZES LECTURE SERIES ON "ETHICS AND EVIDENCE"

During the Spring of 1989 CLAGS continued its efforts to make the results of scholarly inquiry available to the general public by a highly successful series of three public lecture-discussions investigating "Ethics and Evidence in Lesbian and Gay Studies." About 75 to 100 people attended each event. In February, four panelists discussed the questions they have had to face while investigating and writing about the sexuality of noted literary and political figures: Blanche Wiesen Cook spoke about her work on Eleanor Roosevelt, Manuel Ramos Otero on Cernuda and Lorca, Sharon O'Brien on Willa Cather, and Eric Gordon on Marc Blitzstein.

In April, Larry Gross moderated a debate about the ethical and political issues raised by Randy Shilts's history of the early AIDS years, *And the Band Played On*, which included presentations by Douglas Crimp, editor of *October*; Melinda Cuthbert, a Yale sociologist; and Michael Denny, Shilts's editor at St. Martin's Press. In June, three art historians gave slide lectures on lesbians and gay men in the visual arts: Allen Ellenzeig on homoerotic themes in photography, Flavia Rando (Rutgers) on Romaine Brooks, and James M. Saslow (Queens College-CUNY) on Rosa Bonheur. ▼

### **UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENT: LESBIAN PARIS**

Prof. Karla Jay of Pace University will regale CLAGS with her "Lesbian-Feminist Tour of Paris, 1900-1990," at our next public lecture, scheduled for late February or March 1990.

Ms. Jay, who is assistant professor of English and Women's Studies at Pace University, will present a multi-media show including more than 300 slides accompanied by music and narration.

Drawing on numerous research trips to the City of Light, Jay offers both a look at contemporary Parisian lesbian and feminist movements and a historical discussion of the city's numerous famous women, from World War I pacifists to the literary and artistic circles around Gertrude Stein and Natalie Barney.

Some of this research has found its way into her most recent book, *The Amazon and the Page: Natalie Clifford Barney and Renée Vivien* (Indiana University Press).

Watch for a mailing about this event early in the new year. ▼

### **CLAGS RECEIVES BEQUEST**

CLAGS is honored to announce that we have received a bequest worth over \$20,000 from the estate of David Healy Clarke. We did not know Mr. Clarke, but he had read about our work in the press and wished to support our effort to advance the cause of lesbian and gay studies. We are moved and honored by his trust in our efforts, and deeply grateful for his support. ▼

### **RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM CONTINUES**

Last winter CLAGS began a monthly colloquium in which we read and discuss works in progress and issues in studying lesbians and gay men. The colloquium began in January 1989 with Esther Newton and George Chauncey leading a discussion on methodological and ethical issues in research.

Other topics for the spring were: Seymour Kleinberg's analysis of Tennessee Williams's gay sensibility; defining homosexuality as a subject of study; Jeff Shandler's anthropological report on the Tenth International Conference of Gay

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## Gay and Lesbian Scholarly Directory in Preparation

CLAGS is preparing a Directory of Lesbian and Gay Scholarship that will provide information about scholars working throughout the country and abroad.

It is believed that such a directory will foster work in lesbian and gay studies by helping scholars concerned with similar topics to find each other across regional and disciplinary boundaries.

Also, it will provide a valuable resource for persons putting together anthologies, lecture series, and professional caucuses.

CLAGS has circulated a one-page questionnaire about scholars' publications, research interests, and affiliations through a variety of conduits; several gay academic caucuses have graciously included it in their newsletters.

More than 100 scholars have already returned the form (including several Europeans and Australians). The hope is to publish the Directory in 1990.

For more information or to request a questionnaire, contact the committee chair: Prof. Seymour Kleinberg, English Department, Long Island University, University Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11201. ▼

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLAGS

More than four years ago, in May 1985, a group of lesbian and gay scholars, including academics and independent researchers, began meeting to plan a center that would encourage research, exchange, and public educational programs in the interdisciplinary field of lesbian and gay studies.

The founding members realized that the amount of work in this field was rapidly growing and that a formal, university-affiliated center for lesbian and gay studies was needed both to help legitimize such work in the minds of other academics and to provide critically-needed support to scholars working—often in great isolation—throughout the country.

We have instituted a board of directors to organize the Center and are putting together an

## Steinem and Ginsberg Co-chairs of CLAGS Benefit

On Friday, November 17, CLAGS will host a party for Martin Duberman, George Chauncey, and Martha Vicinus in honor of the publication of their edited collection *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Lesbian and Gay Past*. The benefit for CLAGS will be held at the CUNY Graduate Center at 33 West 42nd Street in Manhattan from 6:00–8:00 P.M. Gloria Steinem and Allen Ginsberg are honorary co-chairs of the host committee, which also includes Judy Collins, Ned Rorem, Susan Brownmiller and Bella Abzug. ▼

### BOARD RETREAT

The CLAGS Board of Directors met as a group for an all-day retreat on November 4th on the campus of SUNY-Purchase, facilitated by management consultant Donna Jensen. The retreat focused on improving board members' skills at group process and on affirming and strengthening their commitment to CLAGS, as well as identifying areas for improvement in our group structure. The event was a repeat of last fall's successful one-day session; we've discovered that it pays to take time out from the day-to-day functions of a busy board to refresh our basic commitment and look at long-range issues—to say nothing of enjoying a pleasant day in the country! ▼

advisory board of distinguished scholars and community leaders.

We have also approached the CUNY Graduate School, which is already home to numerous interdisciplinary research centers, and are meeting regularly with the administration about the formal mechanisms for establishing such a Center. The Graduate Center has been quite hospitable to our proposal, but has informed us that, given current budgetary restraints, we will have to raise our own operating budget before we can receive official status.

The Board has therefore devoted itself to two major projects: organizing some of the programs that will ultimately be the core of a formal center (see accompanying articles), and raising the thousands of dollars required. ▼

## POSITIVE IMAGES CAMPAIGN OFFERS GAY RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Undergraduate and graduate students in the social sciences are being sought by the Fund for Human Dignity to design and carry out a program of research for the Fund's Positive Images Campaign.

Faculty members at CUNY or other New York area schools can help by agreeing to sponsor their students' research as an independent study project or by accepting such projects as part of coursework in existing courses.

Students will work under the supervision of the Fund's own volunteer staff of academically-trained market researchers.

The Positive Images Campaign, begun in 1987, is a nationwide communications project incorporating media, advertising, and public relations to influence public opinion about lesbians and gays in a positive direction.

It is a special project of the Fund, which was founded in 1974 to combat prejudice by promoting knowledge and understanding of gay men and lesbians.

The objectives of research needed to help formulate the strategies of the Positive Images Campaign are four-fold:

1. To assess historical attitudes concerning lesbians and gay men among the media and the general population;
2. To determine shifts in attitude vis-a-vis the AIDS crisis and the political and economic environments of the last 20 years;
3. To construct a model of the consumer habits, attitudes, and usage patterns of the nationwide lesbian/gay population;
4. To evaluate the current socio-economic status of the lesbian/gay population.

Students interested in working on research in these areas and teachers who are willing to sponsor such research or who know of interested students should contact Prof. Marilyn Lamkay at Bronx Community College.

She can be reached at her BCC office, (212) 220-6446, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., or at home, 865-7431. ▼

## Scholar Seeking Stonewall Riot Witnesses and Documentary Materials and Photographs

For a book-length oral history of the Stonewall riots, researcher Michael Scherker is seeking to interview participants, witnesses, police officers, journalists, and anyone else with first-hand knowledge of the "three days that shook the gay world" in June of 1969.

He is also looking for photographs, letters, diary entries, or other documentary material that was generated by the event. Of special interest are the testimonies of women and people of color.

Mr. Scherker will be traveling across the country this year and could arrange to visit people interested in talking with him. Proceeds from his book are earmarked to create a fund for gay and lesbian archives. To help out or to get more information, you may contact Michael

Scherker at P.O. Box 10039, Brooklyn, New York 11210, or telephone (718) 434-6814. ▼

### CLAGS LESBIAN CAUCUS

The Lesbian Caucus of CLAGS is continuing its tradition of monthly dinner meetings. These women-only events occur on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:45 P.M., at the 18th floor cafeteria of the CUNY Graduate Center, 33 W. 42nd St. The dinners are timed so that women who wish to do so may then attend the monthly CLAGS Colloquium on gay/lesbian research (see accompanying article).

Participation in the Colloquium is contingent on a commitment to regular attendance. For more information about the Caucus, contact Claire Riley, (718) 788-3488. ▼

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

and Lesbian Jews in Amsterdam; and Claire Riley's research on lesbian families. Topics for this fall have included the political implications of gender differences in perceptions of sexual identity (Lisa Duggan and Nan Hunter) and sexual relations between women in 18th-century London (Randolph Trumbach).

Participation in the colloquium provides the opportunity to discuss current research projects with other lesbian and gay scholars and get feedback on your own work.

If you are interested in participating on an ongoing basis, contact Seymour Kleinberg, (212) 765-0791, or Claire Riley, (718) 788-3488. ▼

## Six CLAGS Grant Proposals Pending

Within the past year CLAGS has submitted six grant proposals to fund the first two years' budgets of the planned Center.

So far we have not received final replies, but our applications are still pending—keep your fingers crossed!

*News from CLAGS* is the newsletter of The Committee for Lesbian and Gay Studies at The City University of New York. This issue edited by James Saslow.

Mailing Address: C.L.A.G.S., c/o Center for Study of Women and Society, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd Street, New York, New York 10036.

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The grant-writing committee is seeking more volunteers to help revise our proposal for additional foundations—experience helpful but not necessary.

Please call Bert Hansen, (212) 228-4719, or Martin Duberman, (212) 929-2639. ▼

## CLAGS TO CO-SPONSOR CONFERENCE

The Fund for Human Dignity is planning a two-day conference on lesbian and gay writing to be held in New York in early June, 1990. Pending funding, CLAGS will be a co-sponsor of the event. For further information contact Sherrie Cohen at the Fund for Human Dignity, (212) 529-1600. ▼

## PLEASE HELP US PROMOTE GAY/LESBIAN STUDIES

Please add my name to the CLAGS mailing list

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I enclose membership dues of \$35/\$10 students. (Members receive a card entitling them to free admission to all CLAGS events).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to CUNY/CLAGS, and mail to:

C.L.A.G.S.  
c/o Center for the Study of Women and Society  
City University Graduate Center  
33 West 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10036