



For Immediate Release

2015 LGBT Community Pioneers Reception May 14

The Rainbow History Project will recognize a dozen LGBT Community Pioneers at a reception on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 pm at the Thurgood Marshall Center, 1816 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. These tenacious and creative individuals are being recognized for their instrumental roles in establishing and sustaining important institutions in the DC LGBT community. The event provides an opportunity for the community to thank them.

The 2015 Community Pioneers are:

- Jonathan Blumenthal and Eric Cohen, Founders of Burgundy Crescent Volunteers
- Ruby Corado, Transgender activist and Founder of Casa Ruby
- Wallace Corbett, AIDS educator
- Kathleen DeBold, Mautner Project and Lambda Literary Awards Administrator
- Atul Garg and Yassir Islam, Founders of KhushDC
- Annette "Chi" Hughes, Founding Member of Sapphire Sapphos and AIDS educator
- Susan Silber, Trailblazer in LGBT-friendly employment and family law in the DC area
- Jill Strachan, Leader of local LGBT arts organizations
- Michele Zavos, Groundbreaker in LGBT-friendly family and HIV/AIDS law in the DC area

The RHP also will recognize the work of a deceased community ally:

- Annie Kaylor, Annie's Paramount Steakhouse

The Community Pioneers reception provides an opportunity to meet the Pioneers. A commemorative booklet featuring biographies of the Pioneers and their photos will be distributed at the event.

The Community Pioneers reception is free and open to the public. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. RSVP at events@rainbowhistory.org.

The Rainbow History Project has honored Community Pioneers since 2003. You can read about the 62 Community Pioneers previously recognized at <http://rainbowhistory.omeka.net/exhibits/show/pioneers>.

Each of the Pioneers has provided the Rainbow History Project with an oral history detailing their lives in Washington, the forces that led them to work on behalf of the LGBT community, and their accomplishments as well as the obstacles they sought to overcome. In itself, the Community Pioneers collection provides a rich and ongoing effort to document a half-century of important efforts in the local struggle to advance the rights of LGBT people.

The Community Pioneers reception is made possible in part by a grant from Brother Help Thyself. BHT also has funded Rainbow History purchases of a digital camera and recording equipment that have significantly facilitated the collection and dissemination of important historical community information.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Rainbow History Project is dedicated to preserving our community's memory. Our website has an extensive collection of historically significant images and documents, including summaries of our oral histories collection. Rainbow History holds periodic panels and workshops focused on specific aspects of metropolitan DC LGBT community history, conducts walking tours, and compiles publications discussing historic DC LGBT events and locales. Rainbow History is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and invites all interested individuals to join us.

For more information contact Chair Chuck Goldfarb at Chuck@rainbowhistory.org or 202-431-9139.