

Division 44 Newsletter
A Newsletter of APA Div. 44
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President's Column: We move forward together

Coming together felt especially meaningful

G. Nic Rider, PhD

Across the country, and especially in places like the Twin Cities, we are witnessing intensified attacks on various marginalized communities alongside the expanding presence and occupation of ICE ([United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#)). These realities are not abstract; they live in the bodies, families, and clinical spaces of our members and the communities we serve. We are witnessing and simultaneously holding grief, anger, fear, and fierce love.

Against this backdrop, the Division 44 Executive Board came together for our midwinter meeting. This year's meeting was not only about the necessary business of the Division; it was also about connection, grounding, and support during a time of rebuilding. Coming together felt especially meaningful as we continue to reimagine who we are and how we show up for one another. The intention to lead with compassion and care was not aspirational. It was practiced in real time.

Immediately prior to the midwinter meetings was the National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NMCS). Division 44 was represented at NMCS through the conference planning committee and presenters who shared their expertise, labor, and passion. One particularly powerful and moving moment came during the NMCS town hall. A group of students spoke with remarkable bravery, naming their fear in the current sociopolitical climate and their desire for more support from the larger APA and divisional leadership. Their courage and honesty landed deeply. We want to be explicit: we heard them, we believe them, and we are taking their words to heart.

Notably, Division 44 is the host division for the next NMCS, and we are thrilled that Dr. Lauren Chapple-Love is leading the planning.

Our midwinter meeting itself was full and productive. We met from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday, engaging in thoughtful, at times difficult, conversations about the present and future of the Division. We grounded ourselves in shared values of compassion, accountability, and care. The discussions, although not always easy, were necessary, and they were held with respect and a

genuine commitment to one another and the Division.

There is real hope for the future of this Division. That hope is not passive; it is built through sustained effort, deep reflection, and collective action. Thank you for continuing to show up for our community and for the communities you serve. We move forward together, grounded in justice, care, and the belief that another future is possible.

In solidarity and care, Nic



Left to right in the first row: Travis Marchman (3rd Year Student Rep), Jared Boot-Haury (Co-Chair, Committee on Consensual Non-monogamy and Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee), Alie Bernal (2nd Year Member-at-Large), El McCabe (Immediate Past-President), David Rivera (APA Council Representative, Book Series Editor), Tess Kilwein (Incoming Council Representative)

Left to right, second row: Jennifer Vencill (Treasurer), Nic Rider (President), Shveta Mittal (Co-Chair, BDSM Task Force and Chair, Membership Committee), Joshua Kellison (Secretary), Cathy Forbes (Co-Chair, Children, Youth, and Families Committee), Kim Skerven (President-Elect), Katy Trotta (Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee), Jeff Brown (Co-Chair, Committee on Racial & Ethnic Diversity), Zak Clements (Co-Chair, NMCS Programming), Anna Gilmour (Co-Chair, Committee on Mentoring), Emily McIltrout (Co-Chair, Bisexual Issues Committee)

[Photo by Tess Kilwein (APA Council Representative)]

Division 44 News

APA Council Representatives Report on the February Meeting

Council Representatives David Rivera, David Pantalone, and Tess Kilwein represented Division 44 at the APA Council of Representatives meeting in Washington, DC, on February 20–21. The Council took several meaningful actions, including reaffirming APA’s commitment to human rights and freedom of expression; passing a Resolution on Prioritizing the Behavioral Health Needs of Rural Communities, with explicit attention to rural perspectives related to sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation; and updating the APA resolution on Sexual Health Education to align with current best practices in comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive education that promotes inclusion and equity for sexual and gender minoritized communities. A full meeting summary can be found [here](#). – Tess Kilwein

Thanks, all! For a high stakes meeting like it was, we got a lot of wins for Div44 endorsed items. I want to echo what an impressive COR member Tess is already, and to give a special shout out to Dave as one of the movers (i.e., leaders) of the item, “Reaffirming APA’s Commitment to Human Rights and Free Speech.” It was a long and stressful uphill battle to get it passed but, thanks to Dave and other awesome colleagues, it is now APA policy! – David Pantalone

Committee on Consensual Non-Monogamy Update

Michelle Vaughan, PhD

Jared Boot-Haury, PsyD, ABPP

Committee Co-Chairs

The Committee on Consensual Non-monogamy has several exciting updates to share. First, we are pleased to announce that our proposal for an annual Consensual Non-monogamy Research Award was approved by the Division’s Board at the midwinter meeting, with funding in the amount of \$2,000. This award will open for applications for the first time in 2027. In addition, our proposal for funding to host a Consensual Non-monogamy meetup at the 2026 APA Convention was also approved. This event will provide space for consensually non-monogamous community members, as well as

researchers and clinicians working with CNM populations, to connect and build community.

We are also excited to share that committee meetings have recommenced, and members are actively engaged in several new initiatives. Current projects include the development of a draft of a potential policy statement to be submitted to the Division's Public Policy Committee that addresses the pervasive stigma and discrimination experienced by CNM communities, associated health disparities, and the role of nondiscrimination laws in mitigating these challenges. Members are also working on a potential fact sheet outlining clinical interventions with CNM clients, which will build upon existing Division [resources](#) focused on affirming clinical practice with CNM individuals and relationships.

Looking ahead, we anticipate additional innovative proposals from committee members aimed at advancing research, education and training, psychological practice, and public interest advocacy. These efforts are intended to ensure that CNM communities are meaningfully represented within psychological science and professional practice.

If you are interested in getting involved and have not seen our previous calls for new/returning members, please contact Drs. Vaughan and Boot-Haury at div44cnm@gmail.com to be added to the CNM Committee email list.

Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) Update

Mia Semelman, PsyD

BIC Leadership Changes

BIC wants to thank Dakota Leget for four years of service on BIC, three of which they served as Co-Chair! Dakota has been an invaluable member of BIC, helping us grow the committee from three members to a whopping ten. We will miss Dakota's leadership dearly! We are also excited to announce Emily McIltrout is joining Mia Semelman as Co-Chair. We also want to thank Taylor Michl for their year of service as a student representative. Taylor you will be missed! We are excited to welcome the following new members: Sam Lawton, new outreach coordinator, and Jacq Mitzner, new student representative. We are filled with warmth having so many fantastic members be part of our team.

We still have an open position for Communication Coordinator. Interested applicants should submit materials (i.e., a CV and 250-word statement of interest) to Div44BIC@gmail.com.

The Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making last year’s symposium such a memorable and impactful experience!

Our annual symposium took place on Friday, August 8th, 2025 with the theme **Roadmaps to Bi+ Joy: Advocacy, Activism, and Community Self Care**. The session explored the positive aspects of bi+ identities, highlighting how plurisexual individuals foster joy and wellbeing despite minority stress, and how adverse experiences can be channeled into powerful advocacy and activism.

We were honored to feature incredible presentations from an amazing group of scholars:

Kayleigh Fenton and Melissa M. Ertl, PhD presented on *Flourishing, Sense of Community, and Social Justice Behavioral Intentions Among Cisgender Bisexual Women*.

Emily McIltrout presented on *Bisexual+ Women’s Sexual Well-being: A Test and Extension of Objectification Theory*.

Saskia Jorgensen presented “*Understanding and acceptance, no questioning*”: *A qualitative exploration of social connection in bi+ people*.

Their talks were engaging, affirming, and empowering. The vibes in the room were incredibly positive, and many attendees shared how much they appreciated the space to celebrate bi+ joy! We want to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success.

APA Division 44 Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) Awards

We also want to remind our community about the BIC Awards currently available on the APA Division 44 website. Please consider applying or sharing these opportunities with your networks:

Award Name	Description	Target Applicant
Bisexual Research Award	Awards up to \$1,000 to advance research on the psychology of bisexuality.	Graduate students
BIC Student Travel Award	Provides \$1,000 to defray travel costs for the APA Annual Convention.	Graduate students committed to bi+ issues
BIC Early Career	Provides \$1,000 to support convention	Psychologists

Award Name	Description	Target Applicant
Psychologist (ECP) Travel Award	attendance and professional engagement.	within the first 5 years of their career
BIC Community Engagement and Advocacy Award	A \$1,000 award recognizing impressive contributions to plurisexual well-being (e.g., advocacy, education) beyond traditional scholarly achievements.	Psychologists and psychologists-in-training

We look forward to seeing you in Washington DC for our next symposium and fun social!

2026 Division 44 Award Nominations is Now Open

Kim Skerven, PhD, ABPP

We look forward to celebrating the groundbreaking and inspiring work being done across Division 44 at the 2026 APA Annual Convention Awards Ceremony this August! We hope you will consider submitting a nomination. Deadline: **March 31, 2026.**

Most nominations require a CV and nomination letter; however, **the specific criteria for each award can be found on the website** – <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-44/awards> Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at div44awards@gmail.com.

Armand Cerbone Distinguished Lifetime Contribution Award

The Division offers this award for distinguished contributions to Division 44 through exceptional service. Award winners have a long history of being active contributors to the life of the Division and are the lifeblood of this organization, whose efforts we appreciate.

Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) Community Engagement and Advocacy Award

The BIC Community Engagement and Advocacy Award recognizes individuals who have made impressive contributions in advancing the well-being of plurisexual people.

Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Travel Award

The BIC ECP Travel Award supports psychologists within the first five years of their career by defraying costs associated with attending the annual APA Convention.

Bisexual Research Award (formerly Bisexual Foundation Scholarship Award)

The Bisexual Research Award is awarded to selected graduate students to advance research on the psychology of bisexuality.

Bisexual Issues Committee (BIC) Student Travel Award

This award provides support to a student committed to bisexual issues and a desire to engage with the committee at the APA Annual Convention.

Clarity Award

This award recognizes organizations advancing the rights of LGBTQ+ people, engaging others within our profession to extend recognition and respect for LGBTQ+ people, and advocating for equality for LGBTQ+ people.

Distinguished Book Award

The Division offers this award for a book that has made a significant contribution to the field of LGBTQ+ psychology.

Distinguished Contribution to Education and Training

The Division offers this award to colleagues who have made distinguished contributions to the interests, goals, and purposes of Division 44 in the area of education, either academic or public.

Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues

The Division offers this award for distinguished contributions to the interests, goals, and purposes of Division 44 in the area of ethnic minority LGBT psychology.

Distinguished Contribution to Public Policy

The Division offers this award for distinguished contributions to the interests, goals, and purposes of Division 44 in the area of public policy focused on sexual orientation and gender diversity liberation and/or equality.

Distinguished Professional Contribution

The Division offers this award to recognize distinguished professional contributions advancing the interests, goals, and purposes of Division 44.

Distinguished Scientific Contribution

The Division offers this award for distinguished theoretical or empirical contributions to LGBTQ+ psychological issues. The winners of this award have made far-reaching and visionary contributions to the development of a science of LGBTQ+ psychology and have provided the science base for practice, education and the development of public policy.

Distinguished Student Contribution

The Division offers this award to a graduate student in psychology who has made a distinguished contribution to research or practice, or who has performed exceptional service to the division.

Dr. Richard A. Rodriguez Division 44 Student Travel Award

The purpose of the Dr. Richard A. Rodriguez Division 44 Student Travel Award is to encourage greater participation in Division 44 annual convention activities by LGBTQ+ students of color.

Evelyn Hooker Award for Distinguished Contribution by an Ally

The Division offers this award for distinguished contribution by an ally in the areas of research, clinical practice, education and training, public advocacy, mentorship, and/or leadership.

Malyon-Smith Scholarship Award

Award for graduate students in psychology to advance research on sexual orientation and gender diversity.

Mentoring Student Travel Award

This award supports graduate student engagement with LGBTQ+ psychology by defraying travel costs to the APA annual convention.

Russell Stambaugh Memorial Travel Award

The Russell Stambaugh Memorial Travel Award is sponsored by the Division 44 BDSM Task Force to support those presenting on BDSM/kink topics by defraying travel costs to the APA Annual Convention.

Student and Early Career Psychologist Engagement Award

This award supports early career psychologist and graduate student engagement with LGBTQ+ psychology by defraying travel costs to the APA Annual Convention. Recipients of this award will be asked to volunteer for several hours and attend select Division events at Convention.

Transgender Research Award

The Division honors research that makes a notable contribution to the understanding, health, and well-being of transgender people and gender diversity in society.

Oliva M. Espín, PhD, Past-President of Division 44 Receives APA Lifetime Achievement Award (2025)

On the occasion of the 133rd annual meeting, the American Psychological Association recognizes Oliva M. Espín, PhD, for her outstanding lifetime contributions to psychology as a trail-blazing feminist and lesbian scholar, educator, mentor, and advocate. For 50 years, her research and theory have interwoven themes of culture, ethnicity, migration, language, sexuality, power, privilege, and oppression, laying the groundwork for the development of intersectional and transnational psychologies. Espín's unique contributions to psychology have always been ahead of their time, shining a light on marginalized groups and advocating for social justice. Her writings were the first to illuminate issues being ignored or overtly demeaned, such as the impact of migration on women's lives, the coercion of immigrant women to serve as culture bearers even when not in their best interests, or the role of spirituality in the lives of lesbian and feminist women.

A citizen and scholar of the world, Espín speaks four languages fluently and is a renowned speaker and educator globally. She was born in Cuba, leaving after the revolution and making her way to the United States after living in Spain, Panama, and Costa Rica. She graduated with a BA from the Universidad de Costa Rica in 1969, received a PhD from the University of Florida in 1974, and completed a 3-year NIMH fellowship at Harvard University in 1983. She is the first Latina Professor Emerita from San Diego State University, where she taught in the Women's Studies Department from 1990 to 2007, and is Professor Emerita from Alliant International University. The recipient of Fulbright awards, including Distinguished Fulbright Chair, Espín has been invited to lecture at universities and conferences in every continent other than Antarctica. Her compelling memoir, *My Native Land is Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood*, intertwines a personal narrative of migration, loss, and perseverance with a vivid depiction of Cuba amid decades of political turmoil.

Espín was the first Latina to win the APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Public Service. She received an APA Presidential Citation and the Distinguished Elder Award from the National Multicultural Conference and Summit for her contributions to multicultural psychology. She is the recipient of Division 52's (Society for Global Psychology) Award for Outstanding International Psychologist and of the Florence L. Denmark and Mary E. Reuder Award for Outstanding International Contributions to the Psychology of Women and Gender, and Division 35's (Society for the Psychology of Women) Heritage Award. She was honored by the Association of Women in Psychology with both the Distinguished Career Award and the Christine Ladd

Franklin Award, by the American Psychological Foundation with the Rosalee G. Weiss Award for Outstanding Leaders in Psychology, and the Distinguished Psychologist Award of the National Latinx Psychological Association.

Espín was at the forefront of a profound epistemological shift in psychology. Her compelling narratives gave voice to the voiceless using qualitative methodologies when the dominant culture of psychology valued only quantitative research approaches. Her work has always been interdisciplinary, involving psychology, sociology, politics, law, and religion. At the forefront of transnational psychology, her writings have confronted the impact of colonization, imperialism, and globalization on women of the Global South.

Espín has authored 10 books and more than 40 journal articles and book chapters, served on the editorial boards of four psychology journals, and mentored journal editors and authors.

Espín is a fellow of seven APA Divisions and the British Psychological Association. She was the president of Division 44 (Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity), an APA Council representative, and a member of numerous APA boards and committees. She has served on the board of the Center for Women Policy Studies in Washington DC, the LGBTQ Center of San Diego, and St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, as well as held leadership positions in other prominent psychological associations.

Espín is not only a captivating teacher whose courses on immigration, the psychology of women, migration, LGBTQ issues, and theories of power and oppression have been sought out across the world, she is an inspired and inspiring mentor to students. She is recognized as an empowering and generous catalyst for the transformation of students globally. She inspires her students to fulfill their own dreams, attain their intellectual promise, and advocate on behalf of themselves and others. Espín continues to teach and inspire women of all ages.

Both a seeker and a disrupter, Espín's courage and honesty have guided her work. She is a deeply spiritual person who writes about religion despite the prevailing secular discourses of psychologists and feminists. As a feminist and lesbian, she confronts the homophobia and sexism of prevailing religious discourses. She was one of the first feminist psychologists to challenge racism in the work of feminists, while also questioning the negative impact of cultural relativity on women's lives, when cultural norms and practices violate human rights or discriminate against women. She risked her own career in her promotion of qualitative and narrative methodologies.

Espín's spirituality is the wellspring of her courage and resolve. The heroic actions of women saints, as portrayed in her book, *Women, Sainthood, Power: A Feminist Psychology of Cultural Constructions*, lies at the core of her feminist activism. As a child, she enacted the story of Joan of Arc, waving a cloth-covered broom as a banner and brandishing a ruler as a sword, jumping over tables and chairs to triumphantly conquer castle walls. Like Joan of Arc, Espín sought to be a brave warrior pursuing her beliefs.

Psychology has benefited immensely from your deeply held values and your exceptional ability to transform these values into action on behalf of invisible, marginalized, and oppressed groups across the globe. We are truly grateful for your extraordinary and pioneering contributions to psychology. The American Psychological Association is privileged to present you with the 2025 Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology. [<https://www.apa.org/about/governance/president/outstanding-oliva-espín>]

Oral History of Division 44

Douglas C. Kimmel, PhD, 2nd DIV44 President

Interviewed by David Duffield, Glenda Russell, PhD, and Milo Michaels for the Boulder LGBTQ History Committee

[David Duffield]

Today is June 5th, 2022. My name is David Duffield. We are here with the Glenda Russell, Milo Michaels and Doug Kimmel as part of an oral history series for Doug. Everyone, thank you for agreeing to be here. And let's go ahead and get started.

[Glenda Russell]

Doug, you were starting to say, 1973.

[Doug Kimmel]

Right. And of course that was the pivotal year in the history of psychology and homosexuality. When the mental health diagnosis was removed from DSM for homosexuality and it was then modified, subsequently. But things were really changing in 1973.

A small group of people in California – [Steve Morin](#) and Marty Rogers and others had a meeting at the California Psychological Association. They then came to the APA [Convention] meeting and we had already scheduled on the program through the humanistic psychology division, a program on homosexuality. And so there was already

some interest in that. And then they were able to get a non-APA group meeting scheduled during the convention for the Association of Gay Psychologists, they called it AGP.

And this gathered a fair number of people, I would say, probably 30 people in the room. And sitting around in a circle at that first meeting. A few others walked by the door, looked in and were not sure if they wanted to come in.

But that was the beginning. And at this time there were a number of behavioral psychologists who believed that homosexuality could be changed by, let's put it, behavioral techniques. And so they were having workshops and lectures on this. And we, of course, opposed that and so one of the initial activities we did was to have what we call 'zaps'. Where people would dress up in outlandish outfits – sometimes in drag – and interrupt the meeting; and come up on the platform and take the microphone and tell folks this was crazy; that we were psychologist too and we knew it was bonkers. And this was some really disruptive activities that were somewhat prevalent in the gay movement I think generally. But I remember that this particular one with Jesse Miller dressed up in drag. Coming in and disrupting the meeting.

So we also created a list of demands of the American Psychological Association at this initial meeting. And among these was to affirm the American Psychiatric Association decision that mental illness was not associated with homosexuality. And eventually they did make such a statement and they went further and said the psychologists should take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been attached to homosexuality.

Steve Morin was particularly instrumental in going to [APA] council meetings. They had open forums in those days and you could go and make statements and protest; and he was very eloquent making that demand of APA. And again, this was very much in keeping with the times – late sixties, early seventies, a lot of groups were making demands on institutions, universities and things.

And so this was one of the things that we did. The other thing we demanded was that they set up a task force on sexual orientation. And they did that as well. They set up a task force to study this. This was very influential. [Harold Kooden](#) was involved in that and, of course, [Steve Morin](#). I'm forgetting [Arnie Kahn](#) was the APA staff person who was assigned to that. And he was one of the most strong allies and was very influential in linking us up with how to operate within the APA structure.

This Task Force continued on and made a number of recommendations. A lot of these are probably documented in the *AGP Newsletters* that are on file at [the Division 44 archive]

at Cornell; I don't have those.

But the organization became very prominent at [APA] conventions. We had a difficult time attracting women, because the Association of Women in Psychology was also very active at that time. And many lesbians felt divided loyalties. But we did attract particularly [Kris Hancock](#) and [Anne Peplau](#) was involved – another ally who was very helpful, very influential.

And I believe it may have even been at that 1973 meeting when – it must have been at a later meeting. I was chair; I became chair of the ALGP and we had suites during the convention so we could have programming on affirmative gay and lesbian issues. And provided housing in the suite for a number of students and young professionals who wanted to come to convention and stay in a friendly place. So it was a very personal and connected group of people. We did have a newsletter that was published periodically and would have meetings at people's homes during the convention – dinners and whatnot. Then we began interviewing APA president-elect candidates and getting them to answer questions about their stance toward homosexuality. That became one of the most important ways in which we gained some power.

Meanwhile the task force on homosexuality that APA had established was made permanent as the Committee on Gay Concerns and then later the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns and was very significant during the late '70s and early '80s. And of course, the beginning of the '80s came the AIDS epidemic. And the Committee on Gay Concerns, Lesbian and Gay Concerns and APA was very much concerned and involved with educating the rest of the country to pay close attention to the AIDS epidemic and to take the lead in lobbying and doing research and providing support.

As things progressed, we had more and more programming at APA [conventions] and decided that it would be appropriate for us to form an official division. APA has general members and general members can then become members of specialized divisions within APA if they choose to; they can join as many as they want. There were divisions — Humanistic Psychology, as I mentioned, which was very supportive of us; there was a Division of — SPSSI — Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues — that was very supportive of us. And so we decided that we wanted to form our own division. To do that you had to get a certain number of signatures of people who pledged to join if the division was formed.

Several other groups were also wanting to form division about the same time. And we were concerned about not being discriminated against. But APA decided it would put a moratorium on new divisions because 42, which was a very big one [Independent

Practice], which was coming in; I don't remember what 43 was [Family], but it was big one; and 44 of course, was us. So they put a moratorium on new divisions. But meanwhile, Steve Morin, Harold Kooden, Barbara Sang, our first treasurer, Alan Pinka, [Alan Malyon](#); these people were all very much involved and invested in forming a division. Because they really felt that unless you had a division in APA, you had no power. And so they were working very hard on that. And I played very little role in all of that; I was involved with ALGP and also working in the gerontology field – getting an association of lesbian and gay gerontologists together – National Association of Lesbian and Gay Gerontologists. And working in the Gerontological Society and trying to promote aging as well as LGBT issues. So I just let the other folks – who were very competent – take the lead in forming Division 44. Which they did.

They elected Steve Morin as the president and the moratorium on new APA divisions ended. And I think I mentioned in the earlier interview that when [APA] Council met to approve the new divisions, the others were approved – 42 and 43; but there was some discussion about whether or not approving a division, which they regarded was on homosexuality, would be appropriate. And so, Janet Spence, who was president of that meeting, and had been a scholar in the field of gender studies, suggested that those who wished to abstain from voting on this – particularly the psychoanalysts who felt very strongly about [not] approving such a division – that they could simply absent themselves from the meeting and not be counted in the quorum count, that was needed; because you needed to have a majority of the quorum to pass it. And so that compromise was satisfactory. And so those who felt professionally obliged not to vote for it did absent themselves; and so the motion carried and we became Division 44.

Then we had our first official ballot. And Kris Hancock was elected president. So she was technically our first president. The organization strongly affirmed gender parity. They insisted that the president rotate from male to female and that all important officers either be co-chaired or rotate; all the committee had male and female co-chairs. So the major offices were to rotate: president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer would rotate male and female with each election. Some offices were three-year terms and some were one-year terms.

Kris was the first president, following Steve Morin, who was the president *pro tem* during the creation of the division. And then I became the second president. Initially the president-elect was program chair; and so I had volunteered to be program chair for the first [APA] convention and I've already mentioned that first, super, symposium that I organized for that convention. [Adrienne Smith was the chair; and the participants were Del Martin, Charles Silverstein, Judd Marmor, Gerald Davidson, Harold Kooden; and Steve Morin and Evelyn Hooker were the discussants.](#) It was absolutely a mind-boggling

discussion. Gerald Davidson had been president of the behavioral psychology association and was one of the people who had been involved in the initial 'zap,' that I mentioned, back in '73. But Charles Silverstein had convinced him that in fact homosexuality could not be changed and was not a disorder; and so he became quite a supporter and an important ally of Division 44.

[David Duffield]

Sorry, I just have to clarify the years for the convention; I think we are referring to a couple of different ones; is that correct?

[Doug Kimmel]

The one in '73 was the one for the founding of AGP – the Association of Gay Psychologists. And I guess it must have been 1984 was the [APA] convention where Division 44 was approved. Think that's right. It's a whole decade later. It was not an easy process, by any means.

[Glenda Russell]

No, it was not.

Who was on the Task Force? Do you know some of the people on the task force on sexual orientation that APA set up?

[Doug Kimmel]

No, I would have to check that. Harold Kooden, certainly; and I believe Barbara Sang, definitely. But I would have to check that. They did issue a report. [*Removing the stigma: Final report of the Board of Social and Ethical Responsibility for Psychology's Task Force on the Status of Lesbian and Gay Male Psychologists* (1979); members also included Steve Morin, Dorthy Riddle, Martin Rogers & Fred Strassburger. See: Kimmel, D. C., & Browning, C. (1999). A history of Division 44 – Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues. In D. A. Dewsbury (Ed), Unification through division: Histories of the divisions of the APA, Volume 4 (pp. 129–150). Washington, DC: APA.]

[Glenda]

Yeah. I remember reading it a long time ago.

[Doug Kimmel]

All of this will be in the [Division 44] *Newsletter*. I'm switching to the newsletter as I've been reviewing a few of the notes. The symposium title was: "From Mental Illness to an APA Division: Homosexuality and Psychology." That was the official title. That was the 1985 APA meeting. So that was the first year we were a official division.

[Glenda]

1985, you say?

[Doug Kimmel]

1985

[David Duffield]

May I introject. So the order of events was the depathologization in '73; and, of course, you mention that HIV comes along in the early '80s which pushes people to do more research and more work around it and that seems to be the impetus around the formilization of Division 44? Is that a correct analysis or order?

[Doug Kimmel]

That's a correct order. The AIDS epidemic and the general greater awareness of homosexuality as a normal human variation deserving study was the impetus.

[Glenda]

A related question to that. The resolution was incredibly important. Resolutions are very important in APA; they give a kind of imprimatur to a body or research and conclusions, or at least a consensus from a body of research. And that resolution followed the American Psychiatric depathologization and then you get the resolution from APA, the American Psychological Association, which went a step further. It not only supported the idea of depathologizing homosexuality, but it also said, as you mentioned, 'Psychologists should be, should take an active role in reducing the stigma around homosexuality'. That was huge.

I want to ask about when the efforts were being made to set up the division, you said there were a lot of people who, a lot of women who had sort of split loyalties between 35 – which was the division of women – and 44 – which was, at the time, the lesbian and gay division. Was there a lot of antipathy around that or, do you remember the struggles, or how did that get talked about in those times?

[Doug Kimmel]

There was struggle in the sense that we wanted very much to have women involved. And

we found it unfortunate that very few women could be involved, comfortably. I wasn't aware of all of the politics in the women's movement; but I understand that a lot of the women's organizations were kind of homophobic and didn't want lesbians involved. And so women who wanted to be involved in the women's movement could not be open [about being lesbian]. And coming to ALGP meetings would mean that they would potentially lose credibility. And so we really had, as I said, some trouble finding women to be involved, even as late as when we were founded. As I said, we had a real focus on gender parity, but the women who were involved – I'm just looking now at the first edition of the [Division 44 Newsletter](#) – Browyn Anthony was newsletter editor; in the executive committee was Joyce Brodsky, Kris Hancock, Harold Kooden, Alan Malyon, Allen Pinka, Adrienne Smith; Susan Gore was chair of the membership committee, I was program committee chair and Anne Peplau, one of our strong allies, was chair of the fellows committee. So we were able to achieve it by 1985. But it was a struggle.

[Glenda]

And there's still some of that. There's still some, well, I don't think there's a whole lot; but there's occasionally tension. There was a few years ago when one of the people, one of the women who became a fellow of 44, one of the questions about her fellow status had to do with – she had been a president of 35 and one issue was she had 'bad-mouthed' 44 as a sexist organization. And she got some feedback about that, as well she might have.

[Doug Kimmel]

Bonnie Strickland was one of our first fellows in Division 44. But she had been President of APA; but had been very reticent about publicly revealing her lesbian background. And now, of course, has recently written a book about [Coming out of the Confederate Closet](#).

[Glenda]

A question about Kris Hancock's becoming the first official president after succeeding a president *pro tem*, who was a male. Was that's gender parity is now being established as a divisional ideal and practice. You had not mentioned Kris's name very much in the organizing stuff. I assume she was there at various points. How did that happen? What had been her role that allowed her to move into the leadership position so early in the process of divisional status?

[Doug Kimmel]

She had been involved as president of ALGP and had been very prominent in ALGP and I'm pretty sure she was on the [APA] Committee on Gay Concerns, if not the initial Task Force. But she was very much involved in the organization and, in fact she became chair of the [Division's] Task Force on Future Directions and one of the things she was very strong in promoting was that we support racial and ethnic diversity in Division 44 at our

very first meeting. So she was very much concerned with diversity, with inclusion and with forming the organization and working within APA. She was a very strong and vocal person.

[Glenda]

One other question that I have in this area that has to do with the relationship between the LGB folks in the division, or in ALGP, and allies in both of those organizations. You know, that relationship can be incredibly useful, and it has also been very problematic in various organizations over time; so I'm wondering if you have some observations about that.



[Doug Kimmel]

I'm just looking at the photograph of volume 1, number 1, of the *Division 44 Newsletter*, [that famous photograph of all of the founders standing and smiling](#) – the executive committee. And of these, Harold Kooden is on the left, but next to him is Arnie Kahn, an ally; in the middle is Kris Hancock, right next to Steve Morin; and behind them is Anne Peplau. I'm also in the back row there; but there are a number of other folks who were very much involved in the founding of the division, obviously in that photograph, who are playing an important role. But those two, Anne Peplau and Arnie Kahn, are the two allies. I believe they are the only ones in this picture; but I'm not sure. I mean, sometimes people's sexual orientation identity shifts a bit, too. Hannah Lehrman, for example, I'm not sure; she is from Division 35; so I don't know if she was an ally of one of us.

[Doug Kimmel]

So there, you can see the screen; that's the Executive Committee of Division 44 when they created the new division. As I said, Kris Hancock and Steve Morin are in the center. Behind Chris Browning, in the back on the left, is Arnie Kahn from APA, an ally. To the right of him in the back is Anne Peplau, another strong ally. And I mentioned Hannah Lehrman from Division 35; she is listed in the credits there, you can identify her; she is standing to the right of Marty Rocklin, the man with the glasses in the front row.

[Glenda]

This is a great photo.

[Doug Kimmel]

I might just mention, by the way, as we are looking at this, the man in the back row on the right, Alan Malyon, and the man in the back row next to him on the left, Allen Pinka, they both died not long after this. Alan Malyon died of cancer; Allen Pinka died of AIDS. But they died simultaneously basically the same day.

[Glenda]

Wow. I remember, because there was a lot of – I hate to use the term gossip – but a lot of discussion about what happened and AIDS was so prominent and in our faces at that moment that I think there was an immediate assumption that Alan had died of AIDS.

But, he had, he had just begun writing some of the best stuff, I think, that was coming out around therapy [[Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients](#)]. And I was crushed when he died. He really was doing great work.

[Doug Kimmel]

Yes, he was a cigarette smoker and died of lung cancer.

[Glenda]

I was wondering; damn.

[Doug Kimmel]

And both he and Allen Pinka were very close and both had long-term relationships. They were both bereaved simultaneously; a great tragedy.

[Glenda]

Yeah, so we had gotten to this picture because I had asked the question about the relationship between lesbians and gay men who were in this initial group and the straight

allies and you talked about Arnie Kahn, who knew APA and so could be a real source of information about how to deal with APA and manage that incredible bureaucracy. You also mentioned Anne Peplau, who was at the time already a distinguished social psychologist who had a lot of credibility in the field. What was the relationship like between members of the sexual minorities and the allies in that group. Do you have any sense of that? Did that get talked about? Did it get talked about behind the scenes?

[Doug Kimmel]

Let me just make another comment about the photo. You notice the credit is “Allen Chivens”; and he was Alan Malyon's partner.

Arnie Kahn was a staff member for APA; he was the person who was staffing the, I believe, the Board of Social and Ethical Responsibility. Anyway, he was staffing the Task Force on homosexuality – whatever it was called, sexual orientation – and then later the Committee on Gay Concerns. So [Arnie Kahn](#) was staffing the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns at the time of this photo. And so he was very much involved with us. But he was a social psychologist; I think he is still to some extent active. A university professor. And the relationship was very supportive. He was quite comfortable hanging out with gay and lesbian people, as was Anne Peplau. We were comfortable with them. And we knew that we were working together as allies on this important project. We should also note, of course, that Evelyn Hooker was an ally. So she, too, was someone who was very comfortable with lesbian and gay people. But, as she said, she was only an “honorary homosexual.”

[Glenda]

Just a mention about Arnie Kahn. He was also a great feminist ally. He was very active in Division 35 as well and I think had some, I can't remember, I think he was a book review editor in the Psych of Women Quarterly, as I recall; and had various kinds of roles within [Division] 35 over the years. So his ally-dom was spread large in a very positive way.

[Doug Kimmel]

He was a very positive influence within APA for a long time.

[Glenda]

Yeah. I think those are the questions I had up to this point. Any other questions occur to you David or Milo?

[Milo]

Yeah, I had a question. I wonder how, in your perspective, Division 44 has changed and evolved over time from the time of its foundation to now.

[Doug Kimmel

I've not been much involved until quite recently when Zoom came along and I could attend some of the meetings remotely. It has certainly become much larger, much more – I won't say bureaucratic – but many more committees, lots and lots of committees, again all still co-chaired by people of gender diversity. The gender parity issue has gotten complicated because some people may be male-identified or not, even if they were born male. And so, what that means in practice has become somewhat complicated. And so, I think the division has just gone with being 'male-identified' or 'female identified'; but that still leaves a few out. And so, that's been a bit of an issue.

The division has always struggled with racial and ethnic participation. I think I mentioned that Kris Hancock was urging that at the very beginning of the division – that we focus on including people of racial and ethnic diversity. And we have been rather successful with regard to Asian people. We've had two Asian presidents: Connie Chan and Terry Gock. We've had Latina presidents. And these people have also represented us on Council, which is the governing body of APA. And so, in many circles we've been seen as being ethnically and racially diverse because we have these people on Council. We've had an Indigenous person as president, we've had relatively few prominent Black people in the structure – a few, but relatively few. I think this is, in part because of the fact that there is a Division 45, which we strongly supported. In one of the early editions of the [Division 44] *Newsletter*, there was a ballot to encourage members to sign up and become a member of Division 45, Racial and Ethnic Diversity, because we strongly wanted to support that. And they came in the next division after us. But most of the Black psychologists have gone into that and have not been involved with Division 44. And there's a number of reasons for that. We've had a few, [Reggie Nettles](#) was one of the early ones and he was involved over time; he's also mobility impaired. And we've had a couple who came for a short time and didn't stay. I'll talk later about the Placek Fund, but the Placek Fund just recently got a major bequest from a Black psychologist who did a lot of research on HIV and AIDS, and was a member of Division 44, but nobody knew him until he passed away and we began reading about him. So, it's been difficult.

And I have some sense of why it is. It is largely cultural. One person described it as – he'd left something behind at a meeting in the suite, maybe at a social party, and called up to see if it was there – maybe a cell phone or something – and we said, “Yes, we have it; we'll keep it for you.” And he commented that if this had been Division 45, they would have said, “We'll bring it right over.” It's that kind of subtle, you know touchy-feely humanistic difference between the Black culture and the White culture that we were never able to transpose, I think.

Also, there's all kind of stigma in the Black community about homosexuality. It's a complicated issue. I mentioned that I did some research on that a while back and while the person may be going to church and the preacher is preaching against homosexuality in the Black church, half the choir are gay men; and everybody knows that. So it's an odd kind of dualistic thinking that the Black culture seems to encourage among gay men that makes it very difficult to walk that path. The gay culture has been very prominent in Black culture. The parties in Harlem and the drag balls and the whole, so much of the culture has been really centered around gay issues; and yet the religion is still very much opposed. And there's such a stigma against Black men and the fact that they wind up so often getting arrested, persecuted and locked away in jail and stigmatized in so many ways; being gay is another stigma they don't need. But just a very complicated situation that makes it almost impossible for them to be involved in Division 44, I think. And so we just continued to struggle with that over the decades. And we still are. And every now and then, the division tackles it openly. They're now very much involved in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. They have a Black psychologist who is kind of monitoring their board meetings to make sure that things are not going unnoticed – that stigma and comments are appropriately addressed and so forth. But still things happen. It's just incredibly complicated. Yeah, society wide, it's very complicated. But I think in the gay community, it's even more complicated because of the stigma that works both ways. Going out on the 'down low'; going up to Harlem to have sex. But being straight, and pretending to be straight and bisexual. It's just very complicated. And of course, the cultural meaning of homosexuality is so different too.

African-oriented cultures and, you know, communal-oriented cultures and family-oriented cultures and the more Nordic northern European cultures – which are much less family-oriented than the others. And then the Asian, as I say, they've been more integrated into our Division 44; and to some extent, the Latina, Latinx. Yeah.

[David Duffield]

Just a point of clarification, the complicatedness of this is often the result of the kind of wealth gap and access to higher education and higher resources that are enabled through the ability to have access to college and access to pay for resources. So there's the equity gap and then there's the wealth and the inherited wealth gap on top of that.

I don't want to also ignore the fact that – I like the point you made about the double stigma put upon African-Americans because of the continual systemic violence by frankly, larger white American society or ignorance of the governmental violence upon African-American communities in the United States.

I'm curious if as a point of clarification if any of the Division 44 African-American

psychologists spoke to that, or the reasons why there were so few? What were their points of view and your experience of perhaps why there were so few – what why that equity gap?

[Doug Kimmel]

Well, let me point out first of all that we talking about PhD psychologists. So they're already a very select educated group in both – among White, Black, Hispanic and Asian. So this is to some extent cutting across those dimensions you mentioned. Although the path to get to be a PhD psychologist is far more complicated for many people.

The, I mean the only clue that I've had that in talking with folks is that the – well, there's really three things. One, it's all very subtle. I mentioned the one with the cell phone being left behind. And, you know, when he mentioned that, he said, you know, I'm not gonna come back to Division 44 social hour again. It's too cold. And it was because, you know, we didn't offer to bring it over to his hotel. We would keep it. And that difference was important to him.

Another one was someone who had asked for recommendation for something. And I simply felt that I didn't know him well enough to make the recommendation. Well, he took that as an affront because we were friends. And of course, I knew him as a psychologist; I didn't know his work specifically in therapy. But somehow I was being too distant, too cold to make the recommendation. And I felt terrible about that ever since, because you know that really ended our friendship. It was inadvertent on my part.

And, you know, in general, I think the family, the importance of the family and the communal connection within the culture. I mean, the word 'brother'; I think they mean it. They do feel a kind of a brotherhood, a kinship. In part because of the stigma and the discrimination and the horrible conditions that many have had to live through.

And we don't so much in the educated northern European white groups. The Asians do a bit more, and of course southern European people do. And I think Bonnie Strickland to some extent is talking about that too in her [memoir about growing up the south](#). How uncomfortable she felt when she moved to Boston and Massachusetts – how cold people were, how unfriendly, how uncaring people were. And I think it's, it's that. I think white people are kind of “ice people.” We seem cold and uncaring and unfriendly and we don't warm up like people of color are used to. And like and want to be.

[Glenda]

I wanna follow that with just an observation and see what you think of this, Doug.

David had asked, you know, did the psychologists of color who were involved with [Division] 44 bring up the issue of the subtle and or overt racism that was presumed to be a part of or was part of the division? And I think one of the things I could think of immediately was people like Bev Green certainly wrote about that. [Bowleg](#) wrote about that. Various other people wrote about that. I think Vicky Mays didn't write about it so much because she does population based studies much more than either of the other two folks did. So I think that we had a chance to have that discussion be a part of what we were doing. And I'm not sure that those of us in the division who write, who are white, did a very good job of picking that up and saying let's talk about what implications this has for Division 44 in particular. But certainly there was a lot of information that was coming through from a handful of people. Who, the information it was very good. I mean, I think that Bev Greene has written some of the best stuff on racism in the white community of anybody who's writing, period. And I think we probably missed an opportunity by keeping that kind of out there as an academic enterprise rather than saying, you know, what, how does this apply to us and what, what do we, how do we think about this stuff? So any, thoughts about that?

[Doug Kimmel]

Certainly [Bev Greene](#) was one of the persons who was very persistent in the division. And was sort of always there and taking leadership roles and writing. And we had several others; there have been other women in particular of color who've been involved in the division and prominent in leadership. We've not had a Black president, I don't believe. But we have had secretaries and treasurers who were Black women.

And, but, I mean, to some extent, you know, the division is a bureaucracy. They have the meetings for an hour and a half during [APA] convention. And they've got a lot of stuff they want to do, all these committee reports. Okay, and it's all “white stuff.” I mean, committee reports and the whole organizational structure of APA and the whole organizational structure of the division is “white stuff.”

We don't talk about feelings; we don't talk about engagement. We don't talk about how people have been doing in their lives. We talk about what we have on our committee reports. I mean, it's all inherit in this – you know, white racist structure of academia and society. It's not how you're feeling, it's what you're doing. And you know, what, what decisions have been made? And what we were going to do about these problems. We don't talk about what we're feeling.

The closest we ever came to that was Armand Cerbone, when he, you know, had the 'Oops, and Ouches' at the end of the meeting. Did you get the feet stepped on? Or did you step on somebody's foot and you want to apologize? Spending a few minutes about that at

the end. But that was as close we ever got to talking about 'non-business' stuff.

And even the midwinter meetings that would go on sometimes for two days. And they'd have racism workshops and they would have this and that kind of workshops and they really focused on it. They really were concerned. And they had some good people come in and talk; and I've learned a lot.

I mean, I think I'm going to be involved now – APA is having a 2-day thing beginning tomorrow on diversity, equity and inclusion. The whole organization; and I'm gonna be representing the Maine Psychological Association in that discussion online.

I mean, I've been involved in the ACLU of Maine and we had some equity workshops there they were profoundly helpful about learning about the racism in the founding of our country and all the way up. And you know, by the time we got to the end of it, somebody came on our [ACLU] board who was Indigenous and she said, “But they didn't talk by anybody, except Black people! What about the Indigenous people?”

APA's been better with that and particularly, you know. The what's it – the four divisions that do the workshop, the midwinter conference?

[Glenda]

The Multicultural Summit.

[Doug Kimmel]

The Multicultural Summit, yeah. And that's been very good with regard to the Indigenous cultures. Less with regard to Black and other Hispanic groups.

It's just been an ongoing struggle. So how's the division changed? It's become much more successful financially. We've got the Journal now, so they're getting lots of money in from that. They've got good prestige, they've got good standing. We've always had more [APA] council representatives than our membership would ordinarily entitle us to. I mean, even the very first, ballot, we had 1.4 votes, almost enough for 2 representatives from, you know, a tiny division at the very beginning. So it's been a powerful division and that we've been represented by multicultural people in council. We've been very much involved in the multicultural summit. And our heart's been in the right place, it just been a struggle.

[Glenda]

Okay, we I'm just looking at my notes to see where we were. Good questions. Important observations. You had just responded to a question about allies and then a question about

the how the division has changed over time. We had been talking about before that about the executive committee at the beginning and looking at the picture. Where, where do we go after that in terms of the specifics of the, of the division's changes over time? Any particular milestones that you think should be brought up, Doug.

[Doug Kimmel]

Hmm. That's the tough one, since I'm the historian for the division. And I'm hoping to start a project now on getting oral histories of the division leaders.

Milestones for the division? I don't know, to some extent Division 44, unlike so many of the other divisions in APA – I'm a member of 3 others – it's an identity. We really feel that we are part of this group. And we've got buttons that we wear at [APA] conventions to identify us as members of this group. And I showed you one of the ones earlier about 'Who is Evelyn Hooker?' that we had for a while.

I suppose, doing the book series that Bev Greene led. That was really a milestone. We had several volumes that she edited in the book series. It made a profound impact. Getting the journal was the next step. You know, for a time we thought we would try to take over the *Journal of Homosexuality*. But, that was not to be. And it was really good that we have now a journal on gender identity and sexual orientation. It has been, as I said, very successful and brought in a lot of money in to the division.

We've had a couple of past-presidents who ran for president-elect of APA. They were not elected, but Doug Haldeman and Armand Cerbone were good candidates for that. And I think we've led the APA in terms of all of the LGBTQI+ issues: marriage equality, certainly. Played a major role in urging APA's legal division to write *amicus* briefs. I think I mentioned I was involved in the very first one to decriminalize homosexuality in New York State. But all the ones beyond that. And, based on psychological research; that was our real key – is that we can say, here are the data why marriage equality is important; here are the data why being able to adopt children is important for LGBT people. Here are the data on why lesbian and gay people are as good parents as anybody else.

And doing the studies and getting the data and giving that to the Supreme Court effectively has been a real accomplishment of APA, through Division 44. And we worked, as I said very carefully, through the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns – and now I guess, the Committee on Gender Diversity and Sexual Orientation – something like that.

[Glenda]

Sexual orientation and gender diversity; the only way I can remember it is the 'so-good committee'.

[Doug Kimmel]

Okay. And, in the AIDS epidemic; and really bringing attention to that. That was a major thing for us; calling attention to that – and again, bringing the data.

[Glenda]

If I can be so bold, I think I really like your milestones. I think I would add one, which is I think this committee, APA in general has tried to do this and I think this committee, this division has been particularly successful in mentoring young people, early career psychologists to do research that fits the times; and we've seen a qualitative jump in the kind of research that's happening and it's because younger people are doing it and they're doing it from the perspective of where they are and the kind of experiences they've had growing up, which are different than the kinds of experiences you and I had going up as people who were sexual minorities.

And I think, I actually look at the stuff that's going on with the younger psychologists and I, I mean, it's my favorite thing about – now my favorite thing about going to APA is actually seeing my friends. My second favorite thing is seeing the amazing research that's coming out – and there's no question in my mind and I don't take any credit for this – that they are standing on the shoulders of Division 44 and they are doing amazing and exciting work. And I would have to put that in as one of the milestones as well, I think.

[Doug Kimmel]

Yeah, that's a very fine segue to my talk about the Placek Fund. Evelyn Hooker's monumental research in the 1950s that proved to the satisfaction of the field at the time that homosexuality was not a mental disorder, based on the tests that were assumed to be measures of mental illness at the time. It was published; it was presented in, I think, the APA [convention] in 1955 and then published a couple of years later.

One of her participants in that study in Los Angeles was a man named Wayne Placek. And we know that name because when he passed away, he left the bulk of his estate to Evelyn Hooker for research to remove the stigma of homosexuality in this and future generations. He apparently had gone back to his family farm in Nebraska and was successful. And when he died, the funds came to Evelyn Hooker.

She was unsure as to how to use these funds the best way. And so she contacted Steve Morin and me and a man named Bruce Voeller, who was involved in the Mariposa

Foundation at the time. And discussed among us what would be suitable for these funds. And she decided that she would give a portion of them to the Mariposa Foundation. And Steve and I talked to the American Psychological Foundation, which at the time was primarily giving out gold medal awards and had one small, one significant, grant program on children that had been going on. But other than that they didn't do very much, except to oversee a couple of the journals.

So we talked to them about this and it became apparent that it would be an important way to maintain control of this fund and use it for psychological research to benefit the homosexual community, as Placek had intended. So we set up this program. Steve was then appointed to the American Psychological Foundation board to oversee the program. And we created an advisory committee made up of four past presidents of Division 44 to oversee and to make recommendations to the American Psychological Foundation for the use of the funds.

That committee proposed that the first event be a planning meeting. And we invited representatives from psychology and allied groups to Chicago [arranged by Andrew Boxer of the Evelyn Hooker Center at the University of Chicago]. And we met on the South side of Chicago, stayed in a Black [owned] hotel, and made decisions about how the funds should be used. And the consensus was that we should set up a grant program through the American Psychological Foundation – a reviewed grant program. And as time progressed, Steve rotated off the American Psychological Foundation board and I rotated on to oversee the program. And we got Greg Herek involved to do the reviews, to oversee the reviewing process of the grant proposals. And we invested the funds with the rest of the funds of the American Psychological Foundation – I mean, American Psychological Association – so it became a huge fund then that we were investing in and that gave lots of growth potential.

So, over the years, we, the fund, wound up turning that \$500,000 initial investment into 1.5 million dollars worth of grants that was very, very significant in terms of all these issues we're talking about. Issues like, same sex marriage, parental rights, adoption; and so forth. And fostered many young researchers who were just starting out, who needed the fund. And funds were not available in those days for this kind of research. So this was very important. And, it was a critical factor.

By 2007–2008, when the crash happened the fund lost a fair amount of its wealth. But also, Greg Herek had given out some major grants and awards in the last two years. And so the fund then reverted back to just one ten thousand dollar grant a year; and we've been struggling on. And then I mentioned that we just recently got the grant from – I think his name is John Robinson – that now has boosted the ability to continue and to

increase the number of grants.

That's been a significant achievement and I'm real thrilled to have played some role in making that happen. The other thing I was just thinking about too, the American Psychological Foundation has now become a major grant organization in psychology with lots and lots of other grants. But the Placek is still the most popular one in terms of applications. But they have now begun a new program on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues called the Springfield Fund. And I knew Franklyn Springfield personally, in New York. He was actually a close friend of one of the people in my study of older gay men, a psychologist. And I introduced him to the American Psychological Foundation. And he has apparently in his bequest – he and his partner both died and left an enormous amount of funds to the American Psychological Foundation for continuing this kind of research, but in a much larger and grander way. My understanding is that there's so much money involved in the bequest that it's basically an endowed fund and they are just using the proceeds from it in perpetuity. The Placek Fund was always designed to spend down.

Do you have any questions about any of that.

[David Duffield]

One clarification. This is a very important point in the continuity of social issues around psychology, about the translating of data and information to power. Right, the idea that psychologists for 100 years were pathologizing, trying to explain and cure an issue now using their 'magic', if you will, for social justice.

Right, for some issues within and within this; I feel like I have a question there but I can't quite name it. It seems important to reflect on the importance of that point of translating data and information and psychological information to power because the continuity of Hooker's work and all the APA psychologists out of Division 44 is the beginning of the change in society and the power of doctors and medical degrees to inform the discourse of the state regarding different things, right? As an arm, we're all aspects of state agency; but the idea I think is that informing how people in powerful decisions make decisions based on data using what psychologists do. The clarification being, what do you feel like is the importance of that, that truth, I suppose?

[Doug Kimmel]

Well, that really was, I think the essence of that initial result of the 1973 AGP meeting. Where we made the demands on APA. And they issued a statement – official statement from [APA] Council in the 1975 publication – that “APA should take the lead in removing the stigma that has long been placed on homosexuality.”

And we've held them to that. We've done exactly that. We have used our APA and psychology and psychological research to translate it into *amicus* briefs. And legislative arguments and the kinds of research that has been able to demonstrate that, in fact, we deserve these rights. But I think what has really transformed it has not been just psychological research. It's been the fact that – and we realized this in Maine and I think in a lot of other states – when we were working for same-sex marriage.

It's not enough to say that we deserve the rights; or that we are equal; or that it's a stigma. That doesn't carry the weight. What carries the weight is the personal connection. We are family. We have lovers. We have relationships, long-standing relationships. We have children. And we are the people next door. And we are just like you in every way.

I mean, that's part of what happened with the AIDS epidemic, when people started recognizing that people just like them were getting AIDS. It wasn't some weird pervert; it was the hairdresser, it was the doctor, the lawyer, that person in the executive suite who was getting struck. And once it became personal, and it became a part of the family identity then people's attitudes changed.

[David Duffield]

It's like an equanimity of bodies. We are like you; we are family communicating our voices through story and empathy, yeah?

[Doug Kimmel]

Yeah. That's what made this change possible. So you know first time we had the vote in Maine on same-sex marriage, it went down because we were making the argument about rights and equality. The second time it was, you know, we are family. We have children. We have relationships. That's important. And just like you, we want to get married. That made the difference.

...

[Glenda]

Anything we haven't asked you about, Doug? Milo, David, anything that you're thinking of that we want to add to this?

[David Duffield]

To speak truth to power is very important and I'm fascinated by that process in APA. I guess the question would be can you give us advice on how other institutions do that well?

[Doug Kimmel]

I suppose that our secret has been that we got into psychology because we wanted to make a difference. And we got into Division 44 because the difference we wanted to make was very personal. And we sort of made the personal professional. And then we use the professional tools to translate that into policy. And we sort of saw APA as a vehicle for doing that.

It worked very well because for whatever reason the movers and shakers of Division 44 knew how to translate our issues into 'APA-speak'. And make it work. You know that taking advantage of that open forum that used to exist for [APA] Council where Steve Morin, Marty Rocklin and Marty Rogers went in and demanded that they create a task force on sexual orientation. And somehow they agreed. That was the beginning of it. And they knew how to do that, they knew how to work the system. And they were devoted and they were dedicated.

I think Steve Morin lost his teaching job because of being gay. I know Doug Haldeman, who was another very influential person – still is very much on the APA Foundation board – went into psychology because he had been a teacher and the Proposition 9 was passed in California that made it impossible for him to be a teacher as a gay man. So, he went into psychology. These were the people who somehow had the sense to get the levers of power and to work them in the field effectively.

You know, I think the other thing that the other group that has really been successful is the medical associations. GLMA, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. They were able to do that pretty well. And, Lambda Legal. I know something about Lambda Legal because one of the founders of that was the man who did some of the early legal work for Ron and me. And they were being founded in New York about the same time; they were another group of people who were using those skills within their profession to create the change that they needed to have.

And, of course, they were advantaged, being white, educated, relatively undamaged by earlier experiences and with families that were, at least if not supportive at least, tolerant. Giving us a chance to do this.

I don't remember anybody in particular, in Division 44, ALGP, who talked about having family that rejected them because they were involved in these issues, or they went into psychology. They may have been, but I don't recall any particularly. Alan Malyon, Allen Pinka – their families were supportive. I think Marty Rocklin had been previously married, but was then middle aged and pretty successful. These were people with both

personal and cultural strengths, social supports that allowed them to do this.

My recent article in the APA Division [44] *Newsletter*. I talk about how privilege really is something that allows us to do the hard things. 'Who should do the hard things? Those who can.' And that was a kind of lesson I learned a couple of decades ago from a Black psychologist woman who's the first woman heading up the [U.S.] Peace Corps [Carolyn Payton]. You know, 'who should do the hard things?' was the title of her article in the *American Psychologist*: 'Those who can.' And if you have the privilege, whatever it may be, then you had an obligation to do the hard things. And we can because we do have it.

[David]

Thank you, so that answers my question completely. Thank you. I appreciate it.

[Doug Kimmel]

Glad I could.

Thank you for this experience. It's been really gratifying. I'm love talking about one of my favorite topics (laughs).

[Glenda]

I for one have loved hearing about it. It is an inspiring oral history. And you know, you've always been one of the people who I watched mostly from afar who's just done amazing things and made my way into APA and then into Division 44 much easier.

And hearing some of the details about that has just been, just been delightful and I really appreciate it.

[Doug Kimmel]

I guess they might also comment that just yesterday we were down at the Historical Society in Hancock. And looked back from the vantage point of the front door of that building and realized that the land on which that's built, and the land on which the Monreux School is now building their new dormitory, was land that we gave to them.

And there's this big solar farm between the two buildings, is part of that land as well. And I've just gotten elected to the Planning Board of the Town of Hancock. And I realized that many years ago, when we first moved here permanently, I was chair of the Comprehensive Planning committee that wrote the initial regulations for the town planning and ordinances. So that was kind of coming full circle. But it's wonderful to feel like I've made a difference. You know, the town, the community, and in psychology.

[Glenda]
Yes.

[Doug Kimmel]
It's been a good life; and this morning, I was out for a nice run and ran along the shore by the house and realized how grateful I am for all of the things that have come my way. Wonderful to be here and hearing the birds sing and Spring come and the flowers are delightful.

[David]
And still so much left to go.

[Doug Kimmel]
Wednesday will be my 79th birthday. And I'm then going to come up and see Glenda [at University of Colorado to talk about my experience as an undergraduate there in the 1960s].

From the Newsletter 5, 15, 25, 35 and 40 Years Ago

Spring 2021

APA Council of Representatives approves three important documents about gender identity change efforts, sexual orientation change efforts, and guidelines for practice with sexual minority persons.

Divisions 44 and 19 applaud President Biden for signing the January 25, 2021, Executive Order that ended the ban on transgender people serving in the military.

Staff in the APA Advocacy Office and I have been working closely with the Div. 44 Public Policy Committee (PPC), Co-chairs Christina Patterson, PhD, and Michele Schlehofer, PhD, for several months now on resources to support advocacy efforts of state psychological associations and others interested in this work.

The Aging Committee co-chairs worked with the APA Committee on Aging (CONA) to assist with a review and feedback on the *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Sexual Minority Persons* and were able to provide feedback from the lens of aging. The final approved guidelines now use the term older adult over 50 times.

Spring 2011

Order your T-Shirt Now — Support Division 44 Public Policy Committee



Kris Hancock reported that at its February 2011 meeting, the American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives voted to adopt the “Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients.”

Charles Silverstein described events at the AABT Conference in 1972 in New York City leading to the deletion of homosexuality as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association.

Douglas C. Kimmel Received an Elder Award at the 2011 National Multicultural Conference and Summit. He said, “As I reflect back over my entire life, my reaction is one of enormous gratitude for remarkable good fortune, outstanding mentors and friends, serendipity, and the opportunity to make some difference.”

It is with profound sadness and a sense of urgency for action that we, the members of the American Psychological Association, Division 44... wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the families, friends, and allies of [8 youth between the ages of 13 and 19 at a summer camp on Utøya island in Norway]. ... Their losses are a reminder to all of us that hatred and intolerance against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning loved ones, and their families, friends and allies who care about them, can lead to tragedy.

Spring 2001

President Terry S. Gock reported on the second Division 44 co-sponsored Multicultural Summit in Santa Barbara. It was a hugely successful two-day meeting with more than 800 participants. Linda Garnets eloquently delivered a plenary keynote address on

lesbian and gay psychology. Terry also noted that we have recaptured our third seat on the APA Council for the year of 2002.

The Reverend Mel White, Ph.D., author of *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*, will be the invited speaker for Division 44 at the APA convention.

Harold Kooden announced that the International Lesbian and Gay Association is launching the first ever global GLBT summit in San Francisco immediately prior to the APA convention in August.

The Transgender Task Force has distributed a resource and bibliography list, including a glossary of terms.

April 1991

The final report of the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns Task Force on Bias in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men is now available. The Task Force surveyed a large and diverse sample of psychologists to elicit information about specific instances of “biased” and “sensitive” psychotherapy practice.

SPSLGI (Division 44) sponsors a pre-convention workshop titled: AIDS Dementia: Critical Issues in Managing the Environment.

APA President Stanley Graham wrote to the Department of Defense (DOD) Secretary Cheney making clear APA’s position that the DOD Directive—“Homosexuality is incompatible with military service”—is unjustified and damaging, and that the integration of openly lesbian and gay persons into the military is as achievable as the integration of African-Americans and women. DOD’s reply was: “We have no plans to reconsider our policy. Thank you for writing.”

April 1986

Division 44 and CLGC were successful in advocating an affirmative APA public policy position statement on AIDS that was adopted unanimously by the APA Council of Representatives on February 1, 1986.

President Kristin Hancock reported on a December 4, 1985, meeting with the American Psychiatric Association regarding the revision of the DSM-III-R and the decision to leave the diagnostic category of “Ego-Dystonic Homosexuality” in the proposed revision. Dr. Alan Malyon, Chair of the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, presented the arguments to Dr. Robert Spitzer, Chair of the Work Group to Revise DSM-III; but the category was retained by a vote of the American Psychiatric Association’s Board of Trustees.

Terry Gock, Susan Gore, Harold Kooden, and Alan Malyon were appointed to the Task Force on Future Directions.