

YALE GALA

YALE'S LGBT ALUMNI/AE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Gays at Yale—35 years and counting...

Bob Cruz DC '79

This year, GALA's annual "Night-Before-Pride" event will take place at 25 Washington Square North from 7–10 p.m. We'll be celebrating 35 years of the gay movement at Yale—as well as Yale's marching in the very first Gay Pride Parade.

As one might expect, the address is historic. The Federal-style architecture of both the house and its neighbors exquisitely preserves the legacy of New York's "old guard," for whom these homes were built in the mid-1800s. Additionally, Henry James is said to have used the house itself as the setting for his classic tale of spurned love "Washington Square" (later produced as both a play and a film titled *The Heiress*).

However, what many may not know is that the occasion—and its host—are intimately connected to Yale gay history (scorned lovers notwithstanding). As it turns out, the current resident of 25 Washington Square North, **Johannes Van de Pol MA '71**, instituted the first gay organization at Yale.

Back in the turbulent late '60s/early '70s, Yale was a hotbed of change, as



Pride 1998

(photo ©1998 Stacey Irizarry, used with permission from Chris League PhD '02)

civil rights and the sexual revolution forced the university to morph from a mostly all-white—and presumably heterosexual—male institute into the landscape of diversity that the school is today. After the Stonewall Riots in June of 1969, it was only a short matter of time before Yale students responded—with both style and impact, with Johannes leading the way.

As Johannes vividly remembers: "I arrived in New Haven in September 1969 as a graduate student in International Relations. This was the first

year that Yale went co-ed. The campus was full of (sexual?) energy. The Lutheran minister had just left campus (with his lover) because of the oppressive gay environment, but returned to give a speech in Dwight Hall—'Gay at Yale'—in the third week in September. About 80 students showed up. Because I had had previous experience setting up gay discussion groups at Dutch universities, I offered advice on 'how to organize a chapter.' That was the beginning of the 'Gay Alliance at Yale.' We had weekly meetings and movies (in Dwight Hall) as well as (continued on next page)

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25 Washington Square North: Old New York, Henry James, and Gay Yalies. For directions to the Pride Party there, see the box at the upper right.

Gays at Yale: 35 years and Counting *(Continued from previous page)*

dances in the Graduate School Dining Room that were very well attended. The *Yale Daily News* as well as the radio station published our events. Every Tuesday we distributed posters (that were routinely torn down). That year [1970] was also the first Gay Parade, and we marched with a Yale delegation. Now 35 years later, we are still marching.”

The rest—as they say—is “history” (not to mention “her-story”). In the intervening years Yale has experienced the rise of a truly diverse LGBTQ community on-campus and, subsequently, an equally diverse—and strong—LGBTQ alumni/ae base.

So make the most of your Gay Pride weekend by joining GALA—and Johannes—at the “Night Before Pride” party on Saturday, June 25. ➔



GALA Grapevine

Bob Cruz / Marissa Pareles

PALM BEACH, The Screwball Musical, with a book by **Ben Feldman BK '90** and **Cary Zateslo MC '91** (known professionally as Robert Cary), music by **David Gursky SM '91** and lyrics by Cary Zateslo, had its world premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse this summer, directed by Des McNuff. Previews began May 31, and it will run through the middle or end of July.

Michael (Gottlieb) Berney SM '78 writes: “Might you help point me toward active Yale GLBT members in the DC area? I’m interested in trying to get some programs going. I’ve also been chatting with my college roommate **Evan Wolfson SM '78** about ways that Yale GLBT might get involved in supporting his freedom to marry initiative, and I wondered if there had been any discussion along those lines so far.” For those so interested, Michael’s phone number is 240-481-4810.

Dr. Robert Klitzman Med '85, was

cited in a recent *New York Times* article (4/3/2005) “AIDS Fighters’ Challenge: A Resistant Form of Apathy.” The article dealt with current HIV prevention campaigns in light of the challenges posed by barebacking and crystal meth use. Dr. Klitzman was quoted as saying, “Let’s face it, sex without a condom is not good. . . . Sex is supposed to be an incredibly intimate moment, and it’s not as intimate when there’s a piece of plastic between you and your partner.” Robert is the author of *Being Positive: The Lives of Men and Women With HIV* (1997) and *Mortal Secrets: Truth And Lies in the Age of Aids* (2003).

[Editor’s note: **Bob Cruz DC '79** is moving to Bozeman, Montana, to pursue a degree in Science and Natural History Filmmaking (going to the land where men are men and sheep are nervous). However, I will continue on as your Newsletter Editor—so please . . . send me NEWS!!!!] ▼



Directions to 25 Washington Sq. North

Take the E or F subway to West Fourth street; walk north on Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) to Waverly Place, turn right and walk east one block to Washington Square North (Waverly turns into Washington Square North). Number “25” will be a few houses down, on the left (north) side of the street, across from Washington Square Park.

Admission is \$20 for alums, \$10 for students and 2005 graduates. ▼

The Yale Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae Association Newsletter is published quarterly by Yale GALA for its members and friends.

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To join our e-mail list and to receive notification of upcoming GALA events, please send your contact information to: yalegala96@aol.com

Yale GALA page (Alumni) on Yale’s Larry Kramer Initiative Web Site—
<http://www.yale.edu/lesbiangay/homepage.html>

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Yale Professor Dr. Alvin Novick, Biologist, Advocate for AIDS Patients, Dies at 79

Yale University—and gay men—lost an illustrious warrior of their own on April 10, 2005, when ecology and evolutionary biology professor Alvin Novick, a nationally prominent expert on HIV and AIDS, died of prostate cancer at the age of 79 at Yale University Health Services.

Back in the 1950s, Dr. Novick traveled to Africa, the Philippines, and other destinations to record and analyze the sounds made by different bat species. In succeeding decades, he refined those studies, looking at “echolocation,” the process whereby bats employ high frequency calls to hunt and track their prey via the reflected echoes (much in the same way that sonar systems work). His results were published in 1969 in the popular book, *The World of Bats*. Such was Dr. Novick’s expertise that he subsequently was called upon to write the entry on bats in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

However, in 1982, after AIDS began devastating the gay community, Dr. Novick closed his laboratory, curtailed his 25-year study of bats, and decided to confront the widening international health crisis.

Part of his interest in the problem of AIDS came about when his best friend became ill with HIV. In a 1999 interview with the *Yale Daily News*, Novick described his initial fear of AIDS upon meeting his friend in the hospital: “I was scared out of my mind, but I went in there and held him and then all the fear went away and I have never been scared again.”

On campus, in seminars, in letters to publications and in courses he taught, Dr. Novick, originally trained as a physician, reviewed public policies intended to contain the spread of the virus, and he challenged public officials to face up to the grim realities of the disease. He promoted needle exchanges for intravenous drug users and protection of the privacy and the livelihoods of doctors and other health care workers who became infected. In addition, he also pressed for safeguards on blood banks.

Dr. Novick helped found AIDS Project New Haven, the New Haven Mayor’s Task Force on AIDS, the New Haven Needle Exchange Program and was involved in essentially all other HIV and AIDS programs in New Haven. He also

served on the FDA’s Anti-Viral Drugs Advisory Committee and various U.S. Public Health Service Advisory committees.

In addition to his work in New Haven, Dr. Novick spent years as director of the Law, Policy and Ethics Core of Yale’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS.

In 1985, Dr. Novick was elected president of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, now called the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. He was chairman of the New Haven Mayor’s Task Force on AIDS from 1986 to 1991, and was editor in chief of *The AIDS and Public Policy Journal*.

A friend of Dr. Novick for four decades, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department chair Stephen Stearns had this to say about him: “Al was one of the most courageous, graceful and thoughtful people I have ever met in my life. He saved lives and careers . . . and was one of the most interesting people at Yale. Al really stood out for moral courage.”

As recently as Fall term 2004 Dr. Novick was still teaching his class popular undergraduate class AIDS and Society.

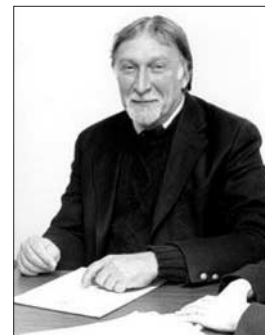
Alvin Novick was born in Flushing, Queens, on June 27, 1925. He earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at Harvard. He was a research fellow in biology at Harvard before becoming an instructor in zoology in 1957 at Yale, where he was appointed a professor of biology in 1983.

Interim, he fought as a rifleman in World War II and was captured and held in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Dr. Novick’s partner was William Sabella, who, as Connecticut’s first state AIDS coordinator, helped develop a curriculum in the 1980’s to teach about the virus in public schools. Mr. Sabella died of complications from AIDS in 1992.

Reflecting on public perceptions of the disease in an interview with *The New York Times* in 1987, Dr. Novick said he saw no reason for people to see AIDS as an embarrassment or a humiliation. “We have to stop seeing this as anything other than a devastating infection,” he said. “No one is guilty. Only the virus is guilty.”

[Obituary compiled from obituaries in both *The New York Times* and *the Yale Daily News*.] ▼



Dr. Alvin Novick

Meet the Newsletter Staff: Robert Leuze

The newsletter does not—and cannot—happen without the combined volunteer efforts of dedicated GALA members. One regular contributor whose efforts are quite evident in every issue is Robert Leuze SY '58. Robert creates the digital version of GALA's newsletter, using the facilities of his own desktop publishing business which he runs in New York City. However, as with any Yale GALA contributor, there is much more than meets the eye. Here's a bit more on Robert:

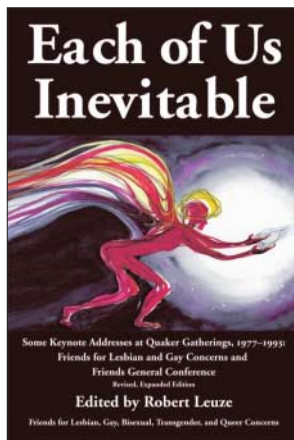
What was your life at Yale like?

I grew up in rural Northern New York near the eastern end of Lake Ontario, amid the extreme homophobia of the McCarthy period. Yale seemed about as homophobic as my home town. During my years at Yale no one I knew—or knew of—was openly gay. I came out (to myself and two or three others) my senior year, following a brief, painful affair. I still cherish the personal interactions with professors, a number of whom gave me extensive individual help in seminars, private conferences, and comments on my papers. Josef Albers, for instance, opened my eyes to color and its interrelationships.

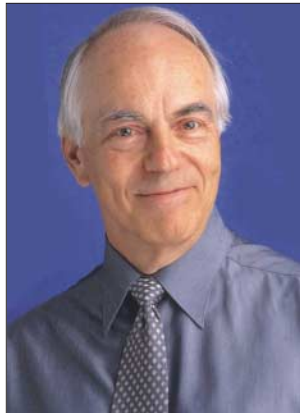
What did you do following graduation?

The persecution of homosexuals in those times prompted me to move to New York City. I found a writing-editorial job with a Hearst trade magazine, where I loved the editing but was completely bored by the writing; after a year I began teaching high school physical science (and, sometimes, English) at a private boys school in the Bronx. My teaching career lasted 16 years—about 10 years too long!

In the next decade following teaching I pursued a career as an operatic baritone. During those years I supported myself with free-lance copy editing for major book publishers and, later, word processing. In 1988, I saw that the desktop publishing of books would draw on a number of my interests, knowledge, and skills with editing and computer use. I knew the editing phases of book production and the professional standards for publication. It seemed a natural.



In 2003 the Quaker group called Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns published a collection of 19 keynote addresses that had been delivered to the group over the years since 1977 by widely known Friends (Quakers), reflecting a range of sexual orientation. The book, *Each of Us Inevitable*, was edited and produced by Robert Leuze. A frequent theme considers how the contributions of LGBTQ persons are vital both for Quakers and for the general society. The authors include David Wertheimer, M Div '84. ▼



Robert Leuze, GALA
Newsletter production editor

What are some of your best/proudest accomplishments? In desktop publishing—

- My wide variety of clients, from the U.N.'s International Labor Office, Reuters, A. M. Best, and John Wiley & Sons to two gay guys who self-published their own gay foreign phrase book: *How to Say Faaabulous! in 8 Different Languages*. (A large publisher reportedly has now acquired it for reissue.)
- Securing my own niche by doing two things that other desktop publishers don't:
 1. I produce long, complex books, accurately and automatically formatted, based on templates I create that realize and reproduce a client's design.
 2. I use database publishing to create newsletter and book content automatically from a client's database. For one client, for instance, the same database supplies pre-formed

monthly output for three different newsletter pages—a calendar, an updated list of classes, and a list of the month's activities for each special interest group in the organization.

In my life in general—

- My loving, honest, and mutually supportive marriage of 36 years with my wife Sarah. (We fell in love in the late 1960s and were married in 1969, each believing that psychoanalysis had changed my orientation. I came out for the second time in the mid-1970s, but we remain very happily married.)
- My many successful vocal performances as an operatic and concert baritone, especially my 2002 concert in Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.
- My "indie" CD: *Songs of Our Lives: Operatic and Contemporary Selections that Reflect the Gay Experience*.
- The wonderful success of a book I edited and produced, *Each of Us Inevitable*, a collection of extraordinary keynote talks given to my LGBTQ Quaker group.

When and how did you get involved in GALA?

In the very early 1980s a graduating senior, Larry Borten ES '82, placed an ad in the alumni magazine asking for support from gay alumni for Yale students. I responded, and Larry put me in touch with the group of alumni who independently were forming what became GALA.

What do you like about GALA?

The good friendships I have formed among some very, very fine, interesting, talented fellow alumni/ae, the support we give to the LGBTQ community at Yale, and our parties.

Robert can be reached at RLeuze@rcn.com and 212-662-3252. See flgbtqc.quaker.org/eachofus.html for info on *Each of Us Inevitable*. For his CD, see www.CDBaby.com/cd/Leuze. ▼

Yale Day in LA: Alums Express Concern to President Richard Levin about GLBT Student Life and the Future of the Larry Kramer Initiative

By Jason Kramer MC '96

On Saturday, April 2, 200 alums attended the annual Yale Day in Los Angeles at the Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles. This year, courtesy of a timely outreach effort by the AYA, GLBT alums were specifically invited to join for a special morning program and lunch. In the morning session, **Keith Ferrazzi BK '88**, led a seminar on how to network your way to success. Keith is the author of *Never Eat Alone and Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time*. Ferrazzi, who is openly gay, has his own consulting practice that teaches a sophisticated, structured methodology for generating personal relationships that form the foundation for successful careers and organizational growth. Twenty GLBT alums attended the seminar and had our own tables at the luncheon. GALA President **Mickey Dobbs TC '92** and LKI Executive Director **Jonathan Katz** were also able to join us, flying in from the east coast specifically for the event.

The AYA event was well-timed, coming soon after GALA's first official event in Los Angeles, a mixer on March 6 in Santa Monica, where some thirty alums met for this inaugural event. The AYA event was also an important opportunity for GALA-LA to show our support for Yale as well as express our concern for GLBT student life on campus and continued University support for the Larry Kramer Initiative (LKI). **President Richard Levin** dropped in for lunch, where GLBT alums were able to make a visible show of support as well as mention our concern about these two key issues.

President Levin Questioned: President Levin gave the keynote speech, discussing the University's strategy of focusing on enhancing facilities, bringing more scientific research to New Haven, and establishing a more global profile. During the Q&A session, Levin was asked by a GALA member about the future of LKI. (Nearing the end of Larry Kramer's initial donation, the future of the program is uncertain, and in the absence of another major gift is likely to continue only with the direct support of the University). Noting that the initiative itself was established by a donation, President Levin made it clear that, barring another major donation (in the region of \$6MM), the future of the program would have to be evaluated. In all likelihood, this would mean that queer studies would cease to have a distinct academic identity at Yale. As in the days before LKI, this would likely

mean that a few courses would remain in the Women's Studies department, but that the University would lose its current leadership position in the field (ironically, another alum even questioned the University's commitment to the Women's Studies department). It was also clear from President Levin's comments that he had not been asked about LKI by alums before, another reason why GALA's presence at the function was so important.

After Levin's address, alums were treated to presentations from three of Yale's senior faculty: Yale School of Drama Dean **James Bundy MFA '95**, Physics and Astronomy Professor **Meg Urry** and Law Professor **Amy Chua**. After the event, the AYA hosted a cocktail hour.

GALA's presence at the event proved the value of remaining visible in order to keep GLBT issues on the University's radar, and was also helpful in keeping up the momentum for GALA's Los Angeles-based activities, which continued May 22 with a spring party in West Hollywood co-sponsored by Yale GALA, Stanford GALA, the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Alliance, and GLivN (G&L Ivy Network of SoCal). ▼

Yale Law vs. Military: Update

Editor's note: last issue, **Adam Romero Law '07**, detailed the proceedings surrounding Yale Law School's lawsuit involving the Solomon Amendment (briefly, the national statute which requires universities and colleges to allow the Department of Defense to recruit on campus—despite the military's Don't ask, don't tell policy—or risk withholding of Federal funds). Wanting to keep alums current, Adam sent this update to GALA:

Dear all,

A brief update on the Solomon Amendment litigation:

As you may know the Supreme Court granted cert in the FAIR suit, to be argued in the fall term.

The Yale Law School Faculty plaintiffs have petitioned the Court to hear their suit at the same time as FAIR, since the YLS win went all the way to the merits, whereas FAIR did not.

Our student suit has been dismissed as moot (as a result of the faculty's win). If judgment in favor of the YLS faculty is reversed at the 2nd Circuit or the Supreme Court, the students will be, if we choose, able to file again. ▼

"Page Six" YALE GALA in Los Angeles, CA

(Photos courtesy of Rich Little BR '74)

Yale Day—Saturday April 2, 2005

Recognizing that LGBTQ alums comprise a significant portion of its base, the Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) invited GALA members to its annual "Yale Day," held this year at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. (See related article on Page 5).



Twenty GALA members attended Yale Day. Among them, GALA President Mickey Dobbs TC '92 (right).



Keith Ferrazzi BK '88 (standing), author of the recent book *Never Eat Alone and Other Secrets to Success*, led a seminar for all attending alums on professional networking.

LA-GALA Spring Party— Sunday, May 22, 2005



GALA members gathered at a local bar in West Hollywood at an event co-sponsored with Stanford GALA, Harvard Gay and Lesbian Alumni Alliance and GLivvN (G&L Ivy Network of Southern California). Seen in the photo at left (standing second from left) is Jason Kramer MC '96, coordinator for LA-GALA. Those interested in further information concerning LA-GALA should contact Jason at: jason.kramer@NRG.com