

1970

Outside of Laguna Beach activities and private clubs, there were few Orange county organizations, and the bars on Garden Grove Blvd. were the popular meeting places for the community.

Dr. Jay Hayes, California State University Fullerton professor, founded the Gay Students Educational Union (GSEU) at the university.

1971

Christ Chapel MCC becomes the first gay and lesbian organization in Orange County. Founded by the Rev. Roger Harrison. It was one of the original ten Metropolitan Community Church's to be established outside of Los Angeles. Hampered by an arson fire and the AIDS pandemic the church survives and is thriving in Santa Ana.

January – The harassment of bars by the Garden Grove Police Department began and continued off and on until the 90's when most of the bars were driven from the city.

February - The Gay Liberation Front of Orange County was formed. It developed out of the Gay Liberation Class at California State University at Fullerton (CSUF), Steve Egan, instructor. Ann "Tess" Tessier was editor of the *Rash* a newsletter put out by the class.

Bob Miller from the projection booth at the Village Theater in South Coast Plaza instituted the first gay information line in the county. It was available 24 hrs. a day and after Sam Warren places an ad in the Orange County Register it receives 40 phone calls. Additional phones were installed and it eventually had to be relocated.

March 1 – Sam Warren published the first Orange County gay newsletter, *Focus* (The name was taken from a defunct social club.) in Costa Mesa. It was funded by Jay Murley, OC-ACLU Dir. and Bruce Hopping. It was published under the name of The Homosexual Information Center of Orange County (HIC).

April - MCC Christ Chapel moves their bible study and office from the Unitarian Church in Costa Mesa to the home of John Rule at 215 E. 23rd St., Costa Mesa.

The seeds for a center in Orange County were planted when Sam Warren called a meeting of all-gay organizations and leadership at the Outer Limits (a gay club for teens); leaders from the LA Center were, also, invited. Attendees included Morris Kight (LA Center), Troy Perry (MCD), Jay Murley (ACLU), Rev. Roger Harrison (MCC-OC), John Rule (MCC), Bob Miller, Dr. Max Schneider, Brad Brafford, Bob Vizzard (Chr. UCI Gay Student Union), Linda Tessier (OC Lesbian leader), and Steve Egan (Gay Liberation Front-OC). The moderator was Prof. Jay Hayes (Faculty Advisor Gay Students Educational Union- CSUF). Warren has said that not a lot was accomplished at the meeting.

June 15 - CSFU Experimental College offers a course titled Gay Life and Lib: A Study in Homosexual Life Styles and Politics. Taught by Robert McIvery.

June 21 - CSFU Pres. Donald Shields denied the Gay Student Union a charter.

July 10 - The Gay Community Center sponsors a Gay Day dance at Brookhurst gate of Huntington Beach State Park.

1972

After Main Beach in Laguna Beach closed, West Street Beach became the Mecca of gay social life. The elite volleyball group was known as the "Majorettes" and Bob Major was the sponsor. The "Bodettes" continued to play also. Parties and staying over with local residents brought in people from all over. The "Grand Opening" of the beach took place on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend and a pink ribbon was cut by the unofficial "Mayor" of West Beach- Larry D.. KWER broadcasts the event from the bluff above the beach.

April - John Rule hosts what will eventually become the Orange County Center in his home. It was distinguished with a pink mailbox. The Orange County Homosexual Information Center (HIC) hot line was moved to this new location and rap groups were offered to complement the Christ Chapel--MCC bible study. Neighbors complained, eggs were thrown at the house, and there were bomb scares. Raps grew from 10 to more than 50.

May - Sheriff's Deputy M. Rhodes, badge number 51, is reassigned after a citizens committee led by Jay Murley of the ACLU Orange County chapter monitor the harassment by the officer at Broom Hilda's, the Buoy Shed, and the Stables in Sunset Beach. Letter were sent regarding the actions with eye-witness accounts and the Sheriff's office agreed to reassign the officer "to establish better community relations."

June 21 - 250 people descended on Laguna Beach City Council to complain about treatment and enforcement regarding the gay community. St Mary's Episcopal Church, Re. Brad Kareliss, acting pastor, spoke on behalf of the community.

Rev. Harrison set up a rectory at 1131 Glennayre, Laguna Beach.

California State University Fullerton (CSUF) forms a Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance (LGBA). In its early years attendees were primarily non-students from the community. The student body was very closeted. In 1995, the LGBA held their first Pride Culture night, nicknamed "The Prom."

July - The Grove an after hours club for young adults opened in Garden Grove.

Terry Oleson is president of the University of California at Irvine (UCI) Gay Student Union.

September - A man wearing a Groovy Guy T attempts to enter Disneyland and is told by security to turn the shirt inside out. The shirt referred to a hunky-man contest regularly featured in the *Advocate*.

Mandate, a gay dating service, owned by Jim Stewart left town owing a lot of money to many Orange County and Long Beach subscribers.

Rev. Lou Sheldon (Anaheim) founds the Traditional Values Coalition.

Edgewater Bathes in Dana Point were closed.

Steve Egan was the editor of the OC Center, *Focus*.

Tex Masters' opens the first gay country western bar in Garden Grove – "Tex's Corner."

Bruce Hopping founded Kalos Kagathos Foundation a countywide symposium on homosexuality. He published an athletic magazine featuring young men swimmers and body health. He tried unsuccessfully to have a nude statue put up in front of his home in Newport Beach.

May - Santa Ana & Fullerton PD vice squads descend on local 'tea rooms' in force--Hillcrest Park, Prentice Park and retail store restrooms)

May 2 - Jay Murley, ACLU, when interviewed by *Focus* stated, "Orange County remains the Mississippi of the West Coast."

Big narcotics bust on the community in Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach.

June 18 - First Emperor/Empress Ball was held, in Laguna Beach.

August – Orange County Sheriff’s shut down the “tea room” at the closed San Juan Hot Springs on Ortega Hwy.

ACLU opens an Orange County office, Jay Murley, Exec. Dir., and Concerned Citizens of Laguna Beach start incorporation proceedings. Ray Bierleu is the first president.

September - Gerard W. Van Deventer, organist, was fired by the First Baptist Church in Santa Ana. Instead of claiming police entrapment, he chose to avoid embarrassing the congregation and paid a fine for a lesser charge and was fired anyway.

October 22-23 -- Radical Lesbian Feminists (AKA The Dyke Patrol) attended a demonstration in Sacramento. The Radical Lesbian Feminists (nee OC Gay Women's Coalition) began meeting at the Women’s Health Center in Santa Ana in the early 70’s. Founders included Tish Levee, Carolyn Whitehorn, Linda “Tess” Tessier, Linda “Shorty” Shimandle, Rachel Pena. Thus becoming the county’s first militant activist group.

October - A boy was shot in an altercation at the Knotty Keg when three patrons were ejected.

Garden Grove Mug owner Al Potts was killed and mutilated. Police action was invisible.

1973

Jude Patton founded Renaissance: Gender Identity Services (1976-79) a support group for transsexuals. In 1976, with an insurgence of energy by Joanna Clark (aka Sister Mary Elizabeth) it eventually merged with The Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County (1977-1995) and became the most successful gender program in the county.

April - The Orange County Imperial Court, a fund-raising/activist organization made up of drag queens holds its first coronation ball at the Balboa Pavilion. It attracts much attention from the local tourist crowd.

July – Finally a coalition of Orange County gay organizations – Three Dollar Bill Club (made up of community leaders who were raising funds for a center) and Christ Chapel MCC – officially opened a Gay Community Center in John Rules home., housing the Gay Hotline-HICOC, Christ Chapel MCC-Rev. Roger Harrison, and *Focus*-Sam Warren, ed.) Donations went to Christ Chapel--MCC and the Center utilized a post office box. Warren was the first Center Director.

August 24 – A public forum convened in the City Council Chambers in Laguna Beach. The discussion topic was “Social Implications of the Sanctions Against Homosexuality.” Produced by the Kalos Kagathos Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, the Gay Community Centers of Los Angeles and Orange County, and the Concerned Citizens of Laguna Beach. Morris Kight was on the panel.

Trojan Shield II opened in unincorporated Midway City. It served mixed drinks and featured female impersonators.

December 1 - Newport Police Narcotics officers raided Sam Warren’s office and home.

December 15 - The American Psychiatric Association (APA) removes homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses. This was accomplished when activists stormed the APA convention and demanded the change or the convention would be disrupted every year.

1974

Orange County Human Relations Commission suggests sensitivity training for police agencies.

Christ Chapel--MCC held services at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1259 Victoria St. Costa Mesa- Rev. Roger Harrison, pastor.

The pool league was a common form of entertainment at the bars – participating clubs over the years were Proud Mary, Happy Hour, Trojan Shield II, Tiki Hut, The Mug, and Knotty Keg.

Square Dancing first appeared on the gay scene when Happy New Year (Yes, that was his name.) held classes at his home. He later formed a gay/lesbian club called “New Years Resolution” that danced in bars. Happy was awarded the

Golden Boot Award by the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) in 1986. (See Golden State Squares 1986).

January - The owner of Climax was arrested by Orange County Sheriffs for offering after hours dancing at his club. He was pistol whipped by two deputies when he was identified as being gay.

January - Sam Warren resigns from the Center board and as editor of Focus amid allegations of narcotics violations and counterfeiting along with Kenneth Piquelle - Aloha Instant Printing (688 W. Baker St. Costa Mesa.).

A series of young men are founded murdered (Dec. 1972- Jan. 75) in Long Beach and Orange County. Parts of eleven (11) victims were found strewn along the freeway between Seal Beach and Long Beach. It was later learned that the perpetrator had attended Center raps and frequented Ripples. [Randy Kraft (Dubbed the "southern California strangler"), a graduate of Claremont Men's College, was arrested in 1983 on other charges and later identified as the perpetrator. He is currently on death row.]

February 10 -- City of Costa Mesa turns down a 'gay church" permit Submitted by John Rule who has been hosting the group in his home

March -- John Rule becomes the second Center Exec. Dir. and remains as church treasurer. The Center has a 24-hr. hotline and raps are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Costa Mesa with branches in Laguna Beach and Anaheim.

March 31 – Orange County's first gay "Headdress Ball 75" was held at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Center, it was as a fundraiser that drew over 500 persons from as far away as Riverside, Fresno, and Oceanside.

April 13 - Second Annual Orange County Emperor & Empress Coronation Ball was held at Three Greenhorns Quality Inn in Anaheim.

July 28 -- First Annual Mr. and Miss Foxy Ball is sponsored by the Center . All proceeds go to Christ Chapel--MCC.

August 9-After there are ten arrests of patrons in Garden Grove gay bars, the ACLU posts observers with and without armbands at different locations on specific nights.

September 7 -- The United Gays for Equal Treatment staged the first ever march in Garden Grove which started at the DOK West and proceeded 1.5 miles down Garden Grove Blvd. to the City Civic Center. Although it was supposed to be confined to the sidewalk, and was being closely monitored by Garden Grove Police Department, it spilled over into the street and several of the more closeted persons followed with paper bags over their heads and in automobiles. The parade line up was dominated by MCC affiliates and bar entrees. The crowd chants "Two, four, six, eight, how do you know your son is straight. The protest, supported by the bar owners, was held because of a rash of arrests (43) in and around the bars in the city. The speakers were Morris Kight (LAGCC), Romona Ripston (ACLU), Representative Elaine Noble and the Grand Marshall - Rev. Troy Perry (MCC Over 510 persons participated).

November UCI and Orange Coast College form Gay Student Unions.

United Gay for Equal Treatment formed after murder of Ken Brown.

The Gay Community Center signs Articles of Incorporation and a speaker's bureau is created to complement the hotline. Original members of the board of directors include Gary Brenner, Barbara Kreedman, Richard Moan, Brad Brafford, Helen Mc Clure, Robert Railer, Sheila Mc Williams.

1975

January 24 - American Psychological Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.

Fun Lovers Bowling League a gay and lesbian weekly league opens at Maple Lane at Bower/GG Blvd., Garden Grove.

John Rule, Ex. Dir. GCC, 215 E. 23rd St., Costa Mesa, 92627, met with police to develop better relations. Rule responds in *FOCUS* to threats by bar owners to withdrawing ads because the map shows their locations and it might lead to harassment.

Christian Life Church, 2103 N. Greenleaf, Santa Ana, Rev. James R. Sausman offers to work with The Center.

Gay Speakers Bureau was a cooperative of The Gay Student Union CSUF and UCI, the Radical Lesbian Feminest- (L Shinandle, L Tessier, C. Williams, E. Talbert - Santa Ana) and, and the Homosexual Information Center of OC.

Cypress College establishes the Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA). Over the years, activity fluctuates and eventually the group becomes inactive.. It was reestablished in 1999, still receives weak support from Administration.

The Gay Community Center sponsored a women's rap (Lesbian Women) group led by Pat Dale at 475 N. Glassell, Orange and skating parties were held at the Harbor Roller Rink in Costa Mesa.

May 12 – California Passed the consenting adult law—The Brown Act.

April - Headdress Ball held at the OC Fair grounds. Sponsored by the OC Imperial Court. Cold chicken was the menu and the bars furnished servers.

July 28 - Imperial Court Follies were held at the Trojan Shield II.

November—Dignity OC was established at a meeting in the OC Center led by Rev. Roger Harrison-Christ Chapel MCC. The formation group was made up of OC members of Dignity Los Angeles—Ken Vodowsky, Jim Boone, Dick Hitt, Art Balderrama and Kathy Sandoval.

November 5 – Gay Community Center holds first Community Awards Banquet.

November 23 – Gay Community Center holds the first Annual Runner-up Contest for the losers in the Court Emperor/Empress competition.

December 14 – The Gay Community Center-OC board dismissed John Rule as Executive Director and the Center moved from John's house to 12732 Garden Grove Blvd. Suite H. [Two blocks west of its current location] It had two big rooms with an office in between. Later the Center moved to a house on Euclid Ave. because it had more space. There was much controversy over the location and the sign that was placed in front designating it as a gay center. Harassment became common -- two fire bombings, passing cars threw garbage on the front of the building while yelling foul names and a pig's head was placed on the front porch. Garden Grove police chief Frank Kessler attended Center meetings regarding the issues and told the board that the problem would go away if they would, "just take the damn sign down." [*Adding the word lesbian to the center's name and sign had been debated by the board and rejected.*]

Sheila McWilliams was named director of Gay Community Services Center of Orange County (The Center OC), 12732 Garden Grove Blvd., #11 in GG. BOD-Gary Brenner, Barbara Kreedman, Richard Moan, Robert Raider, Mary Ann

Senre, Robert Warner, Judy Weber, Paul Zapparoto. Joined Manton Bible, Helen McClure, Sheila McWilliams, Joe Musquez, Kris Zamora.

John Rule continued to use his home for the new "Gay Community Services Center (GCSC)."

1976

Michael Bussee and Gary Cooper found Exodus International, a "reparative therapy" group at Anaheim's Melodyland Christian Center. (They later become lovers and leave the organization.)

Lesbians in the Feminist Effort sponsored the women's Sexuality Conference at UCI and held a lesbian dance at the Orange County Fairgrounds.

SCWU (Southern California Women for Understanding) was formed in Los Angeles.

February 11 – Orange County Human Relations Commission, having formed a panel on gay harassment, holds a forum regarding alleged unequal enforcement of the law against businesses, which cater to a gay clientele. (George Carter Commission Chairperson)

June 18 - Transgender Christine Jorgensen (Laguna Niguel) meets with a group of 20 transsexuals in Costa Mesa for a pot luck and to establish a support and information group for the transgender community. Sponsored by Rev. Roger Harrison, MCC-Costa Mesa.

There were now six g/l bars in Garden Grove and over a two year period there were 15 lewd conduct arrests and the ORANGE COUNTY District Attorney declared the blvd. a "red light district," and pressed formal charges to close the bars. - Happy Hour (l), Ranger Club (g), Mug (g), Saddle Club (g), Tiki Hut (g), DOK West (g/l) (18 and over). (*Charges were dismissed 1-26-77 with no convictions*)

HIV appears to have entered the United States

1977

April 30 – The ORANGE COUNTY Imperial Court awards the Mother Earth Award to Orange County Gay and Lesbian Pride. This award is targeted towards “a person or persons whose vision of a gay and lesbian community in Orange County has become a reality.”

August - OC Human Rights Coalition holds its first meeting. Bob Sierks, Chairperson.

September – The San Clemente Post reports a growing numbers of aggressive male prostitutes frequenting public restrooms. Purported to be from Camp Pendleton in north San Diego county, they are “servicing” the older gay clientele.

October 28-30 – “Gay Think 3” was held at California State University Fullerton. An Gay Academic Union (GAU) event is was sponsored by the universities gay student union. Conference committee members included Bob Gordon, Ed Ward, Art Balderrama, Michael Heald, Kathy Banks, Paul Chen, and bob Trickey. Robert Hodges was one of the featured speakers.

1978

The first group to form in opposition of the Briggs Initiative included Bob Trickey, Mike Mulen, Don Snow, Donna Connally, Frank Orozeo, Roger Keenen, Chris Gaynr and Jim Boone. It was called Orange County Coalition Against the Brigs Initiative.

Proposition 6 -- The Brigg’s Amendment [Sen. John Briggs-Fullerton] to stamp out gay and lesbian teachers was placed on the ballot in California. The state field director for the initiative was Rev. Lou Sheldon. The effort to mobilize opposition to this campaign brought the Orange County gay and lesbian community together with the “No On 6” campaign. June Campbell and Lisa Kaye organized central county and Dan Wooldridge (Coalition for Human Rights) organized Laguna Beach. Briggs left politics. Pres. Carter, who was in town to support Gov. Brown, gave feint support to the no vote after assurances that both Ford and Reagan opposed the measure. Local supporters included Carl Karcher of Carl's Junior. (The proposition is defeated, Nov. 7, by a 58 to 42 percent margin.) Lisa Kaye (Field Director) and Art Balderrama (Office Manager)

In an effort to keep the political movement going, Dan Wooldridge (Coordinator) maintained the Coalition for Human Rights, Dr. Jim Boone formed the California Human Rights Advocates in Irvine, and Marjorie Rushforth formed the Citizens Committee for Human Rights in Costa Mesa.

March 24-25 A production entitled, "Anita's Defeat," by Tom Farrell and Bob Trickey played at California State University Fullerton Recital Hall.

Orange County P-FLAG is established and sets up their award winning a Speakers Bureau.

May 25 -- 15,000 people attend the first-ever "gay night" at Disneyland that was sponsored the Los Angeles Bar and Restaurant Association. When Disney realized it was a gay male organization, they cancelled live music and closed the dance floors. Security was increased and staff was told "courtesy was optional." Pre-sale tickets noted "no drags and no pamphlets or leaflets."

August 27 – Whitman-Brooks, the Orange County Gay Community Center, and the Gay Student Center of University California at Irvine sponsored a workshop on the UCI campus.

November 27-San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated, in his office, by former fellow supervisor and former police officer, Dan White. White, also, killed liberal mayor George Moscone.

1979

September 23-25 - The OC Register runs a three-part generally positive series on gay and lesbian life on OC by staff writer Lori Weisberg. Many of the people interviewed don't want their names used.

"We live a very quiet life just like our neighbors." Bill Ketterington, organizer of California Human Rights Advocates (CHRA), "We're centuries behind. We're behind because most gay men in OC are relatively well to do, have a job, a comfortable home and don't feel threatened. They think they can hide. This ability to hide is one of our major problems." State Co-chairperson of CHRA is Jim Boone, OC resident and long time activist.

There are 15 gay bars on the "strip" in Garden Grove (see appendix).

Garden Grove police chief Kessler establishes sensitivity seminars for his staff.

October 14 - First NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS.