



GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS JOURNAL



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Remembering 1969	1
Giving Back	3
Mariette Lydis	3
ACT UP Covers	4
Betty White	5
GLHS August Meeting	7
John Lennon	9
Dolly Parton	11
Star Trek	12
Dragnet	14
Keisuke Kinoshita	14
Jimmy Carter	15
War in Iran	17
From the Archives	18
New Issues	19

Remembering 1969's Counterculture: Stonewall and Woodstock

By James Patterson

Two historic events took place in New York during the summer of 1969. In June, the Stonewall Riots led to a national conversation about the LGBT community. The conversation led to a gradual shift in society's recognition of the community's rights. In 1999, Stonewall was formally added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

Woodstock, the three-day non-stop 1969 rock music festival held on a farm in Bethel, NY, celebrates its anniversary Aug. 15–18. Though billed as a three-day event, it stretched into four days. Records and interviews with the counterculture crowd attest to the important roles of members of the LGBT community, including Professor Elliot Tiber (1925-2016), in the happening at Woodstock.

The Woodstock Music and Art Fair attracted 400,000 people with such performers as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Arlo Guthrie, Jefferson Airplane, and many more. With the Vietnam War raging, the festival was promoted as “Three Days of Peace and Music.”

Despite protests from nearby towns, including “hip” Woodstock, NY, the festival went on thanks to farmer Max Yasgur (1919-1973). Rain, marijuana, psychedelic drugs, public nudity, and non-stop rock music and related entertainment were captured in a three-hour documentary film released in 1970. In 1996, the documentary was added to the U.S. National Film Registry as “historically and culturally significant.” It will be preserved for future generations to study and enjoy.

Woodstock's promoters would have gone bankrupt had they not had the good judgment to film the festival. They also profited from the recording rights. Woodstock introduced audiences to then-new performers like Carlos Santana, Joe Cocker, Melanie (Safka), and Ravi Shankar, among others. Some of the performers sang anti-war and peace songs. Country Joe and the Fish sang “Vietnam Song (‘What Are We Fighting For?’).”



In this 2023 photo, author James Patterson sits beside singer Melanie Safka, known for such hits as “Brand New Key” and her 1970 cover of “Ruby Tuesday.”

Continued on page 8.



The *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal* is published quarterly by Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS). GLHS is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205, and a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), number 458.

The **objective** of GLHS is to promote an interest in the collection, study, and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- Notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation;
- Mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture;
- Flora and fauna scientifically proven as having prominent homosexual behavior.

Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHS strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

Members may submit advertisements for free.

Volunteers Needed

GLHS is always seeking single or group volunteers to perform the following tasks:

- A social media committee to explore options for open or closed group online communications or meetings on platforms such as Google, Instagram, Twitter/X, blogs, GoToMeeting, HipChat, etc.
- *GLHS Journal* columnists
- In-person or virtual presentations on any philatelic or topically-relevant subject
- GLHS social coordination
- Membership roster maintenance
- A committee on advertising
- Submission of general philatelic articles or features on journeys, cover and postal history, and philatelic events

Publication Schedule

Publication Date	Submissions Due
January 2027	December 15
April 2027	March 15, 2027
July 2027	June 15, 2027
October 2027	September 15, 2027

Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **75** members. 51 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and 36 are members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

New Members

There were no new members this quarter.

GLHS Board of Directors 2026-2028

President: Lisa Foster (WA)

Vice President: John P. Stefanek (MI)

Secretary: Barry Christensen (KY)

Treasurer: Laurie Anderson (WA)

GLHS Journal editor: Wayne "Salem" Niehaus (KY)

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Giving Back

Francis Ferguson



Unexpected Kindness

What a surprise I had recently. Kindness does exist in this world. I was at the pre-meeting dinner of the Central Florida Stamp Club, with seven others at a small Asian restaurant that seats maybe 35 people—in very close quarters. The food is good-to-excellent so I put up with the tight quarters.

As we were finishing up our meals, some started to look for our checks. Conspicuously, the server who had handled us was missing—which was odd. I noticed a guy get up who was seated very close to our table, maybe in his middle 30s, dressed very casually with somewhat disheveled hair—and out the door he went.

As soon as he was out the door, the owner came to our table to inform us that our tab had been paid in full by the person that just left and he had instructed her to tell us after he had left. Everyone was puzzled but very happy to be on the receiving end of a random act of kindness. This was not a cheap gesture, as our total bill had to be around \$150 plus the tip. I would not know the guy if I saw him again.

We discussed what happened and why. Those of us nearer to where the man had been seated figured out that he had to have overheard at least part of our conversations that ranged through politics, religion, and the current state of the Washington, D.C. swamp environment.

It was pretty obvious that we all knew each other, and most of the eight were wearing the same blue club shirts that clearly show the CFSC logo. We are a diverse group of older men—the common denominator is white hair (or lack thereof) and we all adore little pieces of fragile paper. It was by all means a nice surprise.

Until next time, be good and practice kindness. Pay it forward.

Mariette Lydis

By John P. Stefanek



A 1971 Argentinian stamp featuring Mariette Lydis' 1965 painting "Les timbres" (The Stamps).

Mariette Lydis was born Aug. 24, 1887 in Baden, near Vienna, Austria. She started her career as a young, self-taught artist after traveling to France with Massimo Bontempelli in 1925. Soon she developed a reputation as a talented painter and illustrator.

During World War II, she fled to Buenos Aires. She returned to Paris in 1948 before settling back in Buenos Aires. Her early phase was a darker, sadder period, concentrating on portraying poor people, old men, the dispossessed, criminals, and the sick. Later, her work became brighter, featuring more women, adolescents, and children.

Mariette was known for lithographic depictions celebrating lesbian and bisexual relationships. She illustrated women in the active-passive heterosexual relationship stereotype by portraying one woman with slightly masculine-looking features.

Mariette married three times and had affairs with men. She met her lifetime partner, Erica Marx, near the end of the 1930s.

Mariette Lydis died on April 26, 1970.

Known stamp designs featuring work by Mariette Lydis are Argentina Scott #B55.