



ERATO

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Stockholm

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ILGCN (International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network) Information Secretariat

75 Years After Nazi Seizure of Power in Germany

Berlin Monument Honors LGBT Victims



Photo: Colin de La Motte-Sherman

Berlin -- The unveiling ceremony of the monument to the homosexual victims of Nazi-Germany, situated in the Tiergarten, Berlin, opposite the monument to the Jewish victims of the holocaust took place on. May 27, 2008 -- 75 years after the Nazis took power.

Speakers at the opening ceremony referred to the continued use of the Nazi law in the Federal Republic of Germany until 1969 -- which led to the punishment of as many gays between 1945 and 1969 as under the Nazis. Under the Nazis it is estimated that 10, - 15,000 homosexuals were murdered in concentration camps and some 50,000 sent to prison. *(Continued on page 2)*

11th Year in 2008: First ILGCN conference stages in North America

World Rainbow Culture: Helsinki, Minneapolis, Toronto

Stockholm -- Rainbow Culture from China to Belarus, North America to Iran to the Nordic region, LGBT refugees and global LGBT history -- will be some of the topics of seminars, music, photo, art, exhibitions and performances at the three stages of this year's world cultural conferences of the ILGCN (*International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network*).

"We are proud to include the ILGCN conference stage in Helsinki in the annual Tribade Day & Night Festival," says Anne Jaaskelainen anne.jaaskelainen@nokia.com, festival co-ordinator. This event has also been extended to September 13 and 14th.

"We are pleased to have the first ILGCN conference in North America -- September 21-22, 2008," explains Nick Tretter, secretary general of the ILGCN History Secretariat trett007@umn.edu. "We'll have seminars on Chinese gay poetry, LGBT life in the United States and battles on the Eastern European barricades -- as well as exhibitions looking at LGBT history around the globe." *(Continued on page 2)*

Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina

ILGCN Supports Rainbow Film Festivals

Banja Luka, the capital of the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia & Herzegovina hosted its 2nd international short film festival, *Kratkofil*, between 11 and 15 June this year. Outside the official competition

programme which featured 55 films from all over the world, the festival's organisers screened several *(Continued on page 3)*

Finnish ILGCN delegation to Bucharest Pride

World Rainbow Culture in Helsinki, Minneapolis, Toronto.....

(Continued from page 1) The event will be held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis/St. Paul and will include a performance of the symphony orchestra – a first in ILGCN conferences.

“At the Toronto stage in November, we want to give a special focus on LGBT refugees around the world and the situation of the rainbow struggle in Iran and on LGBT Iranians forced to flee from that country,” says Michael Gfroerer, secretary general of the ILGCN North America Secretariat michaelgfroerer@yahoo.ca . This will be carried out together with the LGBT group at the University of Toronto.

Free Entrance, No Travel Grants

As usual, all three conference stages are free of charge, although some cultural events requiring the rental of locales may make entrance fees necessary. ILGCN world conferences are often divided between different cities to make accessibility more possible even for those without much travel funds, since the network survives only through donations and has no possibility of providing travel scholarships.

“At these stages, we’ll also announce this year’s ILGCN awards honoring special contributions to the LGBT world of culture – and also approve next year’s and future conference sites – which we hope will be in Budapest, Bucharest and Istanbul,” says Bill Schiller, secretary general of the ILGCN Information Secretariat in Stockholm info@tupilak.org . “We welcome any future candidates as well in this global effort to promote the international use of LGBT culture to combat homophobia, silence, provincialism and pink dollar commercialism that puts profit higher than solidarity.”

Interested ILGCN cultural ambassadors and national co-ordinators – and other rainbow cultural workers -- are especially welcome to participate in the conference stages. The ILGCN is supported by Tupilak (*Nordic rainbow cultural workers*), the Nordic Rainbow Council and the Nordic Rainbow Humanists.

Berlin Monument Honors Homosexual Victims of Nazis...

(continued from page 1) Lesbians also suffered but in a less severe way. Another symbol unveiled is the name-board of the new *Magnus-Hirschfeld-Ufer* (Ufer = embankment) in Berlin in which Minister of Justice Zypriess also took part.

The Hirschfeld Embankment is near where Hirschfeld’s *Institute of Sexuality* stood, and close to the centre of present-day government. The Institute was raided and the contents destroyed in May 1933. Some of the books – and a bust of Hirschfeld - were among the items which were later burned, in the notorious “book-burning” in central Berlin’s “Opernplatz”.

As early as the 1920’s Hirschfeld – a Jew, socialist and gay - had been severely beaten up by fascists while- in Munich so, understandably, after the Nazi takeover he did not return from a speaking tour abroad , but died in France in exile.

Meanwhile, the ILGCN Berlin representative, Colin attended the Cracow Parade for Tolerance and Democracy (April 2008) along with three thousand others. Despite continued Catholic and fascist opposition – for the first time the demonstration managed to reach the central market square (Rynek Glowny).

Colin also visited Lodz where he met with members of the Amnesty LGBT group in the town and extended contacts with the founder of the Queerfilm Festival in the city, Pawel, who has also advised a group in Chile about Queerfilm and is in contact our ILGCN cultural ambassador Paul Lee in Toronto.

Tupilak & ILGCN Travelling Art & Photography Exhibit

Next stops: Stockholm July, 19, July 24-30, 2008



*Willi Reichhold
Austria/Sweden*



Timo Saarelma, Finland



Andrius Privetas, Lithuania

ILGCN Supports Rainbow Film Festivals

(Continue from page 1) topical programmes. For the first time, a selection of gay and lesbian short films was included. The selection was compiled and presented to the Bosnian audiences at the festival by Andrejs Visockis, the ILGCN film festival secretary. It was also the first time that LGBT-themed films were shown on a cinema screen in this city. The Grand Prix of the festival went to Grimur Hákonarson from Iceland for his short film "Bræðrabylta" ("Wrestling") which is a tale of two gay wrestlers living in rural Iceland who grapple with their love for one another. In this connection it is also worth mentioning that "Wrestling" was the only gay-themed film in the competition.

Sarajevo Queer Culture Festival

For the first time in Sarajevo's history, between 24 and 28 September this year, the city will host a queer culture festival. The programme will include several art exhibitions displaying photography, sculpture and other queer art from the region and beyond, theatre performances, creative workshops, film screenings as well as political debates. The organiser of the festival is the Bosnian LGBT rights organisation Q but also the ILGCN Film Festival Secretary Andrejs Visockis is actively involved in organising the film events for the occasion. Furthermore, throughout the year there have been almost monthly screenings of LGBT-themed films free of charge to the audiences as a prelude to the big bash in September and there are also plans to arrange similar screenings in Mostar in August. Mostar is the third largest city in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

ILGCN Annual Awards: (Proposals welcomed at all Secretariats)

Rainbow Iceberg -- (international work)

Orfeo Iris (research in Nazi & neo-Nazi persecution of homosexuals)

Grizzly Bear (work in ferocious homophobic situations)

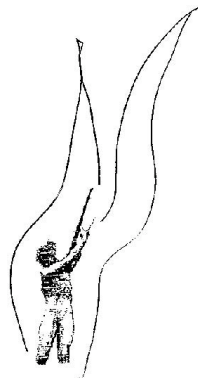
Orfeo Musica (international musical co-operation)

Sappho in Paradise (libraries, publishing)

Arco Nordica (Nordic co-operation)

Orfeo Imago (graphic art & photography)

Clio's Silver Cup (LGBT history)





2008 Focus on Rainbow Culture, Co-operation with Eastern Europeans

NORDIC RAINBOW COUNCIL to MEET in HELSINKI, STOCKHOLM – new dates



Helsinki/Stockholm -- Once again the annual meeting of the Nordic Rainbow Council is to be shared by two Nordic capitals -- Stockholm and Helsinki -- to make it easier for delegates to attend at least one of the events to discuss Nordic co-operation and not just communicate "via e-mail."

The Stockholm session will take place as part of the Rainbow Cultural Festival - focus on Eastern Europe event July 28 in the Swedish capital, while the Helsinki event will be part of the ILGCN world rainbow cultural conference and the annual Helsinki "Tribade Day & Night Festival."



ILGCN World Cultural Conferences

Helsinki, Finland -- September 13-14, 2008

Minneapolis/St. Paul, USA – September 19-21, 2008

Toronto -- *Focus on LGBT Exiles, Iran – November 2008*

ILGCN Secretariats

Information: Stockholm

www.ilgcn.tupilak.org



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Secretariat of the Americas: Toronto michaelgroerer@yahoo.ca

BUCHAREST PRIDE PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

The photos of Finland's Jussi Jaaskelainen taken at Bucharest Pride 2008, including the visiting Nordic delegation, the Swedish ambassador addressing the parade participants, the head of the European Union's LGBT group and some of the 1,200 police protecting the 200 marchers will be put on display at the ILGCN conferences in Helsinki and Minneapolis-St. Paul this September.