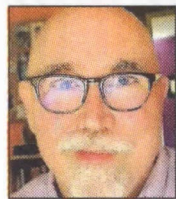


Comic book tells story of Detroit's first LGBT Pride, 50 years later

The story of the first-ever LGBT pride celebration in Michigan, "Christopher Street Detroit '72," is being brought to life through a full-color, 32-page non-fiction comic book that will be distributed for free this spring and summer.



Retzlaff



Paul

Local illustrator Isabel Clare Paul and historian Tim Retzlaff teamed up to create "Come Out! In Detroit" over the past year based on eyewitness primary sources, oral histories and a collection of photographs.

The comic book's release will be accompanied by exhibits and public programs in Detroit, Ann Arbor and East Lansing to mark the 50th anniversary of the event.

On June 24, 1972, Detroiters and other Michiganders gathered to publicly parade down Woodward Avenue, rally in Kennedy Square, dance the night away at the Unitarian Church on Cass, and picnic the next day in Palmer Park. It capped

a week of celebrations at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. In Ann Arbor, the city council declared "Gay Pride Week," the first known official recognition of LGBT pride by a governmental body in the United States.

The 1972 activities were planned and coordinated by representatives from not only Metro Detroit but also from Ann Arbor, East Lansing and elsewhere in the state under an umbrella group called the Michigan Gay Coalition. It was touted as the earliest example of statewide gay organizing in the United States.

OP POSTS



Comic book distribution & special events

May 7: "Free Comic Book Day" at Vault of Midnight, Ann Arbor, 11 a.m.-noon; Green Brain Comics, Dearborn, 1-2 p.m. ; and Comics & More, Madison Heights, 3-4 p.m.

May 13-15: Motor City Comic Con; Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

June 2: Release party, exhibit opening; Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit

June 4: Ferndale Pride; Ferndale

June 11: Panel discussion/reunion; Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit

June 11-12: Motor City Pride; Hart Plaza, Detroit

June 21: Panel discussion; Michigan State University, East Lansing

June 26: Michigan Pride; Lansing

June 30: "Come Out! In Detroit" talk; Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, Douglas

July 16: Hotter Than July!; Palmer Park, Detroit

Aug. 6: Ann Arbor Pride; downtown Ann Arbor

Oct. 11: Panel discussion; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor