

Presentation by City of  
Cambridge LGBTQ+  
Commission  
2023



# HAPPY PRIDE!



The car, decorated with the words "gay is good," is parked in front of Christ Church Cambridge on Garden Street. Although the photograph is undated, it was likely taken between 1970-1975. This photograph, taken by an unknown photographer, was recently discovered in the Cambridge Historical Commission archives.



# COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE



The Combahee River collective was a Boston-based movement that broke off from the National Black Feminist Organization in 1974 to include black lesbians in the movement. These women committed to struggling against racial, sexual, and class oppression. Pictured: Combahee River Collective Anti Police Brutality Rally in 1980 (above) and Barbara Smith, prominent Black lesbian feminist and co-founder (right).





# GENDER TALK

In 1995 Nancy Nangeroni founded [GenderTalk Radio](#), the award-winning talk show about gender and transgender issues on WMBR in Cambridge, MA. GenderTalk attracted an international audience and broadcast weekly for over 11 years as the leading media program on transgender issues. Pictured: Gender talk logo (above), Nangeroni at 2013 Pride Parade (right)





In 1973, Marcia Deihl (right) co-founded The New Harmony Sisterhood Band with Deborah Silverstein while at graduate school in Cambridge. The group produced several records and regularly performed at gay and lesbian marches and rallies, women's celebrations, union drives and nuclear power protests.

# THE LESBIAN AVENGERS



Until 1998, the Lesbian Avengers had weekly poetry slams and other events at Ryle's Jazz Club/ The group was focused on lesbian visibility and they were known for their spontaneous public skits. Lesbian Avengers was involved in the founding of Dyke March in Boston beginning in 1995 which still happens every year on the Friday before Boston's pride parade.



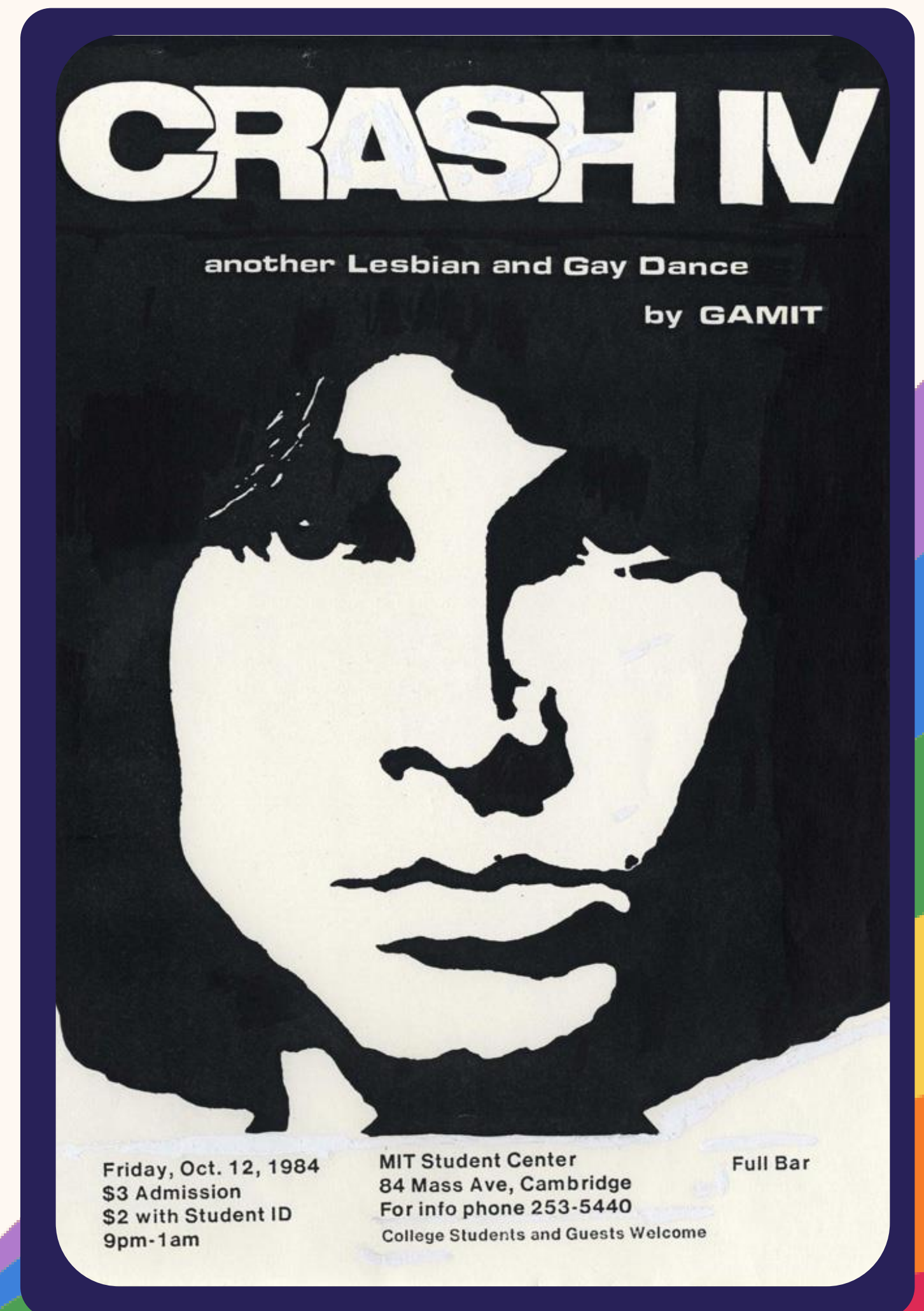
Photo of Harvard Square by Lois M. Bowen (1914-2002). Bowen was a professional photographer and business owner. Bowen and her partner Elizabeth Stearns (1913-1992) opened Marshall Portrait Studio in Harvard Square in 1947. This business operated it until 1954, when the two women opened Cambridge Camera and Marine in Brattle Square, which was in business until 1995.



Marcia Kadish and Tanya McCloskey, the first same-sex couple in Massachusetts to receive a marriage license in 2004 in Cambridge City Hall



Poster from a dance put on in 1984 by GAMIT, a gay group at MIT started in 1969 by junior Stan Tillotson, originally called the "MIT Student Homophile League."





# LGBTQ+ City of Cambridge Commission

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission's mission is to advocate for a culture of respect and to monitor progress toward equality of all persons with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commission also promotes policies and practices that have a positive effect on the health, welfare and safety of persons who live, visit or work in the City of Cambridge with regard to sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.



# LGBTQ+ City of Cambridge Commission



Sign up for our newsletter at the welcome table!



[@CambridgeLGBTQ](https://www.instagram.com/CambridgeLGBTQ)



[facebook.com/Camb.LGBTQplus](https://www.facebook.com/Camb.LGBTQplus)



[1-617-349-3355](tel:1-617-349-3355)

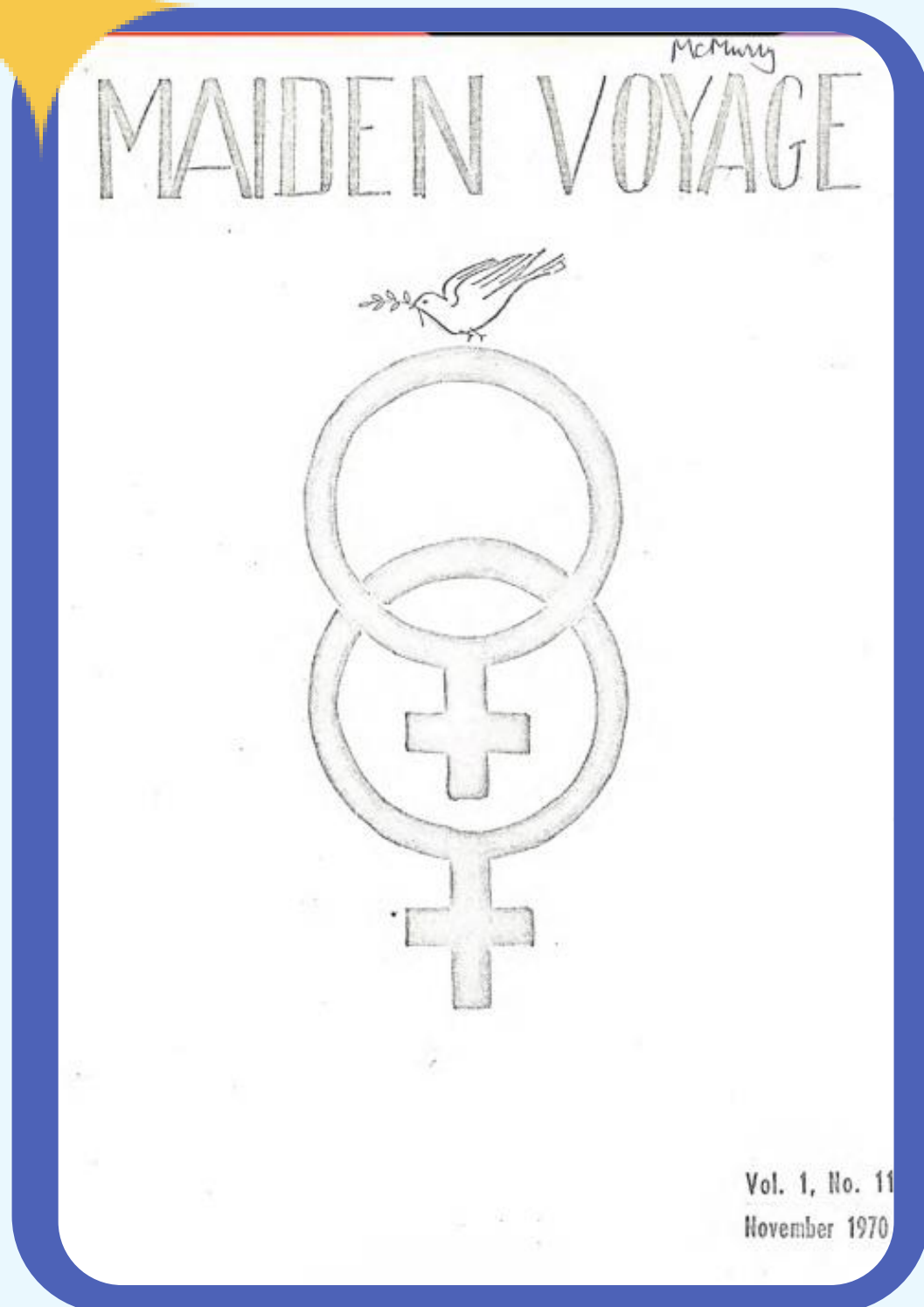


[LGBTQPlusCommission@CambridgeMA.gov](mailto:LGBTQPlusCommission@CambridgeMA.gov)



[cambridgema.gov/Departments/lgbtqpluscommission](https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/lgbtqpluscommission)

# DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS



(Left) Lois Johnson and Shari Barden in 1971, the year they started the Boston chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first lesbian civil and political rights organization in the United States. The Boston chapter was the longest running chapter, closing in the early 2000s.

(Right) Vol. 1, Issue 11 of the DOB newsletter, "Maiden Voyage," from November 1970





Cambridge Lavender Alliance co-chair introduces Alice Wolf to the participants at the Alliance sponsored brunch in Cambridge city hall. The brunch was held as part of the annual pride celebrations on June 8, 1991.

# E. DENISE SIMMONS

E. Denise Simmons made history in 2008 as the first openly lesbian Black mayor. She is currently serving her 9th term on city council.



# CITATIONS

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/Byp3LykgyZr/>
- [https://88296298-844d-42dd-8e43-672e0028925f.filesusr.com/ugd/aa074e\\_d6d63512d6a0408bbc32a579f8e9a67b.pdf](https://88296298-844d-42dd-8e43-672e0028925f.filesusr.com/ugd/aa074e_d6d63512d6a0408bbc32a579f8e9a67b.pdf)
- [https://www2.cambridgema.gov/Historic/CWHP/bios\\_d.html#DeihlM](https://www2.cambridgema.gov/Historic/CWHP/bios_d.html#DeihlM)
- <http://bostondykemarcharchive.weebly.com/1995-gallery.html>
- [https://www.cambridgewomenscommission.org/download/CCSW\\_MFCamb\\_book\\_190717.pdf](https://www.cambridgewomenscommission.org/download/CCSW_MFCamb_book_190717.pdf)
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cambridgehistoricalcommission/albums/72157665278018734>
- <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/72526841f2384b2f30c3b514a37d4887/boston-stonewall-50-commemoration-locations/index.html>
- <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/72526841f2384b2f30c3b514a37d4887/boston-stonewall-50-commemoration-locations/index.html>
- <https://www.cambridgehistorymuseum.com/summer-pride-stroll-2022>
- <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/citycouncil/members/denisesimmons>
- <http://www.gendertalk.com/>

**Thank you to the Cambridge Historical Commission!**