



GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS JOURNAL



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Harvey Milk: A Proud First Day Cover

By James Patterson

Harvey Milk (1930-1978), a Korean War veteran born on Long Island, New York, moved to San Francisco in the early 1970s. As a successful small businessman in the city's gay-friendly Castro District, he became the first openly gay person in the United States to be elected to public office in 1977. Milk held the elected office of San Francisco City Supervisor. Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by another politician in their offices at City Hall in 1978.

Milk's most famous speech, delivered on March 10, 1978, in San Diego, is known as "The Hope Speech." In this speech, he said, "So if there is one message I have to give, it is that if I've found one overriding thing about my personal election, it's the fact that if a gay person can be elected, it's a green light. And you, and you and you, you have to give people hope."

Eight months after Milk gave "The Hope Speech," another San Francisco politician, Dan White, fatally shot Milk and Mayor Moscone in their offices at City Hall. Milk's life has inspired millions. San Francisco Chronicle gay journalist Randy Shilts (1951-1994) authored the respected 1982 Milk biography "The Mayor of Castro Street." In 2008, the film "Milk," starring Sean Penn, was a box-office success. Penn won an Academy Award for his role as Harvey Milk.

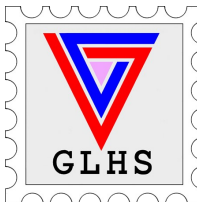
In 2009, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared Harvey Milk Day, a day of special remembrance in public schools. Also in 2009, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 2014, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Forever stamp honoring Milk. The stamp image of Milk is based on a circa 1977 black-and-white photograph of Milk in front of his Castro Street camera store in San Francisco. Daniel Nicoletta took the photo. The Harvey Milk Forever stamp was issued on a sheet of 20 stamps.

There were two dedication ceremonies for the release of the Milk stamp. On May 22, 2014, what would have been Milk's 84th birthday, a White House dedication ceremony was hosted by the Postmaster General, Michael Stroman. Guests included the U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Rep. John Lewis (D-GA); City Councilmember Evan Low, Campbell, California; and Harvey Milk Foundation co-founder Anne Kronenberg, among others.

On May 28, 2014, a second dedication ceremony was held at San Francisco City Hall. Then-Attorney General Kamala Harris was among the speakers. Former U.S. Ambassador James Hormel and Carol Ruth Silver, who served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors with Milk, also attended.

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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, and

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

GLHS Board of Directors 2026-2028

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**GLHS:
Gay and
Lesbian
History on
Stamps**

This study unit promotes interest in the collection, study and distribution of knowledge of world-wide philatelic material that depicts:

- Notable homosexual or bisexual men and women and their contributions to society.

**Membership \$10/year
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ATA#458 APS#205**

Additional volunteers are needed

- Social Media Committee to explore options for group open and/or closed online communications/meetings such as Google, Instagram, twitter, blogs, go-to meeting, HipChat, etc.
- GLHS Journal Editor
- GLHS Journal Columnists
- Give presentations in person or virtually
- Coordinate GLHS Socials
- Maintain membership
- Advertising Committee
- Submit articles, journeys, cover/postal history write ups, travels and philatelic events

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Submissions due</u>
July 2026	June 15
October 2026	September 15
January 2027	December 15
April 2027	March 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **82** members. 53 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 38 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS
notify GLHS*

! New Member !

Wayne N. Lexington, KY

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BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO

Update with President Yamil Kouri

On Mar 6, 2026, on the American Philatelic Society YouTube Page, Ken Martin hosted Boston 2026 President Yamil Kouri to give APS members an update on what to expect from the world expo this May!

Watch the 37-minute presentation at:
[Boston 2026 Update with President Yamil Kouri](#)

Spellman Shuttle Available



Plan to be in Boston for a few days? If so, an enjoyable side trip can transport you from the Convention Center to the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History. Buses run every ninety minutes, starting at 10AM on both Monday, May 25 and Thursday, May 28. The \$35 ticket includes museum admission.

Reserve seats and departure times on their online store at the links below:

[Spellman Museum -- Boston 2026 Shuttle, May 25 - Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History](#)

[Spellman Museum -- Boston 2026 Shuttle, May 28 - Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History](#)

ATA at BOSTON 2026

The ATA Annual Meeting will be held on Monday May 25, at 2:00 PM. There is an event registration on the ATA website for the meeting, so they will have an idea of how many will be attending. Register here if you plan to attend:
<https://americantopical.org/event-6341104>

The ATA is seeking volunteers to help out at their booth, which is located up front in Society Row. The shifts are 2 hours. Registration is available online at <https://americantopical.org/event-6465043>



GLHS @ Boston 2026 World Expo

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS)
Presentation

May 29, 2026

1:00 PM -2:00 PM ET

Themes and First Days Ceremonies

Day 1—Saturday, May 23: **250th Anniversary of the U.S.- Treasures of the Revolutionary Era** prestige booklet of 20 stamps (10 designs)

Day 2—Sunday, May 24: **Favorite Stamp Day - Stamp Encore** a re-release of the most popular stamp of 2025

Day 3—Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day): **Stamp Collectors Day—American Bison**

Day 4—Tuesday, May 26: **Letter Writing Day—Postcrossing**, a block of 4 triangular international rate stamps

Day 5—Wednesday, May 27: **International Peace Day - International Peace**, a symbolic origami crane in flight

Day 6—Thursday, May 28: **Sports Day - North American Soccer** honoring FIFA World Cup

Day 7—Friday, May 29: **Honoring Heroes Day - Figures of the American Revolution**, pane of 25 designs depicting American independence personages

Day 8—Saturday, May 30: **Youth and Family Day**

A related commemorative cancel will be designed by USPS and available each day of the show. Separate daily first day cancels are expected for the Postal Service's philatelic releases that are yet to be announced.

The USPS release invites first day ceremony attendees to RSVP in advance online at usps.com/worldstampshow.