



GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

Volume 30 Issue 1 • June 2025

DGALA40 DRAWS NEAR!

Excitement is building for DGALA40, a gathering of DGALA members, spouses, children, significant others and allies on campus over the weekend of July 25-27 this summer. Over 150 have already registered to attend, and more are signing up; current registrants span **seven decades of alums!** It will be DGALA's fifth all-class reunion on campus, the first one in the warm summertime Hanover weather, and certainly the largest. Dorm housing is available, and there will be a DGALA tent

nearby. Families and children are encouraged to attend, and besides the events highlighted below, there also will be ample time to build community and to enjoy a summer weekend in Hanover. DGALA has established, and our members have generously supported, an Angel Fund to provide support for those for whose financial situation would prevent them from attending. The gathering promises to be fun, meaningful and dynamic in many regards. Highlights include:

- An ice-cream social at Triangle House on Friday afternoon, followed by a private presentation of "Queer Then and Now", a special exhibit at Baker Library, with remarks by Val Werner '20.
- An evening block party with food trucks and entertainment, together with our co-reunioning classes of '20 and '09-'11 (special DGALA seating area).

- A fabulous DGALA outdoor show later Friday evening (open to all), featuring performances by comedian (and DGALA member) Gretchen McNeely '92, renown trans comedian Jaye McBride and a drag-show performance by a mix of alum and student members of The House of Lewan (Dartmouth's own drag club, named in honor of DGALA member Stewart Lewan '79,

who spearheaded the first drag show on campus during his student years; see more on next page).

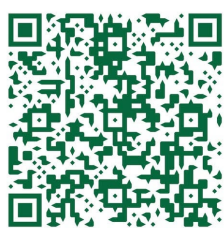
- A Saturday afternoon Celebration of Life at Rollins Chapel led by longtime DGALA leader Rev. Dr. Nancy A.G. Vogeley, '85, Chaplain and Director of the Tucker Center for Spiritual and Ethical Living.
- Later Saturday afternoon a DGALA Panel Discussion, "Now More Than Ever: Building and Maintaining Community"
- A lobster bake dinner Saturday evening outside on the Rocky lawn featuring awards honoring a select group of individuals who have led and supported DGALA and LGBTQIA+ community and scholarship at Dartmouth.

A full schedule, and the option to register, is [here](#) or use the QR code. Do not hesitate to write for information on DGALA40, or the Angel Fund: DartGALA@gmail.com ❖



DGALA/DCF SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

DGALA's collaboration with the DCF to provide scholarships to LGBTQIA+ students is now in its 21st year! The program works like this: every dollar that a DGALA alum gives to the Dartmouth College Fund counts towards funding need-based scholarships for LGBTQIA+ students. For every \$50,000 that DGALA alums contribute, DGALA is able to fund another Scholar. The program works on a fiscal year basis, so any DCF gift that is made by June 30 this year will fund DGALA Scholars in the coming academic year.



In each of the past two fiscal years, DGALA members have generously given over \$200,000 to the DCF, thus funding 5 DGALA Scholars (the College rounds up to the next \$50,000 once we hit a new threshold). If you can and have not yet done so, please make a gift to support more DGALA Scholars for next year. If you are on our mailing list, there is no need to specify your DCF gift: the default is that your gift will support our Scholars. The link to give to the DCF is dartgo.org/dgala. The above QR code also will take you there.

Meet DGALA Scholar Chip Nguyen '25



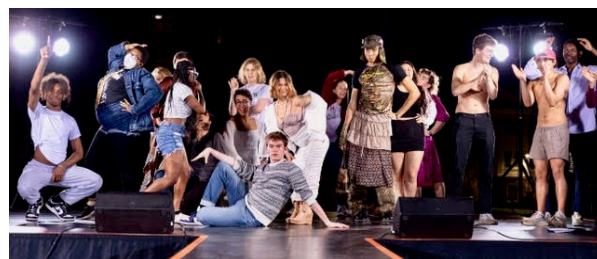
We are happy to introduce another one of this year's Scholars (see last fall's issue for more), Chip Nguyen '25. Chip shared these words with us:

I want to express my sincere gratitude to DGALA donors for the scholarship. My Dartmouth education would not have been possible without the generosity of the College and its community, and I am deeply thankful for all the support I have received throughout my 4 years here.

Coming from Hanoi, Vietnam, I am currently majoring in Computer Science with a minor in WGSS (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). While the two might seem unrelated, I am currently working on a thesis project that studies how biases against the LGBTQ+ community — especially at the intersections of race and class — are manifested in Large Language Models like GPT and Llama. I am also very interested in Queer Studies, especially the study of everyday, mundane activities as a site of queer creativity, resistance, and world-building. Outside of school, I love exploring new cities (and their queer communities), trying out new recipes, and dancing (very clumsily)!". ♦

HOUSE OF LEWAN

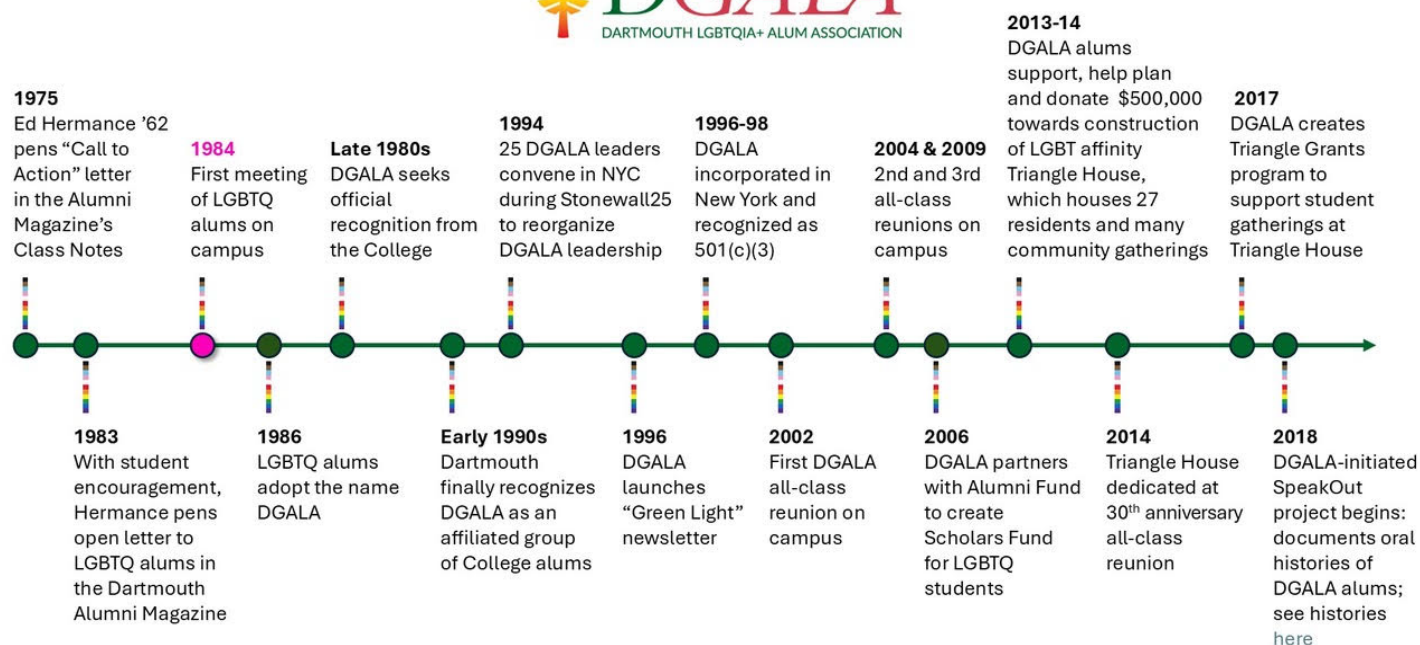
As mentioned on page 1, the fabulous House of Lewan will be performing on Friday night outside on Kemeny Courtyard.



Below is the poster for the 1992 first-ever drag event at Dartmouth spearheaded by Stuart Lewan '79, for whom the House is named.



FOUR DECADES OF DGALA!



DGALA dates its origins to the first meeting on campus of LGBTQIA+ alums, held in 1984 at the Hopkins Center. The meeting resulted from a letter to the editor published in the May 1983 *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* written by DGALA founder Ed Hermance '62. Ed recalls that he had been encouraged to write the letter by GSA (Gay Student Alliance) leader Chuck Edwards A'86, the students feeling beleaguered on campus and seeking alum support. The letter decried the College's recent elimination of sexual orientation from its non-discrimination policy and asserted that "homophobia exists in all of [Dartmouth's] parts." The letter also announced the formation of "a gay and lesbian alum group" to support LGBTQIA+ students on campus and to urge College President McLaughlin and the Board of Trustees to support the College's LGBTQIA+ community.

In its very early years, DGALA's nucleus was in Ed's hometown of Philadelphia, but soon the center of activity shifted to New York City, where more members lived. One of the first major DGALA initiatives was to seek from Dartmouth formal recognition as an alum group; however, the College refused. Dartmouth only reversed its stance in 1991 after DGALA alums arranged for a *New York Times* piece on the subject, and even then only did so with the stipulation that the group would not receive any support from the Alumni Affairs Office (a stance that was reversed within a decade, as DGALA and the College's other Affiliated Alumni Groups now receive a variety of support from the College). In June of 1994 in New York City, during the big celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, several dozen DGALA leaders met to reorganize and revitalize DGALA.

History, continued on page 6

CAMPUS DOINGS

AMARNA DINNER AT TRIANGLE HOUSE

A notable Triangle Grant gathering at the House last fall was a dinner with Amarna, a queer undergraduate society (aka alternative house as opposed to Greek life) with a house just down Wheelock Street from Triangle House. (Some DGALA Scholars are leaders at Amarna.) Here's the students' report on the dinner as well as some photos and the announcement poster.



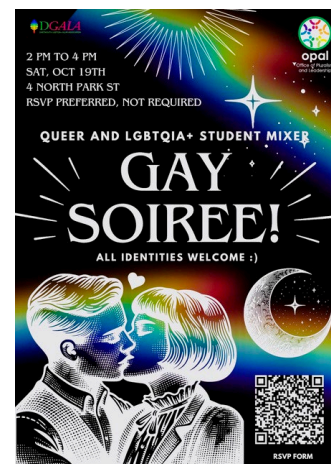
"Happy to report that Monday Night Dinner at Triangle House was a huge success! We had almost twenty people for the main meal, and a few more filtered in and out over the course of the evening. Trying the limited-edition Beetle Juice Fanta was a big (trauma) bonding moment. The common consensus on flavor was "impressive insofar as that it tastes exactly like a Yankee Candle, but unimpressive insofar as that it is toxic-green-colored and does not taste good." The chili, on the other hand, was a huge hit, and one '28 even asked for the recipe (score!).

We encountered several students who had never been to MND before and have vowed to start coming weekly. The cheese assortment was also a huge highlight and the catalyst for a table-ranked "Cheese Bracket." (Cabot Extra Sharp was dubbed the best, and the Vegan Cheese the worst).

After dinner, a good portion of the guests stayed to chat. Overall, the evening was rather delightful and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some fellow queer students."



Green Light did not get a report on the Gay Soiree, but that looks like that event was fun too!



LAVENDER GALA GRADUATION

Lavender Graduation Ceremonies were started in 1995 by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish Lesbian, who was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children because of her sexual orientation. Dartmouth continues this tradition as one of the cornerstone events of Pride. It is a chance for all LGBTQIA+ students from all Dartmouth schools, including the graduate schools, to celebrate and be celebrated!

It is a safe space for all, especially for those who might not be out to their families, and rainbow graduation tassels are offered to all!

DGALA President Erik Ochsner '93 gave welcoming remarks to the new graduates!



Rainbow tassels were offered to all graduates



DGALA members with Angelique Bouthot, Office of Pluralism and Leadership Program Coordinator for Community and Leadership Development



Lavender GALA attendees

LOCAL DGALA GATHERINGS

WASHINGTON, DC



Attendees at a DGALA dinner in DC this spring reported "sparkling conversations on the matters of the day. Calendars were marked for DGALA40 and this group photo brought the evening to a close."

BAY AREA



Many DGALA alums were in attendance at the welcome reception for President Beilock at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco during late February. Some of the group gathered for this photo.

NYC HOLIDAY GATHERING



The annual post-DCNY holiday gathering, which has grown to include a Secret Santa (or Hanukkah Harry)!

History, from page 3

A cooperative leadership structure was adopted, and in the mid-'90s DGALA was formally incorporated in New York state and was granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS. Also, during the mid-90s, DGALA launched the *Green Light* newsletter (now marking its 30th year of continuous publication). By the late 90s DGALA adopted a more traditional leadership structure with customary officers, and the group has been led ably by a dynamic series of Presidents since that time.

In the fall of 2002, DGALA held its first all-class reunion on campus, and a second all-class followed in the fall of '04 to celebrate the group's 20th anniversary. More all-class reunions followed in 2009 and 2014. The 35th celebration, planned for 2020, was called off due to the pandemic.



President Hanlon at Triangle House dedication

DGALA's mission (appearing in full on its website) cites two main goals: (1) to foster community among Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ alums and (2) to support LGBTQIA+ people at Dartmouth. Over the years DGALA and its members and allies have fulfilled this mission in many ways. Among them has been major support for the creation, planning and financing of Triangle House, the College's first affinity house for LGBTQIA+ students. The House was dedicated at DGALA's 30th all-class reunion in 2014, and in 2017 DGALA launched and has supported every year the Triangle Grant program, which provides funds to support student-initiated gatherings at

Triangle House that are open to the entire Dartmouth community. On the alum front, in 2018 DGALA was instrumental in initiating the SpeakOut oral history program, pursuant to which Dartmouth students recorded oral history interviews with nearly fifty LGBTQIA+ alums, which are available [here](#).

Now starting DGALA's fifth decade, her alums continue to strive to broaden its community and to pursue its mission. We welcome all to join us. ❖

RAINBOW MERCH IS BACK!



We've got fabulous new rainbow gear for you in unisex, women's, youth and toddler sizes. Visit www.tinyurl.com/dgala40 to see the new rainbow Dartmouth tank tops, t-shirts, baseball tees, hoodies, zip-ups and sweatpants. We've even got classic Dartmouth hoodies, crewnecks, tees and sweatpants in gorgeous pinks, lavender and mint. Stock up with free shipping now! ❖





FY25 DONORS SO FAR

Member gifts received

July 1, 2024 – May 15, 2025

Benefactor (\$500+)

Brad Hise
David King
Rob Saltzman
Gretchen Wetzel

Champion (\$250+)

Bart Bingenheimer
Robert Chaloner
Von Chaney
Paul Cunningham
Eric Fanning
Cherie Holmes
Ross LaJeunesse
Bob Lasher
Harold Leich
Jim McCann
Douglas McClure
John Ribaud
Wayne Scherzer
Doug Ward
Christopher Wilson

Advocate (\$100+)

William Boulware
Sarah Burgamy
Nicole Cameli
Kate Carolan
C. Scott Chaney
Robert Conn
David Davenport
Michael Gula
Michael Hjerpe
Eileen Ives & Colleen Johnson
Michael Kenyon
Steve Knowlton

Advocate (cont'd)

Anthony Lipp
Linda Markin
Xander Meise
Lee Merkle-Raymond
Erik Ochsner
Ellen Olmstead
Catherine & Jennifer Petter
Jeffrey A. Pond
James Rich III
Beth Robinson
Chantal Shirley
Curt Springer
Timothy Stanne
Steven Strauss
Eric Stults
Evan Tepper
Carl Walesa
Robert White
Peter Williams
Frances Wood
Todd Young
Philip Youngholm
Robert Zinnes

Supporter (\$25+)

Uriel Barrera
Thaddeus Bennett
Bob Blum
Kelly Bonnevie & Karen Kaufman
Bob Bordone
Joseph Brown
Nicole Clausing
Carol Cosenza
James Dial
Carolyn Eich

Michael Griffin
Susan Harrington
James Haught & Larry Kieft
Greg Heald
Victor Hollenberg
Shashwat Kala
Phoebe Manchester
Rick Otto
David Schnabel & James Minter
Matthew Schwartz
Steve Stichter
Peter Van Buren
Jack Vitayanon
Jim Wiltshire

Contributions listed are those received through May 15, 2025. (Please let us know of any errors.)

Our fiscal year ends June 30. If you would like to make a dues contribution and appear in this year's final supporter list, visit us at <https://dgala.org/support-dgala> or use the QR code below.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very much looking forward to our gathering on campus in July. It will be fun and it will recognize all that we have accomplished together over the forty years of DGALA.

A central pillar of DGALA's mission (on our website) is to foster community between and among the LGBTQIA+ community of Dartmouth alums and those on campus. As we think about that mission, I am looking forward to our Saturday afternoon July 26 panel discussion "Now More Than Ever: Building and Maintaining Community." We have a great group of panelists to lead us as we continue to work together to build and enhance our community. *Note:* We're working to get it livestreamed and recorded for those who cannot be in attendance.

Part of community is inclusiveness, including inclusiveness at our reunion, and so we created the Angel Fund to help support anyone in need, to be able to attend. The response has been super successful, and quite moving! Individuals have reached out asking for help from our Angel Fund, and DGALA members have reached out offering to support the Angel Fund! Please encourage anyone you know, who is hesitating to attend, to reach out and let us

know. We can help! Inquiries are confidential, funding is available.

I am so impressed at what a long way DGALA has come over our forty years! Have a look at the timeline and history in this issue. (Any suggested edits? Contact us!)

"And the loyal ones who love her. Give a rouse, give a rouse, with a will!" Let's give a rouse to all those who love her and fought for our existence at the beginning, and to all of the amazing DGALA leaders who have led us to this point. And CHEERS to all of the DGALA members and to the College Alumni Relations team who have all worked and will continue to work together and tirelessly to make our reunion happen!

As we celebrate the past and gather in the present, let us join together for the future. We need your involvement. Please reach out to me at the reunion or at our email address if you may be willing to help our community going forward. And do encourage others to join us in July; there is still time to register!

Erik Ochsner '93
President, DGALA



JUNE MINI-REUNION STILL ON!
JOIN US ON CAMPUS THIS JUNE 20-21!
All events are free

Friday, June 20
8 -10:30 PM
Cocktail Reception
Six South St. Hotel

Saturday, June 21
8:30 -10:00 AM
Breakfast Meeting
ECSC South Atrium &
Sorbano Terrace

Saturday, June 21
1:30 -2:30 PM
Affiliated Groups Reception
ECSC South Atrium &
Sorbano Terrace

RSVP HERE:



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