

Despite the tremendous gains of the LGBT movement in recent years, the history of gay life in this country remains poorly understood. According to conventional wisdom, gay liberation started with the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in 1969. The 1970s represented a moment of triumph—both political and sexual—before the AIDS crisis in the subsequent decade, which, in the view of many, exposed the problems inherent in the so-called “gay lifestyle.” In *Stand by Me*, the acclaimed historian Jim Downs rewrites the history of gay life in the 1970s, arguing that the decade was about much more than sex and marching in the streets. Drawing on a vast trove of untapped records at LGBT community centers in Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia, Downs tells moving, revelatory stories of gay people who stood together—as friends, fellow believers, and colleagues—to create a sense of community among people who felt alienated from mainstream American life. As Downs shows, gay people found one another in the Metropolitan Community Church, a nationwide gay religious group; in the pages of the *Body Politic*, a newspaper that encouraged its readers to think of their sexuality as a political identity; at the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore, the hub of gay literary life in New York City; and at theaters putting on “Gay American History,” a play that brought to the surface the enduring problem of gay oppression. These and many other achievements would be largely forgotten after the arrival in the early 1980s of HIV/AIDS, which allowed critics to claim that sex was the defining feature of gay liberation. This reductive narrative set back the cause of gay rights and has shaped the identities of gay people for decades. An essential act of historical recovery, *Stand by Me* shines a bright light on a triumphant moment, and will transform how we think about gay life in America from the 1970s into the present day.

How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth, The Hands-Off Manager: How to Mentor People and Allow Them to Be Successful, The Unplanned Pregnancy Book for Teens and College Students, Loving A Trap God 4, Her Dark Voice,

*Stand by Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*. By Jim Downs. Basic Books. vii + pp. \$ JOSHUA HOLLANDS. University.

*Stand by Me* has 83 ratings and 16 reviews. Bob said: It's a series of snapshots of LGBT history in the s, looking at various parts of a community tha.

3 Apr - 3 min - Uploaded by BookTV Jim Downs examines the people, places, and events that composed the gay rights movement. Angelia Wilson on a time in gay culture that no one forgot. *Stand by Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*, by Jim Downs. Angelia. Jim Downs. *Stand by Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*. New York: Basic Books, pp. \$ (cloth), ISBN Timothy. In his new book *Stand by Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*, Downs is a professor at Connecticut College who is currently a fellow. In *Stand by Me*, the acclaimed historian Jim Downs rewrites the history of gay life in the s, arguing that the decade was about much more. This story is a wide-ranging narrative revealing that gay life in America in the '70s was far richer and more varied than what many people. *Stand by me: the forgotten history of gay liberation*. Jim Downs New York: Basic Books, a member of the Perseus Books Group Available at GSU. *Stand by Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*. New York: Basic Books, pp. Notes and index. \$ Lillian Faderman. *The Gay Revolution*. While attending *Gay American History @40*, a conference held this past his new book, *Stand By Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation*. *Stand by me: the forgotten history of gay liberation / Jim Downs*. Despite the tremendous gains of the LGBT movement in recent years, the history of gay life in . This is perhaps why Jim Downs' “Stand By Me:

The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation• proves such a necessary intervention into these.

The Stonewall Inn, already a New York City landmark, is likely to become the first national landmark to honor the LGBT movement for civil rights.

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