

Sent on July 28, 2018

It is time to bring the true story of Gay History in San Jose, Ca. and San Francisco Tenderloin in the 1960's till now.

It is time to bring to the Large Screen about Gay History, Tenderloin Queens, The beginning of Gay History and the true history of our Gay History in the 1960's.

I AM YOUR HISTORY, I AM A LIVING LEGEND, I HAVE LIVED IT.

Looking for a name for my life story and funds to video tape, live Gay History. OF SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLION GAY HISTORY. I STILL HAVE A FLAG THAT IS 25 YEARS OF STONEWALL.

I will be 72 years old on July 23, 2018

I was there in New York for the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall. I went to Stonewall Inn and saw the park outside your Inn.

Before I knew that we had a Gay history in San Francisco Tenderloin

This is a very short story of my life as being a boy, Queen, hustler, Hair Fairy, Transgender, Transsexual woman and future novel.

The beginning of Gay History in San Jose, Ca. and San Francisco, Ca. Tenderloin The beginning of the Gay 1960's and 1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot, Corner of Taylor and Turk St. in the Tenderloin, SF.

1960'a till now.

I am in the process of writing my life story, and filming a live tour of San Jose, Tenderloin than 1960's and now 2018.

Goggle my name. Felicia Elizondo

I knew I was different compared to other boys.

Our Gay History in the 1960's in San Jose, Ca. and San Francisco's Tenderloin.

The first gay man I met was Victor Torres when we were living in Stockton, Ca. I was around 15 years old. I knew then I was not the only one. We moved to San Jose, Ca.

I was walking on Santa Clara Street. I met a gay man, he was white and with red hair and blue eyes Irish I think, had sex with him, He told me where to find people like me at St. James Park, San Jose, Ca.

We were looking for someone to love us, and makes feel is was ok to be who were queers. Any affection we would except, and make money to survive,

How I met the 1960's San Jose queens. Hanging around at Saint James Park, at Around the Clock Café or in front of the Crystal Gay bar. I met my best friends Bernie, Tommy and a lot of others.

St. James Park was a pickup place for sex or getting paid for sex.

We were teenagers. Word of mouth is how we found out about anything that had to do with our Gay Community.

San Jose High school was horrible for me. Voted head cheerleader, I was bullied and harassed by students. I could not fulfill my duties as head cheerleader.

I was here in the Tenderloin in early and late 1960's.

I came to TL when I was in high school was with my sugar daddy (Wally) 1962-1963; I was a teen age male hustler, I found a world that I never knew existed.

Bernie was one of my best friends at the time, we used to play hooky from school just to come to the Tenderloin.

We met a queen name Siro. In the early 1960's. He was a hair fairy, makeup, little hairdo, angora sweater, skin tight pants, and tennis shoes. Most of the Queen's were from San Jose, Los Angeles, and all over the USA. Latinas, Whites, Asians, Blacks.

It was against the law to dress like a girl, It was as close to looking like a girl as we could get. We were not allowed in the Gay Bar, It was only for Queer men, looking for young hustlers or looking for love.

In 1965, I decided I did not want to be this way, I enlisted in the Navy, I went thru all the manly things men did. I decided to volunteer to go to Viet Nam, maybe I would get killed, all this confusion would end.

I really tried to change. Had sex with two women. If the military or woman didn't make me a man nothing would, it didn't.

I had enough, I went to my priest and told him I was gay, the Navy gave me an undesirable discharge. I join in 1965-1967.

In the early 70's I went in front of a lot of Military Officers,

I told them that I was transgender. Later my discharge was reversed to an Honorable discharge.

Four queens moved in 1967 to the TL from San Jose. we moved into the El Rosa Hotel 166 Turk St., Tenderloin San Francisco, that was the only place that would rent to us.

My room was #15. Amanda was the clerk. Amanda let us bring tricks home for an extra \$5.00. We turned to prostitution to survive.

Living in the Tenderloin I met Larry. We moved to Chicago. Went to a lot of movie, Midnight Cowboy, I saw West Side Story about 50 times.

What changed my life was when we went to see the Christine Jorgensen movie, who had the first sex change in 1951. She had been in the Army.

I finally realized that this who I am. I didn't know how I was going to get there, but where there is a will there is a way.

People came to the Tenderloin in the early 1960's because it was word of mouth, to start a new life, a new Identity.

Tenderloin was a revolving door; a lot of people came and went. Either you stayed, or you didn't.

The Tenderloin was the Gay Mecca in the 1960's.

It was not on the Television News,

It was not in the major newspapers.

Yes, we were Hotos, Sissies, Hair Faries, Queens, Queers, Lesbians, male hustlers, female impersonators, intersex.

Compton's Cafeteria was the center of the universe for us. Because that was the only place for us.

It was the place to unite with each other. To make sure some of us had made it thru the night

The best thing that happened to us was Compton's Cafeteria because any time of the day or night we knew we could find someone eating or drinking coffee.

The Center for Special Problems was an organization that helped us understand why we were this way. It gave us a new Identity

Finally, we had someone to tell us it was Ok, that what we were was ok. We were born that way. We came to be open and be free. But behind all that freedom, we were putting our lives in danger.

To survive we had to turn to prostitution, sell drugs, clip tricks (robbing them) when we were desperate. To buy food and pay rent, if we didn't have money than we were on the streets.

Lucky that we had family in our sisters and brothers, they would take us in until we got on our feet.

There one place where we could feel like normal kids was Play Land at Ocean Beach, it was a carnival. We were kids again.

We had to survive, nobody would hire us because we were sissies.

We were lost souls trying to understand what future was in store for us.

We were out when being queer was against the law.

Being a Queer was a death sentence to all of us. Going to jail or being killed.

Most of us were harassed, beaten up, thrown in jail, murdered, killed, raped, for just being who we were, Queer.

Most of our families didn't want most of us. We were thrown out like trash.

I personally have been harassed, beaten up, thrown in jail, raped. I have proof of my time in jail.

I got arrested three time or maybe more. contributing to a delinquency of a minor, but we were both minors.

I was arrested for obstructing a sidewalk, five counts of prostitution all of these were thrown out of court.

In the early 70's, One night I was going out on the town, from San Jose, Ca.to San Francisco's nightclubs. I went to the Ally Cat on Mason St, it was a Disco Club this guy asked me to dance. I said no. I thought he had let it go but I was wrong, that night I went to the Shed on Market St, it was an after-hour club.

I was raped brutally by a black man that wore a brown uniform, and I won't tell you the details Because I hate to relive it. I begged for my life that would give him my phone number so he wouldn't have to do this to any one else. He let me go I didn't report it, because the police would have told me that I asked for it, because of who I was. I drove home scared to death. I didn't come back to SF for a long time.

I always thought that the Lesbians and Queer men stay in the closet, got an education and good jobs. But us being sissies we had to be strong and be who we were meant to be. If we didn't we wouldn't be who we are today. We were out of the closet and suffered all that we suffered to be who I am today. I am a strong woman.

Felicia A. Elizondo aka: Felicia Flames,

In 1970's I became a long distance telephone operator, for Pacific Telephone o Market St. in San Jose, Ca.

I was one of the first male telephone operators in San Jose, Ca. In 1974 I transitioned at Pacific Telephone from male to female, and in November of 1974 at Chope Hospital in San Mateo, Ca. It is now San Mateo County hospital. I became a female and Blue Cross of California paid for my surgery. At the time I was named Elena Nicole Montez, because if the news got a hold of my story, I would not want to embarrass my family.

I became HIV in 1987, started performing as a Transsexual Drag Queen to raise money for AIDS organizations and other non-profits.

I have made 80 somethings AIDA Memorial Quilt for my friends have died of AIDS,

1993 I moved to San Francisco again, Worked for SF AIDS Foundation, Project Open Hand, Shanti, (LGBT community Center. 2000-2004) My dream job became a nightmare.

And my story begins. Felicia A. Elizondo aka: Felicia Flames

Activist, Trailblazer, Historian, Entertainer, Tenderloin Queen, Pioneer, Legend, Icon, Diva, 31 years survivor of AIDS, Viet Nam War Veteran.

I am living legend, I lived it, I saw it.

A Tribute to all the 1960's Tenderloin Queens & Male Hustlers.

DeeDee Yubeta, Red, Vicky Marlane, Tamara C., Pat Monclaire, Ronnie Lynn, Amanda, Roberta(Teresita), Roxanna, Lupe, Mona from LA. these are only a very few out of hundreds of people that I met.

We honor all forgotten heroes. We can never forget the kids that were not wanted.

A lot of don't get honored because we don't know money.

I am one of the organizers and a group of community members that started to make sure our Gay History would never be forgotten for another 40 years. We worked with Supervisor Jane Kim and her office.

We put Vicky Mar Lane's name on the 100 Block of Turk St. First trans woman that had her name on a San Francisco Street and the world. Than we worked on putting Gene Compton's Cafeteria Way name on 100 Block of Taylor St. We do have the place where our SF history started, August of 1966, lost for over forty years.

Two plaques are on the corner of Turk St. and Taylor St. to honor all who fought the police that night in a Hot August night. We must never forget them.

Please don't forget all who came before you.

You have to know where you have been to know where you are going.

Felicia A. Elizondo aka: Felicia Flames

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Feel free to ask me any questions.

Thank you

I want to do this before I die.

1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot

El Rosa Hotel



- This was my room in 1966. If these walls could speak, they would tell many stories.
- My room hasn't much changed in 50 years.
- As a so-called young man I was scared and uncertain of what was going to happen, or what the future would bring. I didn't know where I was going and what was going to become of me, but I couldn't be a boy any longer. I came to San Francisco with a blue dress, a wig, and heels. I had found freedom to dress the way I wanted.
- I was scared, but I had to Survive.

- No one would hire us. The only way we could survive is through prostitution.
- Some were and still good persons, all we wanted was to be who we were meant to.

Banner for 1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot



This Banner was shown at Trans March 2012 at the Senior and Youth brunch.

Gay Bars in 1950's-1970's in Tenderloin, San Francisco

Rossi's Turk and Taylor St. SF, Ca. 1962-1970
 Chuckers 1013 Mission St. SF, Ca. 1967-70
 The Caboose 223 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1965-66
 Blue and Gold- 136 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1940-1987
 Nickelodean- 412 Mason St. 1974-1978
 HeadHunter's - 82 Embarcadero 1962-1963
 Peter Pan - 30 Mason and 45 Turk St. 1984-1994
 Ram's Head - 117 Taylor St, SF, Ca. 1979-1986
 De Ja Vu - 335 Jones St., SF, Ca. 1984-1985
 The Gangway - 841 Larkin St. 1963-Still open
 Kopit- 301 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1970-96
 Kenny's - Turk St. SF, Ca. 1969-72
 222 Club- Hyde St. SF, Ca. 1979-85
 The Old Crow- Market St. SF, Ca. 1935-84
 The Black Rose- 335 Jones St. SF, Ca.
 Mr D's -
 The Landmark 45 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1958-85
 The Trapp - 72 Eddy St. SF., Ca. 1965-81
 Aunt Charlie's Lounge 133 Turk St. 1987- 25 Years in 2012
 The Black Cat
 Chuckers 66 Turk St. SF. Ca. 1964-67
 The Hot Spot 79 6 St. SF. Ca. 1954-1970
 181 Club - 181 Eddy St. SF. Ca. 1954-1999
 Frolic Room -171 Mason St. SF, Ca. 1964-1974
 Alley Cat- 330 Mason St. 1971-1975
 Talk of Town - 90 Market St. SF, Ca. 1961-1962
 Sound of Music -162 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1989-1999
 The Body Shop - 98 Eddy St. SF, Ca. 1971-1975
 Mr. Leona's -301 Turk St, SF, Ca. 1996-?
 Gene Compton's Cafeteria- Turk St.
 The Shed- 2275 Market St. SF, Ca. 1972-77
 The RoadRunner - 499 O'Farrell SF, Ca. 1984-90
 Gilded Cage -126 Ellis St SF, Ca. 1961-1970