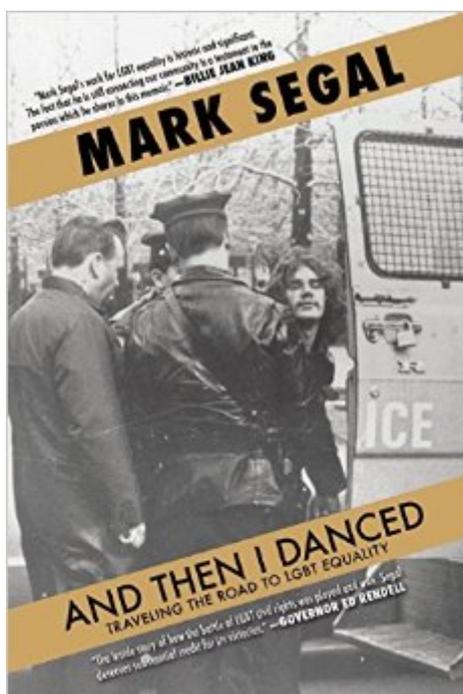


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# And Then I Danced: Traveling The Road To LGBT Equality



## Synopsis

"[A] swiftly written debut memoir...[Segal] vividly describes his firsthand experience as a teenager inside the Stonewall bar during the historic riots, his participation with the Gay Liberation Front, and amusing encounters with Elton John and Patti LaBelle....A jovial yet passionately delivered self-portrait inspiring awareness about LGBT history from one of the movement's true pioneers."--Kirkus Reviews"With great verve and spirit, Segal has rendered a lively and dramatic memoir of the early days of the gay rights struggle; the infighting over strategies and objectives; the long, hard road of progress; and a look at the challenges still ahead."--Booklist"The reader can clearly see how Segal's fearless determination, cheerful tenacity, and refusal to attack his opponents made him a power broker in Philadelphia and a leading advocate on the national level. Segal fills his book with worthy stories...funny anecdotes and heart."--Publishers Weekly"The stories are interesting, unexpected, and witty."--Library Journal"Activist Mark Segal who was present at Stonewall and later went on to found the Philadelphia Gay News was a featured judge at Miss'd America and the recipient of a lifetime achievement award the night of the pageant. In his new Memoir *And Then I Danced: Traveling the Road to LGBT Equality*, he writes about how he was kicked off a television show in the 1970s called *Summertime on the Pier* because he was dancing with another man, but four decades later, he cut a rug with his husband Jason Villemez while the Marine Corps Band played Barbra Streisand at the White House's first ever Gay Pride reception hosted by President Obama."--Huffington Post"A historic memoir, chronicling [Mark's] life in the LGBT political scene in Philadelphia....Segal also presents his personal and family life in a warm, engaging matter and this writing extends to his interactions with public figures."--Huffington Post, *Living History: Three Books to Find Yourself In*"Much this book focuses on his work, but the more telling pages are filled with love gained and lost, raising other people's children, finding himself, and aging in the gay community. A must-read."--The Advocate, *30 Best Books You Missed in 2015*"A conversational, nicely constructed combination autobiography and history lesson that recounts Segal's contribution to LGBT activism, from his early days as a member of the Gay Liberation Front in New York to his stewardship of a successful weekly newspaper."--Philadelphia Inquirer"Segal's writing style is engrossing and never ponderous....*And Then I Danced* is highly recommended for all LGBT history collections and especially for readers with interest in Pennsylvania/Philadelphia politics."--ALA's GLBT Round Table"On December 11, 1973, Mark Segal disrupted a live broadcast of the CBS Evening News when he sat on the desk directly between the camera and news anchor Walter Cronkite, yelling, "Gays protest CBS prejudice!" He was wrestled to the studio floor by the stagehands on live national television, thus ending LGBT

invisibility. But this one victory left many more battles to fight, and creativity was required to find a way to challenge stereotypes surrounding the LGBT community. Mark Segal's job, as he saw it, was to show the nation who gay people are: our sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers. Because of activists like Mark Segal, whose life work is dramatically detailed in this poignant and important memoir, today there are openly LGBT people working in the White House and throughout corporate America. An entire community of gay world citizens is now finding the voice that they need to become visible.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Mark Segal's creation is an amazing journey through LGBT history. From his personal story of coming out, growing up in a tough Philly neighborhood, the Stonewall Riots, zapping Walter Cronkite and creating the first senior LGBT friendly residents complex, you will read it all in this book. The story is an easy read with the author's personal touch of humor sparkled throughout. There are so many important aspects of history that are normally ignored, but covered in detail throughout the book. If you are interested in LGBT history and want a first person perspective, read this book!

Mark Segal has led a very interesting and productive life. I really enjoyed reading about his various 'zaps' to get the word out. Also was impressed that he was able to work with both Democratic & Republican Administrations, something that is rare to see in this day and age.

Great book. If you're looking for a good history of the gay rights movement Mark's book takes you along his personal journey as one of the nation's leading gay activists. I especially enjoyed all of the Philadelphia references since I live nearby. The book is well written and flows very well. Very readable.

Brings to life so many effective ways to create healthy social change. He uses great storytelling to do so. I didn't want to put this book down and I am a straight mom. Book groups, youth groups, activists--this is a must read and discuss.

And Then I Danced, is a unique and unvarnished view into the life of one man who helped lift hundreds, perhaps thousands, of LGBT people into the light of equality and acceptance by virtue of his unstinting, personal character. This book brought back many personal memories from that time, both painful and beautiful, regarding my own struggles as a gay youth. A wonderful book that is well written and very relevant for today's evolving society.

Mark takes you on his journey from a young gay activist who "zapped" Walter Cronkite to an elder statesman in the LGBT community who built the first LGBT-friendly senior housing development in the United States. Mark's memoir is compelling and insightful as well as surprisingly personal. It is not by coincidence that Mark was at Stonewall, one of the key moments of our LGBT history. His reaction to that event and his unique take on activism within the LGBT community (zaps, etc) set the stage for our many successes in the march to equality in the LGBT community. Last, as the judge who officiated at his and Jason's wedding, I can also personally vouch for Mark's deep and abiding love for his husband Jason. Keep on dancing, Mark!

If you're interested in knowing the history of the LGBT movement and how the victories we are winning today were decades in the making, read this book! Segal was on the front lines of some of the most important battles for equality over the last half century. This is an incredibly important history that needs to be told, read and celebrated by those of us lucky enough to live today and enjoy the freedoms we too often take for granted. I, for one, am filled with gratitude to be standing on the shoulders of Mark Segal and the many that came before me! Keep dancing!

Simply put, it's a good read for anyone, gay or straight. It's part memoir and part textbook for anybody looking to make a difference in their community. The prose is at times playful and at times

serious, and seems to match the ebbs and flows of the LGBT movement, the triumphs and horrors of the community. It's one of those books that make you hopeful over how much a single person can achieve in a lifetime. Always try to make a difference, and do what matters most to you.

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