



The History of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Who are the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence?



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence® is a leading-edge Order of Queer and Trans nuns. We believe all people have a right to express their unique joy and beauty without reservation.

Since our first appearance in San Francisco on Easter Sunday, 1979, the Sisters have devoted ourselves to community service, ministry and outreach to those on the edges: to promoting human rights, respect for diversity and spiritual enlightenment in all.

We use humor and irreverent wit to expose the forces of bigotry, complacency and guilt that chain the human spirit. (From the SF SIP Website)

The Mission Statement of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence:

“To promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence – A Brief History

A long, long time ago, in 1976, far away in the Land of Oz (Iowa), a convent of Roman Catholic nuns lent some retired habits to The Sugar Plum Fairies performing their version of The Sound of Music. One year later, one of our Founders, Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch (Ken Bunch), moved to San Francisco (1977) and brought those habits to the streets of the Castro district... This is where the REAL story begins



Brief SPI Highlights (Pay close attention, there really is a Test)

1979

On Easter Weekend, during the time of the "Castro Clone," being extremely bored with the conformist atmosphere, three men took to the streets to challenge the world: Ken Bunch (Sister Vicious PHB), Fred Brungard (Sister Missionary Position) and Baruch Golden. They went in full, traditional habits through the streets of our city and down to the nude beach. One even carried a machine gun (for protection)

They were met with shock and amazement, but captured everyone's interest. Their next appearance was at a softball game where their pompon routine all but stole the show. In the fall of 1979, Sister Hysterectoria (Edmund Garron) and Reverend Mother (Bill Graham) went to the first International Faerie gathering and encountered even more men with the calling. Our 4 Founders, Sister Vicious PHB, Reverend Mother, Missionary Position and Hysterectoria-Agnes convened their friends, chose our name (The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence) and composed our mission statement: to promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt.



1980

The New Year brought the new Order with Sister Hysterectoria designing the first habits after a Flemish 14th century ladies-in-waiting and French cloister's wimple, and through a city grant, commissioned the first set of habits and "Ear Brassieres." Sister Succuba, a calligrapher, created the logo and the original banner under which the Sisters made their first public appearance. During a Three Mile Island Protest in March, The Sisters performed their "Rosary in Time of Nuclear Peril," including the ever-popular pompon routine. This small group hit big, making every paper and gossip channel immediately, pre Internet. By August they were front page in gay newspapers, chasing hate-mongering Christians out of the Castro and the Polk neighborhoods. In October the city saw its first fundraiser with Sisterly flair: a bingo/disco benefit for gay Cuban refugees at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC).

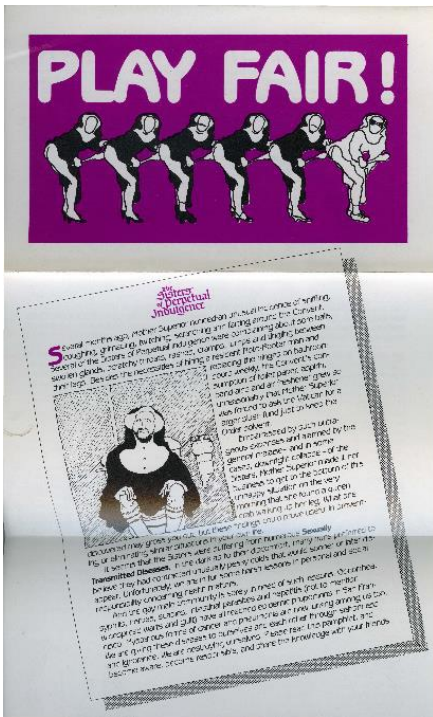
The famous columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, Herb Caen, gave us our first mainstream press coverage announcing the bingo. So many people turned out for the event that a second seating had to be thrown together to accommodate all of the bingo players. After four cards had been played, everything was moved to one side and the disco ball began to spin. This marked one of the largest fundraisers by a small community organization: over \$1,500 was raised in one evening. Mother Superior in Sydney, Australia founded the second SPI Order in the world. The Toronto Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence was founded a few weeks following the Sydney Order.

1981

The Sisters continued to raise tempers, eyebrows, and funds throughout the next year, stacking up multiple letters to the editor in protest of the Sisterhood. But their popularity increased. They could be found at events, fairs and fundraisers spreading joy and cheer, postcards and t-shirts. In September the Sisters produced the first ever fundraiser for the Gay Olympics (now called The Gay Games), a baseball game between the Sisters (playing in habits) and the Gay Men's chorus. We got them drunk in the 8th inning and scored 40 runs beating them! On Christmas Eve, 1981, the Sisters were cited for "peddling without a license" on the corner of 18th and Castro. "Sisters don't peddle," insisted Sister Missionary Position, "we receive donations and give tokens of joy. It's just coincidental that it happens at the same time." The Sisters produced the world's first fundraiser benefit for an AIDS organization: a dog show on Castro Street with the recording artist Sylvester serving as a judge. The third SPI Order in the world in Toronto, Canada is founded.

1982

San Francisco's health scene hit crisis levels during 1982. STD's spread at a pandemic rate, and the "gay cancer" contaminated everyone with fear and prejudice. And illness. Registered nurses Sister Florence Nightmare and Sister Roz Erection joined with a team of Sisters and medical professionals to create Play



Fair!, the first safer sex pamphlet anywhere in the world to use plain sex-positive language, practical advice, and humor. It was so well received that it went through a second printing within a few months. It was paid for, in part by sex party benefits and the sale of ashes from the burned down Barracks Bath House. June brought the Second Annual Dog Show to the Castro. Jeanne Dornacker, Shirley MacLaine and Sister Boo Boom joined the Sisters as MC's. Pushing the political envelope, Sister Boom Boom ran under the 'Nun of the Above' ticket in the race for Supervisor of San Francisco. Her iconic campaign poster featured the dome of City Hall with Boom Boom on a witch's broom flying above and purple exhaust spelling out "Surrender Diane", meaning Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Amidst all of the brouhaha about whether or not she should be allowed to run, she campaigned hard, spoke eloquently, and won more than 23,000 votes. Frightfully close to winning. The City subsequently passed "The Boom Boom" law forcing future candidates to use their birth names.

Our hugely popular Sister basketball fundraiser, "Score", at Kezar Pavilion brought 5000 screaming queens in their high school letter jackets and catholic school girl skirts to a cathartic celebration of high school spirit! A meeting with Mayor Dianne Feinstein had her screaming "When I see the Sisters I just see red!" So we planned our Red Party on May Day (International Communist holiday) at the White Russian hall, which brought controversy. The woman managing the center was the daughter of the head general to the czar in the 1917 bolshevik revolution. We learned that "white" and "red" are like oil and vinegar!

1983

The first AIDS Candlelight vigil in 1983 was orchestrated by the Sisters, led by the banner "Fighting for our Lives," which was painted on her apartment floor by Sister Vicious PHB. One of the many speakers to the weeping and angry crowd was Sister Florence Nightmare. She was not only a health care professional, but also an advocate for PWAs and was herself HIV positive. Her article "Well and Good" published in the Sentinel, combined observations of a man living with AIDS with practical insights of a medical professional. She and her "friend" (don't we mean lover?) appeared on the August 8 cover of Newsweek which earned her the moniker "AIDS poster boy". The article, about gays and AIDS, was the first time that these topics were handled in a fairly unbiased manner and that the entire nation was able to come face-to-face with AIDS. For their efforts the previous year, Sisters were honored with five Cable Car awards including outstanding theme event, outstanding athletic event, and "Most Outrageous" parade float: a fully functional 50 foot missile with nuns in military habits launching the "War On VD" campaign. Not bad for such a young group. CBS national TV came to town to do their hour-long special "GayPower-Gay Politics" featuring Sister Boom Boom.

1986

Marching in the Pride parade that year inside the shaft of a 40-foot penis covered in a gigantic condom

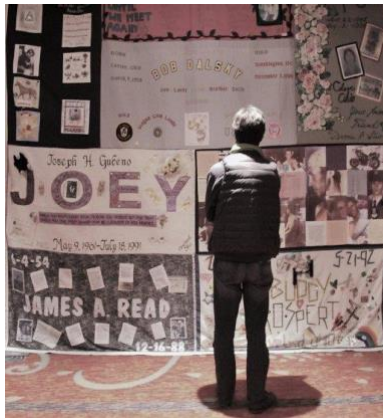
was Sister Mysteria -- the last nun at the end of the penis with two huge flesh covered beach balls connected to umbilical cords bouncing the entire length of the parade behind her! It won the Sisters another "Most Outrageous" award and stunned silence from spectators! The Toronto, Canada Order of SPI folded under community criticism that they were "Ruining it for Everyone."

1987

The Sisters went all out to greet the Pope during his visit in 1987. They convened a press conference on the plaza in front of St. Mary's Cathedral with hundreds of members of the international press in attendance. Sister Vicious PHB marched up to the front of the cathedral and posted demands on the huge doors with Lee Press-On Nails. Martin Luther would have been proud! Live TV cameras carried the full-on exorcism of the Pope in Union Square and cut away just as the Pope was landing in a helicopter at the Golden Gate Bridge. JACKPOT! That, and a few other actions and antics, landed the Sisters the prestigious honor of being placed on the Papal List of Heretics. (Way to go gals!) The Seattle Sisters are Founder by Mother Theresa Nervina, being the fourth Order of SPI in the world.

1988

The fifth exposition basketball event thrown by the Sisters, "Rally 'Round the Quilt," a fundraiser for the NAMES Quilt Project distributed more than \$5,400. The event was played in 1988 between the gay community's women's and men's teams at Kezar Pavilion. Many interesting things happened which are not fit to print.



1989

For their 10th anniversary, the Sisters threw a huge gala event, Sistericus, in Club Townsend which never hosted a queer event till then, and which subsequently became the queer dance institutions "Pleasuredome" and "Universe". We invited all of the Sisters from around the States to join in the celebration, including the Seattle Sisters, and helped to raise much-needed funds for Project Open Hand and AIDS Emergency Fund. Later that year, during the insanity that this city calls Halloween, Sister Vicious PHB called her fellow nuns and took to the streets of the Castro with donation buckets. All of the money collected went to The Mayor's Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund. They also realized that this was an untapped market with great energy and potential, and began working on planning another event for the following year. This is the first time anyone had collected donations at the entrances to street fairs and festivals. Sisters traveled to Seattle to present our Exequatur, officially recognizing Mother Theresa Nervina's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

1990

Artist Thomasina DeMaio approached the Sisters stating that she wanted to create portraits of the nuns in paint and clay. Months and months of hard work culminated in a large exhibit in June, a performance

art piece, "Angels In Whiteface," that is still talked about today. The event treated the hundreds present to performances by Doris Fish, Ambidextrous, Sister Vice N Virtue's trapeze act, Sister Psychedelia's rise from the dead, Sistah Boom (a lesbian percussion band) and Pope Dementia's Altered Boys, flexing their muscles and wearing only thongs and smiles. That October was the first of the Sister's four-year charge of Halloween in the Castro. The Sisters brought safety and focus to the spontaneous party that happened in this tiny neighborhood. They single-handedly produced a show that featured the city's most fabulous performance artists, Mother Theresa Nervina -- singing a live version of a heart rendering song, a dance stage -- and a forum to show off outrageous and elaborate costumery. The small, voluntary donation requested allowed the Sisters to raise thousands of dollars each year for community grants each following spring.

Sisters Vicious PHB, Psychedelia and Sister X traveled to Vancouver, Canada to minister to the athletes at the Gay Games.

This year saw a large outreach to the international communities. Sisters X, Vicious PHB, and Psychedeliawent forth to Europe to spread the Word and form Missions. Their visit to Paris resulted in the formation of the first European Order by Mother Rita. The Australians sent a missionary to London in August to form the first British Order. Our three Sisters travelled on to Berlin and were present in habit at the Brandenburg Gate the day Germany unified.



1991

By June, the Sisters brought the large show/performance art piece, "Dimanche D'Indulge," to Paris to celebrate the investiture of the Paris Order where we delivered our Exequitor officially recognizing them. This was also where "The Condom Saviour Consecration and Vow" first premiered. It has since been performed many times. Back home in San Francisco, Sister Roma! Introduced her STOP the Violence Campaign in reaction to the rise of violence in the streets, especially hate crimes. A window placard system was



created to mark safe homes to run to in the instance of an attack or the threat of an attack. The Order distributed window signs and whistles in the various neighborhoods and districts of the City as well as on college campuses.

Governor Wilson vetoed the statewide Gay rights bill. The resulting riot at the State Building in San Francisco featured a photo of the back of 2 nuns ramming a barricade thru the glass doors of the building. (Who were they? We'll never tell!). The first German Order in Heidelberg/ Mannheim, Germany was founded by Erzmutter Johanna.

1992

Sister Sam came out in '92 and wanted YOU! Sisters Bufadora and Flatulina Grande lead the forming of

the Queer Army and enlisted the energy of angry people for the Holy Wars against homophobia in the church and the government. The Sisters distributed Draft Cards with no excuse not to enlist. One of the first actions of the pink-camouflaged army was distributing condoms on USF campus on February 14. The campus had already denied permission for condom distribution on the Catholic college campus. Police escorted Sisters off of the campus and held the student collaborators on charges. The next mobilization was against Rev. Coal and his gospel of hate at the Capitol Christian Center (CCC) in Sacramento, the largest fundamentalist church in the State. CCC was sending members in to The Castro to harass the community on its own turf. Sister Flatulina Grande, having escaped Sacramento just over a year earlier, took great offense and organized a visit to Capital Christian Center (CCC) on Easter Sunday with the Queer Army in tow in addition to Sacramento activists and Queer Nation. Together they numbered 100 plus demonstrators chanting outside of the CCC's Easter Morning services, finally drawing out security and parishioners from the inner sanctum. While most of the congregation hid behind Bibles and spewed hate, one choir member, a teenager, joined the demonstration, outing himself in the process. Sister Lost and Found, as he was later named, came to the Sisters for help after both his church and his family rejected him. Tragically the State of Nebraska forced him back to a foster home despite his wishes to stay with his current gay fathers. He took his own life rather than live in foster care.

The Sisters this year also started one of the sexiest alliances by working at the Folsom Street Fair and Up Your Alley Fair helping the organizers by acting as door divas for two of California's largest Gay events and probably the world's largest fetish events. Folsom Street Fair and Up Your Alley Fair attracts tens of thousands of participants and raises thousands for charity in the process each year.



1993

Sisters attended the Creating Change Conference in Los Angeles and demanded the inclusion of Transgender issues and speakers in the March On Washington and Stonewall 25th Anniversary in New

York. This marked the first time anyone had demanded Transgender inclusion. The 1993 March On Washington officially discouraged drag, so the Sisters flew to DC in drag and marched in drag with pride. In contrast to the organizers, the crowds couldn't get enough!

While demonstrating in Washington, DC, orchestrating huge events in the home city of San Francisco, celebrating life and spreading joy, the Sisters also struggled against the pandemic. In rapid succession, the Sisters lost five of their own, which left them angry and despaired. This empowered the order and to refocus their fight. The 15th anniversary brought new energy and drive to the group. The Children's Halloween emerged that year as a safe space for kids and continues to this day as a treat for hundreds of kids of gay and non-gay families .

1994

The Sisters Halloween celebration was the largest yet, and pushed the limits of control and safety. Out of their dedication to their community, the Sisters joined a coalition of neighborhood groups and Community United against Violence to come up with a plan to move the celebration out of the Castro. While the coalition itself moved the Halloween fete to the Civic Center area, the Sisters insisted on having a proper celebration: HallowQueen, a wonderful costume-mandatory dance/cabaret which raised more than \$6,000 for a handful of charities. Sisters attended the Stonewall 25th Anniversary in New York City and helped lead the Drag March from Alphabet City to the Stonewall Inn. Favorite chants: "2-5-6-7 we're tough dykes and we don't have to rhyme", and "the Pope wears a dress and so will I".

1995

For the first time, the Sisters blessed the San Francisco Mime Troupe opening-day free performance in Dolores Park on Independence Day weekend. Showing a broader range of community service, the Sisters put on W.H.O.O.T.Y. (We'll Hold Our Own Thank-You) benefiting the Women and Cancer Walk. In support of alternatives to western-medicine the Sisters assisted in putting together La KLUBSTiTUTA alá Oasis that raised the first legal \$1,000 for State Proposition 215 which legalized medicinal marijuana. The event featured the Virgin Queen contest and marked the first of many collaborations with Diet Popstitute and KLUBSTiTUTE. On a darker note, the Sister Sock Show made its debut as an alternative Sister presence at events that were not community benefits yet still had performance value and possibilities. The Sister Sock Show quickly gained a reputation for projectiles, forced audience participation and poorly executed narratives. Sister Phyllis Stein the Fragrant braved the bicyclist world and started the tradition of Sisters in the California AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles raising thousands of dollars in the process. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Los Angeles mission launched under Sister GladAss of the Joyous Reserectum's guidance.

1996

Now, in a time of more than twenty convents worldwide, the Sisters created and brought to Washington, DC four quilt panels, 24' by 24', commemorating over thirty "Nuns of the Above" as part of the Names Project Quilt. Certainly there were more Sisters whose names escaped recognition as much as their lives escaped them,



but their energy and love live on through the Sisters. Sisters attended, for the first time, the annual Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert and served Oh! Communion with medicinal brownies and tequila to parched and needy pagans. They also performed and passed out safer sex materials and setup a prayer shrine. The Sisters became a founding sponsor and outreach assisters for the CCP, Community Center Project in a multi-year project.

1997

Renewing a commitment to queer youth, The Sisters started several supportive activities for LYRIC's (Young Loud and Proud conferences). They put on aprons and acted as lunch ladies bringing smiles (and VERY LOUD DISCO MUSIC) to help start their day of activist organizing. They also helped put on PROMSTITUTE, an alternative queer youth prom where the youth were encouraged to wear very short skirts and drink to excess. The Sisters also helped at several AIDS art auctions as dotters, runners, wrappers and display models (please note: no artwork was dropped). August brought the tragic death of Princess Diana and the Sisters were called by the community to add focus to the grief that not only paralyzed London but that was felt around the world. The Queen of Hearts Memorial went from the Castro to the British Embassy and, again, several thousand dollars for the Princess' charities were raised. Several Sisters (most notably Sister Dana Van Iquity) had served on the SF Pride Parade Committee, but this year the Sisters actually won "Most Outrageous Float" when Sister Kitty Catalyst was inspired to use the excess left-over trimmings from all the other floats to decorate the Sisters vehicle. In other tragicomic news, Sister Hellen Wheels, Sister Dana and Sister Kitty performed for one of the many Imperial Court functions, "The Out of Town Court Show" and won, but didn't even remember they had attended and performed at the event (ahem) until reminded several weeks later. The House Of The Sheila Na Giggled (Cardiff, Wales) formed.

1998

For the first time the Sisters officially organized the annual Pink Saturday event in the Castro, the Saturday night hotspot before the San Francisco Pride Parade, raising monies guaranteed to stay in the community. Each year saw more money going to local beneficiaries.



Also that year Sisters organized Wig Out, a wig drive collecting -- from San Francisco drag queens --

hundreds of new and reconditioned wigs for women under-going chemotherapy. "We are not amusing" became internal code language for the James Hormel scandal as President Clinton moved to make

history and appoint him as the first openly gay United States Ambassador to a very Catholic Luxembourg. The Sisters passed by in the annual SF Pride Parade when he apparently chuckled at our antics. Spam on James! Make-a-Wish Make-a-Dish, a queer youth holiday dance was held at the Eureka Valley Recreation center and featured Mr. Hanky the Christmas Poo much to the delight of all the queer youth present.

1999

The Sisters celebrated 20 years of good-spirited activism with an Easter Birthday party fundraiser in the Castro, and looked forward to another twenty years of community service. The local Archdiocese condemned the order, thus gifting the Sisters with an estimated \$1 million in free publicity. Play Fair! was re-issued and updated after 20 years to be gender inclusive, encourage folks to use safer sex techniques, to get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and to lose the guilt. Later that summer the Sisters visited Reno, Nevada, for the first Reno Pride Parade and, again, were condemned. The Governor of Nevada refused to issue a proclamation in support of Transgender, Bisexuals, Lesbians and Gays, so the Sisters wrote their own. The celebration garnered front-page news as well as coverage from every television news channel in the city.

Together with Survive AIDS, the Sisters took the lead in organizing the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil making a big splash on SF City Hall steps. People with AIDS were honored with remembrances, AIDS



Hero Awards and performances from the cast from RENT, Dear Diva, Dirty Little Showtunes as well as drummers and U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi. The Sisters hosted several benefits at the Power Exchange sex club and Castlebar S&M space raising sex positive spirits and lots of needed money for

local charities. The 20th Anniversary was heralded with an International Conclave and related archival exhibit: "A Consistory Conspiracy: Changing the Face of Activism (1979-1999)", which featured mementos and ephemera from the past twenty years, complete with several fundraising receptions including, of course, Butt Plug Bingo!

2000

Reportedly the first fashion show in a sex club, Hot Cross Buns was held on Good Friday at the Power Exchange with local fetish designers including Dr. Carol Queen (from Good Vibrations) with a Dildo Fashion show which raised more than \$3,000 for local charities. Another fine San Francisco tradition,

The Great Tricycle Race, was reborn with much support from the good folks at the Harvey Milk Institute. Contestants raced through the Castro on regulation tricycles and ended with the annual Hunky Jesus and Easter Bonnet contests. Sister Betty Does, LNM, weaved through a maze of red tape to present Resurrection Bingo to the Castro at Metropolitan Community Church. The monthly event raised more than \$7,000 for local charities. The Sisters found themselves in the middle of an AIDS denialist mythology drama when members were targeted around barebacking issues. The Sisters rose to the occasion by granting money to AIDS Activist Against Violence and Lies (AAAVL) who battle the denialists



on many fronts. AAAVL helped to prevent violence against PWA's from occurring and works to protect public meetings from being threatened by the denialists.

The Sisters bursted with Pride and took to the streets at San Francisco Pride as the Brides of Christ (of course) in support of Californians for Same-Sex Marriage. Later, at the SF Pride Festival, the Sisters performed an exorcism of radio-show hostess "Dr." Laura to free her of her hate-filled speech against gays and lesbians. The Sisters closed the year with their annual

Solstice benefit which raised funds for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society and the Sisters Archives. At the event \$10,000, from their Community Grants Fund was presented to local non-profits and several worthy individuals including Saint Harry Faerie Godfather (Harry Hay) and Saint N'John (his partner) who were Sainted.

2001

The Sisters launched their World Domination Tour and were surprised that staunch conservatives like being punished for naughty behavior. The Sisters were elected as Grand Marshals for the San Francisco

Pride Celebration. The Russian River Missionary Order was founded by the San Francisco Order and Sister Mary Margaret of the House of Explosion. Distraught over the overwhelming loss of life during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, on all Saints Day the Sisters led several hundred community members on a candle light vigil tour of the Castro, recalling the queer lives and contributions lost.

2003

Celebrating the 2003 PRIDE theme, the Sisters paraded the slogan "We gotta give 'em Pope" by displaying their own Pope Dementia in a cage where he could just barely reach out to fondle our young acolyte. Demonstrating a true knowledge of current events, the Sisters' float also included a masked figure looking like a Texas political cowboy straddling a cock-rocket, showing the public that we had, indeed, finally found those nasty "Weapons of Ass Destruction". Some of the Sisters thought the giant cock rocket was kind of crude, but felt better about displaying it when pictures of the float appeared on many conservative websites and newspapers throughout the country. The Sisters celebrated a record year financially, bringing in more than \$100,000; 80% of funds were infused back into the community.

2004

Under the rallying cry of "25 Years to Life - Ruining it for Everyone, " the Sisters kicked off 25 weeks of Indulgence, from Easter Sunday to Folsom Fair Sunday, with their annual anniversary celebration in Dolores Park followed by fun evening activities in the Castro. The Order managed to complete all 25 events, and decided never to do that again!

2005

Under the watchful eye of the Mistress of Missions Sister Hellen Wheels, the Order continued its growth by founding Missions in San Diego, Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Eureka, CA. In April, Sister Penny Lane became the first Sister to be crowned as Emperor of San Francisco's Imperial Court, ushering in the Court of Swinging Monkeys and Roaring Tigers. Revival Bingo, which raised thousands of dollars for local organizations, ended its successful run at the Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro. The Sisters with extreme pleasure and joy, Sainted Margaret Cho on stage at the Pride Celebration.

2006

Sisters began the year by joining the Bay Area Coalition on Reproductive Rights to greet anti-choice protesters bussed into San Francisco for an annual anti-choice march. Easter marked their best year yet for donations after the Sisters were forced to move their annual birthday party to the Eureka Valley Recreation Center due to inclement weather. In June, Sisters Uma Gawd and Mary Juanita of a Higher Power, along with Fawn D'amen of the Abbey of the Big Red Wood in Eureka, brought the Sisters back to the AIDS Lifecycle. While these Sisters were on the road, well over a hundred Sisters from around the world gathered in Los Angeles on 6/6/06 for the Sisters' International Conclave. The gathered Sisters kicked off the Conclave with a ritual on Hollywood Boulevard and ended the event by walking in LA Pride. Mixed in with all of the public appearances was a great deal of Sisterly sharing and educational meetings.

The United Nuns Privy Council (UNPC) was founded by Sister Hellen Wheels as an inter-order committee for establishing new Houses in the US and Canada. All exequatur Houses were invited to participate. Team Sister Power raised the third highest total for any team in July's AIDS Walk in Golden Gate Park. On July 19, Sister maeJoy B withU led Sisters in a public ritual at 18th and Castro which grew into a weekly action called Darshan, which means "sight" in Sanskrit. Sisters initiated a variety of weekly Darshans throughout the rest of the year, using the rituals to expiate the stigmatic guilt brought by fundamental Christians and promulgate universal joy for all. Revival Bingo found a new home at Most Holy Redeemer in September and donated its first two months' proceeds to the church. The Tour De Castro, a tricycle race and pub crawl organized by then Novice Sister Mary Juanita of a Higher Power, raised \$8520 to help 14 AIDS Lifecycle riders who were short of the minimum donation to ride and was recognized as the Best New Charity Event of the year by the InterClub Fund of San Francisco. In November, the San Francisco Archdiocese bowed to right-wing pressure and kicked the Sisters out of Most Holy Redeemer Church, sending Revival Bingo on the hunt for a new home and depriving the Church of much-needed funds and attendees.

2007

Sisters Uma Gawd and Fawn D'amen cycled once again, raising more than \$6,000 to fight AIDS, while Sisters Mary Juanita of a Higher Power and Mona Little More of Portland, OR, serve as roadies on the AIDS Lifecycle raising spirits. 2007's Pink Saturday saw a heightened safety effort by the Sisters who were recognized by local police for their efforts at throwing a fun and safe Pink Saturday. Rainbow World Fund and the Krewe de Kinque, raising over \$1,500 to help with relief efforts



for Peru. Sisters maeJoy B withU and Delta Goodhand to attend mass at Most Holy Redeemer and receive communion from the Archbishop, which set off a shit storm of rabid, right-wing, Catholic, national controversy.

2009

The 30th Anniversary art show Under A Full Moon was on display for a full month at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, curated by Sister Mary Juanita. The show started with the Sisters throwing a Gala opening on Easter Saturday at the YBCA, including a grand entrance of nearly 100 Sisters descending the stairs in their full formals. A second part of Under A Full Moon showed historical documents and pictures displayed in the Hormel Center of the Main Public Library -- curated by Sister Mary Ralph, the Proper N(o)un.

2010

Stop The Violence started again after a 20-year break. The Sisters reacted to an increase in gay bashings in the hood and responded by calling a community action to take back the streets. They began by passing out safety packets with whistles to keep people safe. Sisters Roma and Flatulina Grande were invited to be Style Police at the Vienna Life Ball, the largest annual AIDS fundraiser in Europe. They judged the many hundreds of people who entered the event with Style Tickets that required the bearers



to wear elaborate costumes in the theme of the event. Fines were levied if the participant was not up to snuff.

2011

The SF House set a record for the number of individuals going through the process of becoming a member: 18 in total. Sadly, in March the Order was

hit with the tragic news that Postulant Irma Grassion passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. The Sisters voted to posthumously elevate him to Novice as part of a memorial and fundraiser for his family. The famous Eagle Tavern closed down. The Eagle was the first establishment designated as an official Sanctuary by the Sisters for their frequent hosting of beer busts. Sister Tuna Noodle Cocktail helped start "The Eagle In Exile" fundraisers at the El Rio. For the second year in a row, the SF Parade

Committee invited the Sisters to be their official judges of the parade contestants. Fifteen Sisters showed up for the 12 chairs. It sure beat walking the route in high heels! Our first female Sister, Sister Mystie of the Broken Hymen passed away in July, shortly after attending Pink Saturday. Mystie had been a Sister in San Francisco for nearly 30 years and touched many Sisters' lives. Sister Kitty hosted the Cuir Noir (black leather) memorial at the Edge bar.

Sisters served as Style Police at the largest AIDS fundraiser in Europe, Life Ball, in Vienna, Austria.

2012

The AIDS Memorial Grove bolder dedicated to the Sisters passed on was unveiled. The inscription reads, "IN MEMORY OF EVERY NUN OF THE ABOVE – THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE." 2012 was one of few years that Easter got completely rained out with no backup venue. Sisters still had fun at Café Flore, even without a stage show. A sub-abbey to the SF House started in the East Bay by Sister Atta.

Project Nunway glorified a translucent tent in Golden Gate Park on World AIDS Day. Again, it rained! Sister Roma's 25th Anniversary Roast raised \$5000 for Tenderloin Tessie's and The Sisters Stop The Violence. Sister Mary Ralph's Furbomb also raised nearly \$5000 for charity. \$30,000 was given out during our Saturnalia Grant cycle. Sisters organized a South of Market event at several bars for Halloween for those who didn't want to attend Halloween in the Castro. Sisters served as Style Police at the largest AIDS fundraiser in Europe, Life Ball, in Vienna, Austria.

2013

Sister Jane Do'H competed in and won the 2014 SF Bare Chest Calendar, becoming MR APRIL. In April, the Sisters were invited to bless AT&T Park; Prayer for Sweeping Success. Easter was rained out again, but the celebration and show moved to the DNA Lounge. Former Sister Boom Boom passed away. Among many other things, Boom Boom will be remembered for having nearly won an SF Supervisor seat back in the 80s as a male nun. Sisters started working with Monet Allard on the Stiletto for Shanghai documentary. On June 26, the US Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as well as Prop 8 (which disallowed same gender marriage). This cleared the way for same sex marriages in all 50 States and substantially increasing attendance at Pink Saturday 2 days later. In December, the House approved the foundation of the Perpetual Indulgence Ministry Program (PIMP) to



perform legal weddings and other non-denominational spiritual ceremonies. The PIMP ministry was established with no specific religious affiliation, instead catering to the spiritual needs of the individual participants. Sisters served as Style Police at the largest AIDS fundraiser in Europe, Life Ball, in Vienna, Austria.

2014

Sisters brought our rainbow flag sewn by Gilbert Baker to Shanghai as a gift to their Pride Celebration; participating Sisters felt exhausted by all of the photo requests. The Sisters had their first Easter in Golden Gate Park for their 35th Anniversary miraculously sunny and warm! The SF House began discussions with the Canadian Houses to license the SPI Trademark; an expansion of the United Nuns Privy Council that has overseen the formation of all US Houses.

In coordination with other SPI Houses throughout the US, the Sisters hold their first annual Salvation Sisters bell ringing, raising money for GLIDE Services. People tossed in twenties when they realized the Sisters were not affiliated with other, certain bell-ringing religious organizations. The Sisters also served as Style Police at the largest AIDS fundraiser in Europe, Life Ball, in Vienna, Austria.

2015

The Sisters reluctantly gave up the Pink Saturday permit, since the event had grown larger than what the all-volunteer organization could safely handle. The Sisters continued to work closely with the City and Police to help ensure a safe turnover. Sisters held charity bingos at Jack London Square in Oakland, entertaining guests who might not be able to make it into SF. The Sisters gave out \$40,000 in their grant cycles despite the loss of Pink Saturday. Several Sisters joined the My Name Is# protest at Facebook to bring attention to LGBT people and Native Americans who desire to identify by non-traditional names. The Sisters helped Margaret Cho's #BeRobin events to aid the homeless. The Sisters served as Style Police at the largest AIDS fundraiser in Europe, Life Ball, in Vienna, Austria.



2016

The Sisters donated to replenish the rose quartz for the Pink Triangle Memorial Park. The Pink Triangle Park is a quiet space in the Castro where people go to contemplate the LGBT people who have died at the hands of ignorance and bigotry. More than 10,000 people participated in the Sisters' Easter Anniversary in Golden Gate Park. Sisters Roma & Vish served as Grand Marshals in the Prague, Czech Republic, LGBT Pride parade. They produced and presented a Power Point presentation focused on the 37 years of Sister community service, presented the documentary film "The Sisters", and chaired a panel on AIDS/HIV prevention. The House sponsors a contained and safe fundraiser for Pride Saturday in a closed area South of Market, "Pink Saturday Unchained", in conjunction with the Eagle Tavern. Sisters marched with the PULSE Memorial Contingent in the Pride Parade in remembrance of those who fell in the Orlando massacre. Several Nuns participated in the "Save the Stud" event to keep open the

landmark LGBT bar that has hosted so many of the City's queer shows including Mother. Sadly, Sister Atta Van Haladol passed through the veil, joining the nuns of the above. She is truly missed!

Moving Forward...

You get the idea and can see from just the short history that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have made, and will continue to make, their mark on and in our communities.

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

(Orders Around the World)

Soon after the San Francisco Order was founded in 1979, the mission of the Sisters — to promulgate universal joy, expiate stigmatic guilt and serve the community — spread far and wide. Houses can be found across the United States and in several countries around the world.

Although the San Francisco House is often referred to as the “Mother House”, the Sisters have no central seat of power and no single ruling body. Each House is an autonomous, unique group with its own Habits, culture, and rules. Just as the San Francisco House is a reflection of the culture that surrounds it, so too is each House a reflection of its own environment.

United States Houses

ALABAMA

The Magic City Sisters
Birmingham, AL
www.magiccitysistersbham.org

ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Phoenix, AZ
www.azsisters.org

CALIFORNIA

The Capitol City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Abbey of the Divine Light
Sacramento CA
www.capitolcitysisters.org

Eureka Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Abbey of the Big Red Wood
Eureka, CA
www.eurekasisters.org

Los Angeles Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA
www.lasisters.org

Palm Springs Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Palm Springs, CA
www.palmspringsisters.org

Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.

Russian River, CA
www.rrsisters.org

San Diego Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc. - The Asylum of the Tortured Heart
San Diego, CA
www.sdsisters.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The DC Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Washington, DC
<https://www.facebook.com/DCSisters/>

FLORIDA

The First Coast Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence - Abbey of the Seven Bridges
Jacksonville, FL
www.firstcoastsisters.org

The South Florida Sisters of the Rising Sun
Fort Lauderdale, FL
www.southfloridasisters.org

The Orlando Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Orlando, FL
orlandosisters.org

Tampa Bay Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Tampa Bay, FL
www.flisisters.org

GEORGIA

The Order of the Flaming Sugarbakers
Atlanta, GA
www.atlsisters.org

ILLINOIS

The Abbey of the Windy City Sisters
Chicago, IL
www.thewindycitysisters.org

INDIANA

The Indiana Crossroads Sisters - Order of the Shimmering Silo
Lafayette, IN
<http://www.indianacrossroadssisters.org/>

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Fried Sisters - Convent of the Thoroughly Bred and Breaded
Lexington, KY

www.kyfriedsisters.org

Derby City Sisters
Louisville, KY
www.facebook.com/derbycitysisters

LOUISIANA

The Big Easy Sisters
New Orleans, LA
www.thebigeasysisters.org

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Sisters - Convent of the Commonwealth
Boston, MA
www.thebostonsisters.org

MICHIGAN

Motor City Sisters
Detroit, MI
www.facebook.com/Motor-City-Sisters

MINNESOTA

Ladies of the Lakes
Minneapolis/Saint Paul, MN
www.facebook.com/LOLMinnesota

MISSOURI

City of Fountains Sisters
Kansas City, MO/KS
www.cityoffountainsopi.com

The Fourth City Sisters
St. Louis, MO
www.fourthcitysisters.com

NEVADA

Las Vegas Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence - Holy Order of Sin Sity Sisters
Las Vegas, NV
www.sinsitysisters.org

Reno's Biggest Little Sisters, Inc.
Reno, NV
www.renosbiggestlittlesisters.org

NEW YORK

The NYC (dis)Order**

Brooklyn, NY
www.nycsisters.org

NORTH CAROLINA

Beer City Sisters - Abbey of All Souls
Asheville, NC
<http://www.beercitysisters.org/>

The Smokin' Cardinal Sisters
Greensboro, NC
www.facebook.com/smokincardinalsisters

OHIO

Cincinnati Sisters - Abbey of the Immaculate Four-Way
Cincinnati, OH
<http://cincinnati-sisters.com/>

Rock-n-Roll City Sisters
Cleveland, OH
www.rocknrollcitysisters.org

Columbus Sisters - Abbey of the Cardinal Sins
Columbus, OH
columbusohiosisters.org

OKLAHOMA

Sisters of the Sacred Heartland
Oklahoma City, OK
www.okcsisters.org

OREGON

Portland Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence - The Order of Benevolent Bliss
Portland, OR
www.portlandsisters.net

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Sisters - The Abbey of the Grand Palmetto
Greenville, SC
<http://www.greenvillesisters.org/>

TENNESSEE

Music City Sisters
Nashville, TN
www.musiccitysisters.org

TEXAS

Weird City Sisters
Austin, TX

www.facebook.com/weirdcitysisters

The DFW Sisters
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
www.thedfwsisters.org

The San Antonio Sisters, Abbey of the Alamo
San Antonio, TX
www.sisterssa.org

UTAH

Sisters of the Zion Curtain
Salt Lake City, UT
www.facebook.com/ZionCurtainSisters

WASHINGTON

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, The Abbey Of Saint Joan
Seattle, WA
www.theabbey.org

Sisters of the Mother House of Washington**
Seattle, WA
www.seattlesisters.org

WISCONSIN

The Abbey of the Brew City Sisters
Milwaukee, WI
www.myspace.com/brewcitysisters

Mad City Sisters
Madison, WI
www.madcitysisters.com

MULTI-STATE

Missionary Order of Perpetual Indulgence
Tennessee, Iowa, Chicago, Philadelphia
www.missionarysisters.net

** - Although these houses are not officially affiliated with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence® in the United States, they continue the work of our founding members - spreading joy, expiating stigmatic guilt and serving their communities through habitual manifestation. They too are our Sisters in every sense of the word.

United States Missions

The Charm City Sisters - Abbey of Divine Queefs
Baltimore, MD
www.facebook.com/charmcitysisters

The Queen City Sisters - Abbey of Charlotte Von Mecklenburg

Charlotte, NC
<http://charlottesisters.com/>

The Abbey of Hillbilly Harlots
Fayetteville, AR
www.arksisters.org

The Houston Sisters - Order of the Bayou City
Houston, TX
<http://sistersofhouston.wixsite.com/houston-application>

Blue Suede Sisters
Memphis, TN
<http://bluesuedesisters.wixsite.com/bluesuedesisters>

The Steel City Sisters - Abbey of the Three Sisters
Pittsburgh, PA
<http://steelcitysisters.wixsite.com/steelcitysisters>

Spokane Sisters - Order of the Traveling Red Veil
Spokane, WA
www.travelingredveil.com

World Orders

Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Abbey of the Long Cedar Canoe Society
Vancouver, BC
yvsisters.ca

QUEBEC

Soeurs de la Perpétuelle Indulgence de Montréal
Montréal, QC
www.soeursdemontreal.ca

Canadian Missions

The Bread Basket Sisters
Regina, SK
breadbasketsisters.wixsite.com/breadbasketsisters

The Toronto Sisters of the Jubilant Order of York
Toronto, ON
www.torontosisters.com

The Queen City Sisterhood - The Order of the Moist Brollie
Victoria, BC
victoriasisters.blogspot.ca

Australia

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence
Sydney, Australia
www.universaljoy.com.au

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence in Australia, Inc
Adelaide, Australia

Colombia

Hermanitas de la Perpetua Indulgencia
Seccional, Colombia
hermanitas.8m.com

France

Les Soeurs de la Perpétuelle Indulgence, Couvent de Paris
Paris, France
www.lessoeurs.org

Les Soeurs de Perpétuelle Indulgence, Couvent de Paname
Paris, France
www.couventdepaname.org

Les Soeurs de Perpétuelle Indulgence, Couvent des Chenaies
Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Lyon, Nice; France
www.couventdes69gaules.org

Les Soeurs de Perpétuelle Indulgence, Couvent des Chenaies
Aix-en-Provence, Marseille, Montpellier, Nice; France
lessoeursspi.unblog.fr

Germany

Orden der Schwestern der Perpetuellen Indulgenz e.V.,
Erzmutterhaus Sankta Melitta Iuvenis zu Berlin
Berlin, Germany
<http://www.indulgenz.de/>

Orden der Schwestern der Perpetuellen Indulgenz
im Tempel der nordischen Freude (O.S.P.I.) e.V.
Oldenburg, Germany
<http://www.nordschwestern.de/>

Die Schwestern der Perpetuellen Indulgenz zu Hamburg
Haus Notre Dame Sainte Diana

Hamburg, Germany
<http://www.spihamburg.org/>

Die Schwestern der Perpetuellen Indulgenz e.V.
Haus Sancta Maria Penetrantia

Köln, Germany
www.spicologne.de

Scotland

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence, Convent of Dunn Eideann
Edinburgh, Scotland
www.thesisters.org.uk

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence, Convent of Moravia
Elgin, Scotland
www.thesisters.org.uk

Switzerland

Der Orden der Perpetuellen Indulgenz
Zürich, Switzerland
www.derorden.ch

United Kingdom

The House of Common Sluts
London, United Kingdom
www.londonsisters.org

The House of the Swishing Curtain
Manchester, United Kingdom
<http://www.themanchestersisters.org/>

Uruguay

Uruguay Convento Mater Admirabilis
Orden de San Felipe y Santiago de Montevideo
Parroquia de la Inmaculada de Jádraque
San Felipe y Santiago de Montevideo, Uruguay
www.perpetuaindulgencia.tk