

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
LGBTQ History Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2015.12.8

Title: LGBTQ History Collection

Physical Characteristics: 3 record storage boxes and 1 flat oversize storage box

Donated by: Donors are indicated by the title of each series in the collection and are numbered in the order in which they were accessioned.

Arrangement: This collection is divided into series by donor, with items in each series arranged alphabetically by document type or subject.

Reproduction Restrictions: Collection is open to research. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Dyron Knick, 15 December 2015, accruals expected.

Introduction:

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) History Project began in 2015 as collaboration between Roanoke College, Roanoke Diversity Center and Roanoke Public Libraries in an effort to collect and preserve information on the history of the LGBTQ community in the Roanoke Valley and Southwest Virginia. Members of the community were encouraged to donate items relevant to the scope of this collection. Accruals are expected.

Historical Note:

It is generally acknowledged that the modern day LGBTQ civil rights movement began in New York City in June 1969 with the Stonewall Riots. Prior to and since this time, a number of activists, individuals, and organizations fought to bring recognition of LGBTQ civil rights to the forefront of American society. While the movement was primarily centered in New York City and San Francisco, periodicals, guide books, and ephemeral material interconnected the larger LGBTQ community throughout the United States, including the Roanoke Valley and Southwest Virginia.

The first known organization, the Gay Alliance of the Roanoke Valley, was formed in 1971. During its short time, the Gay Alliance of the Roanoke Valley published a newsletter called the *Big Lick Gayzette*. Several years after the Alliance folded, a new organization, the Free Alliance for Individual Rights (FAIR), was formed in 1978. The formation of this organization was brought about as a result of police stings targeting gay men in Roanoke adult bookstores, the City Market and Elmwood Park. FAIR also published a newsletter, *The Virginia Gayzette*, to present a balanced picture of the LGBTQ community as more than “deviants, perverts and lawbreakers” and to keep the community informed. In the decades since, other organizations have formed, such as Roanoke Pride, PRISM Foundation, Roanoke Valley Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Roanoke Diversity Center, to promote equal rights, offer support, and educate the general public on LGTBQ issues.

Scope and Content:

- The collection currently consists of 3 record storage boxes and 1 flat oversize storage box. Accruals are expected.
- This collection consists of a variety of materials, such as newsletters, news clippings, posters, flyers, correspondence, organizational records and reports.
- Most of the documents are standard 8 1/2 “x 11” paper, either in loose leaf form or as part of a compilation; exceptions include poster size marketing materials and news clippings.
- Materials range from 1971-2015
- Some of the strengths of the collection include original issues of the *Big Lick Gayzette*, *Virginia Gayzette*, though complete runs of each publication are not included. A complete set of issues of the *Blue Ridge Lambda Press* (formerly *Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance*) is included.
- Records from the following LGBTQ organizations are included: Roanoke Chapter of PFLAG, which contain correspondence to and from the organization to individuals and organizations across the country; Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (later Roanoke Valley Gay & Lesbian Alliance); Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter; Virginia Gay Alliance, State Council; Positive Alternative Life Styles (PALS); Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance.
- News clippings and other ephemera also provide insights into the LGBTQ community through the years.
- Committee records regarding the planning and implementation of various LGBTQ events in the Roanoke Valley, including Pride in the Park.
- Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge newsletters from the 1990s.

Container List:**Box 1 of 4****Series I: Roanoke Diversity Center**

Folder 1: Correspondence – Rev. Dr. Mel White to Jerry Falwell, open letter with editorial.

Folder 2: Flyers - Various RDC events, 2011 – 2015

Folder 3: Magazines – *Informative Q*, June 2014, August 2015, June/July 2016* issues

Folder 4: News clippings – Articles on same-sex marriage in Virginia, taken from an easel display at RDC

Folder 5: News clippings – Various articles related to local LGBTQ issues

Folder 6: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, April 2002 – July 2004 (complete)*

*Issues were removed from this series to be incorporated with Series III to keep issues of publication together.

Folder 7: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, September 2004 – October 2006 (missing December 2006)*

*Issues were removed from this series to be incorporated with Series III to keep issues of publication together.

Folder 8: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 2007 – June 2008 (complete)*

*Issues were removed from this series to be incorporated with Series III to keep issues of publication together.

Folder 9: Newsletters – *Roanoke Gayzette*: Volume 2:2-4, October/November 2009 – February/March 2010; Volume 3:2 and 3:4-5, October/November 2010, February/March 2011 and April/May 2011; Volume 4: 1-3, August/September 2011-November/December 2011; Volume 6:5, September/October 2013.*

*See note with Series VIII

Folders 10-29 contain Organizational information for the Roanoke Valley Chapter of PFLAG, donated by the Roanoke Diversity Center

Folder 10: By-laws

Folder 11: Correspondence between Walter Blouch & Rev. Dr. Mel White regarding White's documentary, "The Verdict Is In"

Folder 12: Correspondence, incoming from other organizations/individuals

Folder 13: Correspondence, incoming correspondence from PFLAG

Folder 14: Correspondence, internal

Folder 15: Correspondence, outgoing

Folder 16: Correspondence regarding PBS film, "In The Life"

Folder 17: Financials - Annual Reports, 1995-1999 and Statement of Financial Standing, 1998

Folder 18: Financials – General Ledger Account, October 1995 - September 1999

Folder 19: Financials – Membership dues paid, December 1995 – August 1999

Folder 20: Financials – Proposed Annual Budget, 1995-1999

Folder 21: Financials – Receipts and checkbook register

Folder 22: Financials - Treasurer's Reports, 1995 – September 1999

Folder 23: Meeting minutes, Executive Committee, August 1997 – May 1999

Folder 24: Mid-Atlantic Conference materials, 30 April – 1 May 1999

Folder 25: Miscellaneous, including flyers and newsletters

Folder 26: Newsletters – September/October 1995 – July/August 1999, Volume 3:5 – Volume 7:4 (missing Volume 4:4)

Folder 27: Scholarship Fund documents, 1998

Folder 28: Scholarship Fund documents, 1999

Folder 29: Survey Results

Folder 30: Reports – "Comprehensive Study with Recommendations for Adding Non-Discrimination Protection Based on Sexual Orientation at the Local Level in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Amending the City of

Lynchburg's Code of Ordinances, Employee Handbook and Creating a Human Rights Commission"

Oversize Box 4

Folder 1: Posters

Series II: Erika Joyner

Folder 31: Flyer advertising transgender conference in Roanoke, 26 September 2015 and blank transgender census form; business card from Guerilla Gay Bar.

Oversize Box 4

Folder 2: Poster – Ladies and Gents of the Blue Ridge Transgender Census

Series III: Edward F. "Gerry" Jennings, Jr.

Folder 32: Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Organizations of Western Virginia – miscellaneous materials

Folder 33: Bibliography of LGBTQ History resources at the Brown Library, Virginia Western Community College.

Folder 34: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Correspondence, 1981-1995 (incomplete)

Folder 35: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – General Information

Folder 36: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Helpline

Folder 37: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Minutes, July 1981 – November 1981

Folder 38: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Publicity

Folder 39: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Surveys: Statewide Candidates, 1981

Folder 40: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Surveys: Candidates for Congress/Senate, 1982-1983; Includes surveys from the Virginia Gay Alliance

Folder 41: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Surveys: Candidates for Congress/Senate, 1982

Folder 42: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Surveys: Candidates for Roanoke City Council, 1982

Folder 43: Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance – Surveys: Candidates for Roanoke City Council, 1984

Folder 44: Brochures – Religion and LGBTQ

Folder 45: Charter – unidentified gay organization, undated (3 copies)

Folder 46: Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns – Miscellaneous

Folder 47: Correspondence – Miscellaneous

Folder 48: Directories – LGBTQ Resources

Folder 49: Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) – Miscellaneous

Folder 50: Events – Blue Ridge Mountain Classic Bowling

Folder 51: Events – First Friday

Folder 52: Events – InJoy: A Lesbian and Gay Community Outreach Series

Folder 53: Events – In Touch

Folder 54: Events – March on Washington, 1987

Folder 55: Events – March on Washington, 1993
Folder 56: Events – North Carolina Gay & Lesbian Conference, 1983
Folder 57: Events – Pride in the Park: Auctions, IV-VII
Folder 58: Events – Pride in the Park V, 1994
Folder 59: Events – Pride in the Park VI, 1995
Folder 60: Events – Pride in the Park VII, 1996
Folder 61: Events – Pride in the Park VIII, 1997
Folder 62: Events – Unitarian Universalism, Thomas Jefferson District 3rd Annual
Welcoming Congregation Conference, September 1993
Folder 63: Gay Rap Group
Folder 64: LGBTQ Organizations – Miscellaneous
Folder 65: LGBTQ Youth – Miscellaneous
Folder 66: Miscellaneous – LGBTQ Issues
Folder 67: National Gay Task Force (NGTF) – Brochures
Folder 68: National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) – Meetings with Sue
Hyde
Folder 69: News Clippings – 1981-1984
Folder 70: News Clippings – 1985

Box 2 of 4

Series III: Edward F. “Gerry” Jennings, Jr.

Folder 1: News Clippings – 1986
Folder 2: News Clippings – 1987
Folder 3: News Clippings – 1988-1989
Folder 4: News Clippings – 1990
Folder 5: News Clippings – 1991
Folder 6: News Clippings – 1992
Folder 7: News Clippings – 1993
Folder 8: News Clippings – 1994
Folder 9: News Clippings – 1995
Folder 10: News Clippings – 1996
Folder 11: News Clippings – 1997
Folder 12: News Clippings – Miscellaneous
Folder 13: News Clippings – *Nightline*, town hall meeting in Roanoke, 24 May
2002; flyer from event
Folder 14: Newsletters – *Big Lick Gayzette*, 10 September 1971 – 3 December
1971, Volumes 1:1 – 1:7
Folder 15: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance* (later *Blue Ridge Lambda
Press*), September 1981-August 1982
Folder 16: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, April 1983-December 1984
(complete)
Folder 17: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 1985-December
1988 (complete)

- Folder 18: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 1989-December 1991 (complete)
- Folder 19: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 1992-November 1994 (complete)
- Folder 20: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 1995-April 1996; June 1997-December 1999
- Folder 21: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 2000-February 2001; July 2001-November 2003*
*April 2002-November 2003 issues were donated with Series I
- Folder 22: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, December 2003-December 2006* (complete)
*December 2003-July 2004 issues were donated with Series I
- Folder 23: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*, January 2007-June 2008 (complete)*
*Issues were donated with Series I
- Folder 24: Newsletters – Miscellaneous
- Folder 25: Newsletters – *Our Own Community Press*, October 1983
- Folder 26: Newsletters – *Positive Alternative Life Styles (PALS)*, July 1980-March 1983
- Folder 27: Newsletters - *Virginia Gayzette*, 20 December 1971 – 5 April 1972, Volumes 1:1, 2:1-2:7; and February – April 1978, Volumes 3:2 – 3:4
- Folder 28: Newsletters - *Virginia Gayzette*, original mock-up of 5 March 1978 issue
- Folder 29: Photographs – “Gay Billboard”, ca. 1985, 1 photographic print, 6 negative strips
- Folder 30: Political Campaigns – United States Senate Race, Virginia candidate information, 1994
- Folder 31: Roanoke Gay & Lesbian Activities (GALA) – Events
- Folder 32: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Minutes with associated documents, August 1988-February 1991
- Folder 33: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Minutes with associated documents, March 1991-August 1992
- Folder 34: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) - Surveys: Candidates, Roanoke City Council, 1990
- Folder 35: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Surveys: Candidates, Roanoke City Council 1992
- Folder 36: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Surveys: Candidates, Roanoke City Council 1994
- Folder 37: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Surveys: Candidates, General Assembly, 1995
- Folder 38: Roanoke Valley Gay Alliance (RVGA) – Surveys: Candidates, Roanoke City Council, 1996
- Folder 39: Roanoke Valley Gay & Lesbian Alliance (RVGLA) – Ad campaign, 1988
- Folder 40: Roanoke Valley Gay & Lesbian Alliance (RVGLA) – By-laws

- Folder 41: Roanoke Valley Gay & Lesbian Alliance (RVGLA) –
Minutes/Agendas, Board of Directors, April 1993-April 1996
Folder 42: Roanoke Valley Gay & Lesbian Alliance – Miscellaneous
Folder 43: Virginia Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Rights – Miscellaneous
Folder 44: Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter – By-laws
Folder 45: Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter – Ephemera

Box 3 of 4

Series III: Edward F. “Gerry” Jennings, Jr.

- Folder 1: Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter – Minutes/Correspondence, ca.
1982-1983
Folder 2: Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter – Minutes/Correspondence,
1984
Folder 3: Virginia Gay Alliance, Roanoke Chapter – Minutes/Correspondence,
1985-1986
Folder 4: Virginia Gay Alliance, State Council – Minutes and associated
documents, November 1982-November 1984
Folder 5: Virginia Gay Alliance, State Council – Minutes and Associated
documents, January 1985-May 1986

Oversize Box 4

- Folder 3: News clippings – 3 laminated articles from the *Roanoke Times*

Series IV: Deanna Marcin

- Folder 6: Items related to 10th Anniversary of shootings at Backstreet Café – news
clipping, flyer and program, September 2010

Oversize Box 4

- Folder 4: Posters:
-Ladies and Gents of the Blue Ridge Transgender Conference,
26 September 2015
-Project Visibility Transgender Social Masquerade, 22 February
???
-Project Visibility Banner

Series V: Rosemary Wyman

- Folder 7: “Save the Date” card from the marriage of Ernesto Rodriguez and Max
Charnley, 2016.

Series VI: Virginia Irene Lindsey

- Folder 8: Photograph – Pride in the Park, 2012.

Series VII: Trish Valentine

Folder 9: Photograph and essay – “Defining Transgender” by Trish Valentine, 20 September 2009. Also included: resources related to understanding the Transgender Community.

Series VIII: Anonymous

Folder 10: Magazine – *Unite Virginia*: Volumes 1 and 2, Holiday 2015 and Winter 2016.

Folder 11: Photographs – Four photographs of Roanoke Pride committee members, 2009; Four photographs of Thursday Night Drag Show at Backstreet Café, 2009.

*Please note that newsletters (*Roanoke Gayzette*, Volume 2:2-4, October/November 2009 – February/March 2010; Volume 3:2 and 3:4-5, October/November 2010; February/March 2011 and April/May 2011; Volume 4: 1-2, August/September 2011 and October 2011; Volume 6:5, September/October 2013) and (*Informative Q*, June/July 2016) donated with this series can be found in Series I.

Series IX: Olivia Streett

Folder 12: General Admission ticket to Pride in the Park, 12 September 2015.

Series X: The Park

Folder 13: Magnets, Charlie Brown, three signed, undated
Backstage Passes to Miss Gay East Coast America (2), undated.

Folder 14: Membership Cards to the Park, 1993, 2000 and 2001
Matchbooks – The Park (2).

Folder 15: Postcards: Jessica Jade, Miss Gay East Coast, 2013 – 2 cards
Roanoke Pride Festival 25, 6-7 September 2014.

Series XI: Southwest Virginia LGBTQ History Project

Folder 16: Agendas – History Project meetings, October 2015 through February 2017

Folder 17: Correspondence – drafts of acknowledgment letters sent to donors of the project.

Folder 18: Documents related to the Project’s Oral History Initiative

Folder 19: Documents related to the Project’s walking tour and bar crawl

Folder 20: Drafts of event pages for the archival collection
Folder 21: Ephemera - Items from other organizations collected by the History Project
Folder 22: Magazines – *Prism Foundation Magazine*, September 2015
Folder 23: News clippings
Folder 24: Signs – History Project meetings
2017.05.11 Addendum
Folder 62: Button – Lambda button from the Gay Alliance of the Roanoke Valley, circa 1971
Folder 63: Documents related to other initiatives of Project
Folder 64: Ephemera – Roanoke Diversity Center programs and events
Folder 65: Script for play, “Coming Out, Coming Home”
Oversize Box 4
Folder 7: Posters, Roanoke Diversity Center Winter Fête, December 2015; Roanoke Diversity Center Winter Fête: Fire and Ice, December 2016; Tablature notes/brainstorming from meetings.

*Please note that two issues of *Informative Q Magazine* (October 2015 and February/March 2016) were donated by the History Project and are included with previously donated issues in Series I.

Series XII: Michael Blankenship

Folder 25: Flyers – Miscellaneous
Folder 26: Miscellaneous documents
Folder 27: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Banner*: June 1990-December 1991, Issues 1-19 (complete); Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge
Folder 28: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Banner*: January 1992-December 1993, Issues 20-43 (complete); Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge
Folder 29: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Banner*: January 1994-August 1995, Issues 44-63 (missing: 48, 55, 56, 60, and 61); Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge
Folder 30: Newsletters – *Blue Ridge Messenger**: August 1997-November 1998 (incomplete); Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge
**Messenger* superseded the *Blue Ridge Banner*.
Folder 31: Programs – Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge: various services, 1990-1999

Series XIII: Rev. Catherine Houchins

Folder 32: News clippings – Backstreet Café Shootings: Album 1
Folder 33: News clippings – Backstreet Café Shootings: Album 2
Folder 34: News clippings – Backstreet Café Shootings*: Album 3
*contains several articles not related to shootings

Series XIV: Mary Boenke

Folder 35: Booklet: "Our Trans Children", 4th ed. A publication of PFLAG

Series XV: Dan Jones, Jim Ricketson Memorial Library

- Folder 36: Administrative Records – Acquisitions
- Folder 37: Administrative Records – Correspondence, March 2001-December 2003
- Folder 38: Administrative Records – Minutes and Agendas: Board, 24 January 2001 – 12 December 2002
- Folder 39: Administrative Records – policies and procedures
- Folder 40: Brochures, flyers, handouts
- Folder 41: Financial Records – Accounting reports, 2002-2003
- Folder 42: Financial Records – Bank Statements, deposit slips, cancelled checks, 2001-2006
- Folder 43: Financial Records – Billing statements
- Folder 44: Financial Records – Receipts, book sales
- Folder 45: Financial Records – Receipts, miscellaneous
- Folder 46: Guest book and volunteer badge
- Folder 47: News clippings
- Folder 48: Newsletters, November 2001-July 2002
- Folder 49: Obituary – Ed B. Harris, Jr.
- Folder 50: Photographs – Jim Ricketson
- Folder 51: Photographs – Jim Ricketson Memorial Library
- Folder 52: Photographs – Jim Ricketson Memorial Library, 2 copies on disc
- Folder 53: Programs and supporting members
- Folder 54: Website – Printouts of webletters, 2000-2001

Oversize Box 4

Folder 5: Photographs and poster – 2 copies of photograph of Ed Harris working in the Ricketson Library taken by the Roanoke Times staff; 1 library poster soliciting support/membership.

Series XVI: Gregory Rosenthal, Jim Ricketson Memorial Library

- Folder 55: Administrative Records – Overdue materials procedural documents
- Folder 56: Brochures, flyers, bookmarks
- Folder 57: Catalog of holdings
- Folder 58: Signage

Series XVII: Dan Jones

Folder 59: Gay Alliance of Roanoke – Statement of Policy and Constitution and By-Laws

Folder 60: Magazine: *Roanoker*, “The Gay Life in Roanoke”, Holiday Issue, 1977; “Backstreet to Center Stage”, October 2001

Folder 61: Magazine: *Washington Post Magazine*, “Their Town: A Gay Community’s Search for Acceptance in a Small Southern City”, February 2001.

Oversize Box 4

Folder 6: Poster – Roanoke Pride Pageant, 2002

Series XVIII: Sherman Bamford

Oversize Box 4

Folder 6: Newsletter: *New River Free Press*, Volume 8:3, April/May 1990; Volume 15:4, May/June 1997; Volume 17:6, July-September 1999; Volume 18:8, October/November 2000; Volume 21:7, October/November 2003; Volume 22:3,4,6 May/June 2004, June/July 2004, September/October 2004; Volume 23:1&9, March/April 2005, December 2005/January 2006; Volume 24:2&3, April/May 2006, May/June 2006; Volume 25:5, July-September 2007

