

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
General Meeting at the Roanoke Public Library
February 9, 2017**

6 people in attendance

AGENDA

6pm: Check-ins
6:05pm: QUICK UPDATES
6:20pm: COMMUNITY CURATION
6:35pm: GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION
6:45pm: DEMOGRAPHIC EXPANSION
6:55pm: ARTS INITIATIVE
7:20pm: OTHER IDEAS
7:30pm: Departure

QUICK UPDATES

- 1) ARCHIVES
 - a. Physical Archives: no new donations.
 - b. Digital Archives:
 - i. We have successfully uploaded all of PALS (Positive Alternative Life Styles), Volume 1 and 2. We have also uploaded almost all of the *Skip Two Periods* newspapers. Meanwhile, RB and HA have scanned in all the PALS newsletters (1980-1983), and HA is now scanning in *Blue Ridge Lambda Press* newspapers.
 - ii. There are now 53 items in our digital archives, up from 29 as of January 1. We are on a roll.
 - c. HOMEWORK: Weekly scanning/research sessions in the Virginia Room are on Fridays, 2:30pm-close (5pm). All are welcome to attend. (If that date/time doesn't work for you, we can figure out other times, too. The Virginia Room is open Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 8pm, if that helps.)
- 2) WALKING TOURS
 - a. Downtown Tour: We are about one week away from finalizing a new lamination with picture of PH on the courthouse steps, for our first stop about trans sex work.
 - i. We are also receiving increasing requests for private tours, particularly for school/college groups.
 - b. OSW tour: GR sent out the revised tour script to everyone in early January. Please review and suggest edits to the script.
 - i. Next test-run of the OSW tour: Sunday, April 9, 2pm-4pm
 - c. New guides: CP is currently training to be a guide for our Downtown tour. Her first public tour will be in April.

- d. HOMEWORK: review OSW tour script. Become a volunteer tour guide!
- 3) LGBT LIBRARY
- a. We have moved the entire library downstairs from the MCC church into the Roanoke Diversity Center space. As of today we have cataloged about 1,200 books (out of an approximately 3,000). We now believe that the cataloging project will probably be finished around September.
 - b. Librarathon: We are holding day-long library cataloging marathon, which will include cataloging books, food, music, dramatic readings, etc.!
 - i. Saturday, March 11, 2pm-midnight @ RDC
 - c. HOMEWORK: Weekly library cataloging sessions continue nearly every Sunday, 1pm-4pm, at the RDC. Get in touch with GR to get involved. Bring a laptop.
- 4) ORAL HISTORIES
- a. Phase III (QPOC Histories): These are underway with four black LGBT narrators and four white queer women. Interviews should be completed by March 1. Transcripts will be done by March 23. Edits and “publication” of the audio and transcripts should be done by May 1.
 - b. Extra Oral Herstories: JG has completed two long interviews so far with First Friday members. She may complete yet more. Volunteers and RC students are working on completing the transcripts for these. They will follow the same timeline, with a projected May 1 deposition into the archives.
 - c. Phase IV (collectivization) will begin in August or September with a month-long series of community workshop on oral history theory and practice.

COMMUNITY CURATION

- 1) We are developing an online exhibition about LGBTQ history in Southwest Virginia in the 1980s. Instead of adding more points to the timeline---because we didn’t have anything new to add, either!---we discussed and came up with the following schedule for moving forward with community curation:
 - a. First: schedule an Archives Research Party @ Virginia Room. Here is a potential date: Thursday, February 16, 5:30pm-7:30pm. GR will send out to listserv and see if people are available to partay.
 - i. This event will involve us all splitting up and looking through different aspects of our archival collection related to the 1980s. We’ll all take notes (and photos) of things that strike us as important, and then put our heads together at the end of the session about what we’ve found and what the next steps are.
 - b. Second / simultaneously: everyone should use the oral history subject index (on our website) as a guide to looking through and

listening/reading to some of our 19 completed oral histories for evidence related to the 1980s and looking for choice audio excerpts (1-3 minutes in length) that we might want to embed in our exhibition.

- c. Third: Once we have reviewed the entire archive and the oral history collection for 1980s-era data, then we should schedule a community workshop and invite people to see what we've come up with and give us feedback and suggestions for improving the exhibit.
 - d. It is unlikely that we will launch this exhibit in September 2017. Probably more like September 2018! We'll see.
- 2) HOMEWORK: Go down to the Virginia Room to look through our archives and take notes on 1980s-era materials. Suggest key events/places/people/etc. for the 1980s exhibit.
- a. Weekly scanning/research sessions resume on Friday afternoons, 2:30 – close (5pm). Feel free to go to the Virginia Room at other hours, too, to look for material for our exhibition!

GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION

- 1) Lynchburg
 - a. Workshop / Storycircle at the Lynchburg Diversity Center (LDC): Tuesday, March 7, 6pm-8pm
 - b. General Meeting in Lynchburg: Thursday, March 16, 7pm-9pm
- 2) Blacksburg
 - a. JG is in contact with a lesbian organization in Blacksburg. We are planning a workshop / storycircle there focused on lesbian herstory for Thursday, April 20. More info TBD.
 - b. General meeting in Blacksburg: May TBD.
- 3) It was suggested that Floyd would be another good place to hold a workshop / storycircle.
- 4) HOMEWORK: To help with the Lynchburg workshop, get in touch with OM. To help with the Blacksburg workshop, get in touch with JG.

DEMOGRAPHIC EXPANSION

- 1) Gainsboro:
 - a. African American LGBTQ Storycircle, facilitated by Jenae Thompson, organized by NM and others: Saturday, April 8, 2pm-4pm.
 - b. NM has posted an event blurb to the listserv. Please give him feedback ASAP before we start promoting this event!
- 2) HOMEWORK: To get involved with the Gainsboro event, get in touch with NM.

ARTS INITIATIVE

- 1) LGBTQ+ History Zine!
 - a. RB met with Community High School students on Jan 27. They came up with a flyer / promotional material to call for materials for the zine, which will be published sometime in May!
 - b. We distributed flyers. Everyone please put up flyers around town to get people to contribute to the project! The deadline for submissions is March 31.
- 2) Lycée event at Community High School on Tuesday, February 21, daytime.
 - a. RB submitted an application for a living history / interactive theater workshop and it was immediately approved! RB will be leading the actual workshop.
 - b. The title of the workshop is “Living Trans History,” and focuses on the lives of five historical transwomen in Southwest Virginia, with material pulled from a mix of archival and oral history resources.
 - c. Based on how this goes, we are scheduled to do a more polished version of this workshop at RDC’s Diversity Camp this summer. Our workshop is scheduled as such:
 - i. Friday, June 16, 9-10:30am (middle schoolers)
 - ii. Friday, June 16, 1-2:30pm (high schoolers and young adults)
- 3) Historical Marker Campaign
 - a. OM has checked with the UU church and suggested times that we can have our Community Forum there. How about...
 - i. Wed., March 15, 7pm-9pm?
 - ii. Wed., March 22, 7pm-9pm?
 - iii. Wed., March 29, 6pm-8pm? or 7pm-9pm?
 - b. GR will reach out to people who used to attend The Trade Winds and try to get them to come to our Community Forum. We’ll also invite the City Manager, and any other stakeholders.
 - c. AH has proposed to create a mockup of a historical marker for us to visualize the marker at the forum.
 - d. If the forum is successful, then we will schedule a launch party in April or May at The Park to launch our crowdfunding campaign for the marker.
 - e. GR will write up an event blurb for the forum and send out to the listserv for everyone’s feedback.
- 4) Recreative / Performative Events
 - a. Friday, April 28, 7pm-onward: Second Annual Queer History Bar Crawl
- 5) Elmwood Art Walk proposal
 - a. MB submitted his application for “Crack a Window,” a site-specific queer history sculpture on Feb. 6. Now we are just waiting to hear what the Arts Commission thinks! If accepted, the sculpture/installation will go up in May 2017, and be up there for over a year!

OTHER IDEAS / CONCERNS

- 1) Queer History Dinner Party
 - a. RB proposed the idea of a queer history dinner party. Perhaps we would dress up in costume and take on the character of an important LGBTQ historical figure?
 - b. Schedule for August, as a way to get people revved up in advance of big volunteer needs for Pride Week in September.
- 2) DECENTRALIZATION:
 - a. RB and OM have stepped up as an “executive committee” to help lead meetings and be primary contact persons for the History Project in the months of May, June, and July.
 - b. GR has written out instructions for “How to Run the History Project,” and will send this out to the listserv for everyone’s review.
 - c. RB will lead the May monthly project meeting, and then we’ll see where we go from there.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 7pm-9pm @ LDC office, 2nd floor, Riverviews Artspace, 901 Jefferson Street, Lynchburg
- 2) Help with scanning/research at the Virginia Room--- Fridays 2:30-5pm, or by appointment
- 3) Review the OSW walking tour script. Volunteer to become a walking tour guide! Training is provided.
- 4) Help digitize the LGBT Library catalog--- Sundays 1pm-4pm @ RDC. Bring a laptop.
- 5) Help with community curation of our 1980s exhibition timeline. Suggest key events/people/places for the 1980s exhibition. Scanning/research sessions on Friday afternoons.
- 6) Help us our plan the Lynchburg-based history workshop or Blacksburg-based history workshop or African American history workshop.
- 7) Contribute to the Queer History Zine!
- 8) Help lead project meetings or otherwise be part of a so-called Executive Committee for the project!
- 9) #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain!
- 10) Have fun. ☺

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 16, 5:30-close (8pm): Archives Research Party @ Virginia Room???

Sunday, February 19, 2pm-4pm: Downtown Roanoke Walking Tour

Tuesday, February 21, daytime: Lycée living history workshop @ Community High School

Tuesday, March 7, 6pm-8pm: History Project workshop / storycircle @ Lynchburg Diversity Center

Saturday, March 11, 2pm-midnight: Librarathon @ Roanoke Diversity Center

Thursday, March 16, 7pm-9pm: General Meeting @ Riverviews Artspace, Lynchburg

March, date TBD: Community Forum (Historical Marker Campaign) @ UU Church

Sunday, March 26, 2pm-4pm: Downtown Roanoke Walking Tour

Saturday, April 8, 2pm-4pm: African American LGBTQ Story Circle @ Gainsboro Branch Library, Roanoke

Sunday, April 9, 2pm-4pm: Second Test-Run of OSW Gayborhood Walking Tour

Thursday, April 13, 5:30-7:30pm: General Meeting @ Roanoke Public Library

Thursday, April 20, time TBD: Lesbian Herstory workshop / storycircle @ Blacksburg

Sunday, April 23, 2pm-4pm: Downtown Roanoke Walking Tour

Friday, April 28, 7pm – onward: Second Annual Queer History Bar Crawl

May TBD: General Meeting @ Blacksburg

Sunday, May 21, 2pm-4pm: Downtown Roanoke Walking Tour

June 14-18: RDC Diversity Camp