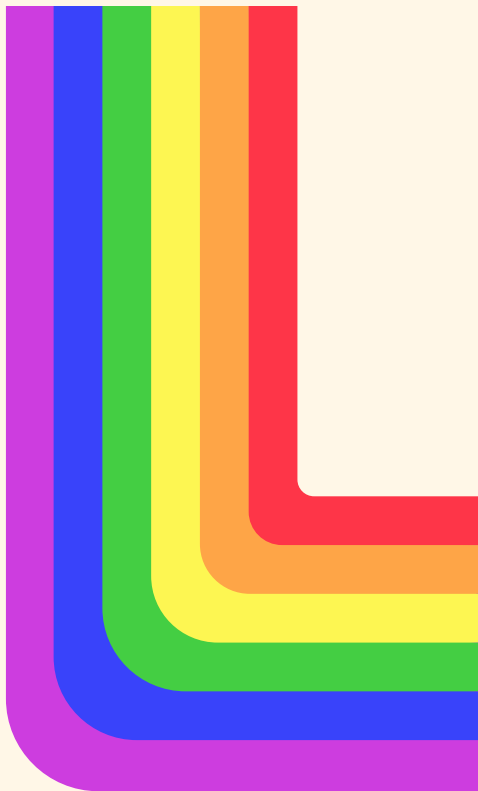


LGBTQ

Religious Archives Network



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024





LGBTQ Religious Archives Network

CONTENTS

Message from the Board	01
What We Are	02
Testimonials	03
What We've Done	04
Leadership	06
2023-2024 Year-End Financial Report	07
Thank You to Our Donors	08

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



LGBTQ
Religious Archives Network

LGBTQ persons of faith have had—and continue to have—a profound, foundational impact upon our religious and social institutions, here and around the world. Beneath the headline of just about any story you’ve seen or heard about LGBTQ+ equality in the past year you will find people whose resistance is fueled by faith in a Divine that holds them as beloved regardless of what the world says or does.

The LGBTQ Religious Archives Network exists to tell and to preserve the history of that resistance so that current and future generations can learn from it and build upon it. We remain the only LGBTQ archive that has a faith-focused mission. That makes LGBTQ-RAN an essential resource for anyone seeking to tell the full story of the LGBTQ fight for equality and dignity or write the next chapters of that story.

Given all of the crosscurrents affecting LGBTQ people around the world at this moment, we feel a new sense of urgency about our mission. That is why in the past year we have worked to increase our communications capacity and effectiveness, produced a regular stream of compelling online events that bring our archival content alive and guide today’s history makers in preserving their work, and supported the development of educational curricula that brings our faith journeys into the classroom in all of their color and context. We continue to do this with a small but mighty contract staff, maximizing our limited resources.

Maya Angelou once said that “if you don’t know where you’ve come from, you don’t know where you’re going.” History tells us from where we’ve come, and, as we state prominently on our home page, “history is told from the perspective of those who preserve their records.” That’s why it is important to ensure that LGBTQ-RAN has the support it needs to preserve the record of how far we’ve come.

WHAT WE ARE



LGBTQ-RAN is an innovative venture in preserving history and encouraging study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) religious movements around the world. LGBTQ-RAN's exists to:

- 1** Assist LGBTQ+ religious leaders and groups in determining how best to preserve their records and papers in appropriate repositories.
- 2** Provide an electronic information clearinghouse for these archival collections and other historical data about LGBTQ religious history for the use of historians, researchers, and other interested persons.
- 3** Encourage scholarly research and study and education on LGBTQ religious history.

LGBTQ-RAN was founded by Mark Bowman in 2001 to coordinate the preservation of the history of LGBTQ religious movements that date back to the 1950s using emerging digital technology. LGBTQ-RAN began as a project of Chicago Theological Seminary with seed funding from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

In 2008, LGBTQ-RAN became a program of the Center for LGBTQ & Gender Studies (CLGS) at the Pacific School of Religion. In 2020, LGBTQ-RAN incorporated independently in the State of Illinois, created an independent board of directors, and was certified by the IRS as a charitable, 501(c)3 organization.

TESTIMONIALS

“

Archiving is activism. LGBTQ-RAN engages my undergraduates in learning about their queer elders—the courageous, determined, everyday change makers who brought radical hospitality into practice. The archives inspire a younger generation about our incredible history.

I am honored to serve on the board of the archives and to have my own profile as a feminist lesbian rabbi with my own story and contributions. The archives help us convey what it was like and how we brought change. The archives serve as a wellspring for hope and joy and inspiration for making the future better, where LGBTQ+ people can and do experience the blessings of spiritual community.



—Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, D.D.

”

“

LGBTQ-RAN is a unique digital crossroads where sexuality and spirituality are in harmony, a gathering space with archives, exhibits, oral histories, and moving profiles of LGBTQ pioneers from diverse faith and religious communities.

LGBTQ-RAN is a resource of hope – gathering, holding and sharing queer stories of liberation, courage and tenderness. Back in Ireland we used to say you can argue ‘til the cows come home but it’s the stories that transform minds and hearts.



Each day I read a story from the LGBTQ-RAN profiles as a spiritual practice. There are hundreds of stories of passionate queer saints, persons of fierce courage and great heart, bearers of hope and makers of history.

—Brendan Fay

”

WHAT WE'VE DONE

From its onset, LGBTQ-RAN has been an online archive at lgbtqreligiousarchives.org that provides free and easy access to extensive information on LGBTQ religious history. The primary components include:



Information on more than 450 archival collections on LGBTQ religious history held in repositories around the world.



[Biographical profiles](#) on more than 650 leaders of LGBTQ religious movements around the world.



[Oral history interviews](#) of more than 75 leaders of LGBTQ religious movements.



[Online exhibitions](#) featuring digital artifacts arranged to dramatically portray the story of a particular element of LGBTQ religious history.

In this year alone, LGBTQ-RAN added :

42

collections listings

18

remembrances

2

new teaching resources

49

biographical profiles

4

oral history interviews

1

new online exhibition

In addition, LGBTQ-RAN encourages scholarly study and research by sponsoring an annual **LGBTQ Religious History Award** – named in memory of Virginia Ramey Mollenkott – for outstanding research and writing as well as an annual **Educational Resource Prize** for outstanding teaching materials.



In 2023 the winner of the **Virginia Ramey Mollenkott award** was **Austin Steelman** for his paper “‘Not an ‘Ordinary Man:’ J. Gresham Machen and the Un-Queering of Evangelical Theology.” Steelman's paper was published in *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* (online from Cambridge University Press on March 30, 2023).



In 2023 LGBTQ-RAN awarded its **Educational Resource Prize** to **Rima Vesley-Flad, Ph.D.** for her course syllabus for Buddhism, Race, Gender, and Sexuality.

LGBTQ-RAN also hosts monthly webinars that range from engaging, in-depth interviews of LGBTQ religious leaders, scholars, and activists to workshops that provide resources for groups interested in preserving their historical records. These live events are made available on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram as well as on [the events page of our website](#) as an invaluable resource.

In October 2023, dozens of LGBTQ-RAN friends and supporters gathered virtually for a first-ever GALA celebration of queer religious history with the theme “[Radical Resistance.](#)” This lively, spirited event honored these renowned activist/leaders: Rabbi Denise Eger; Bishop Yvette Flunder; Barbara Satin; Rev. Dr. Mel White; J Mase III; and Rev. J.J. Warren. Testimonials spotlighted LGBTQ-RAN’s valuable work to preserve queer religious history and to encourage research and study. The GALA’s 39 sponsoring congregations, groups and schools plus 47 donors contributed over \$18,000 to support LGBTQ-RAN’s mission.

39
sponsors

47
donors

\$18K+
raised in the GALA

LEADERSHIP

The work of LGBTQ-RAN is overseen by a richly diverse board of 12 directors and executed by a small team of dedicated team of contract personnel, supported by an advisory team and a network of volunteers. To learn more about our leadership and staff, please visit lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/about.



Board of Directors

2023-24 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

(JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024)

OPERATING FUND

Revenue

Unrestricted Donations	\$52,806.00
Grant Revenue	\$33,400.00
Interest	\$23.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$86,229.00

Expenses

Historical Preservation	\$23,454.00
Educational Resources	\$15,935.00
Communications and Outreach	\$28,311.00
Administration	\$18,615.00
Restricted Expenses	\$2,900.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$89,215.00

6/30/2024 Operating Fund Balance \$4,935.00

6/30/2024 Reserve Fund Balance \$13,046.00

MOLLENKOTT ENDOWMENT FUND

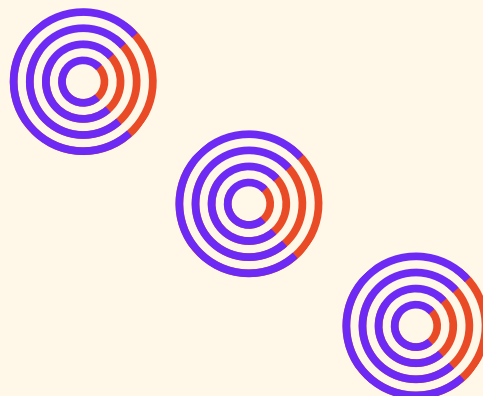
6/30/2023 Balance	\$46,688.00
Donations to Fund	\$3,800.00
Return on Investments	\$10,988.00
Expenses for 2023-24 Award	\$(3,600.00)
6/30/2024 BALANCE	\$57,876.00

HIGHLIGHTS

Unrestricted donations increased by 40% over the previous fiscal year (\$37,659 to \$52,806). Giving units increased by 36% (128 to 174). Much of the increased support was a result of the GALA celebration.

Operating expenses (which are largely for contract personnel) increased by 8% to \$89,215, leaving a positive fund balance of \$4,935 at the end of the fiscal year.

The endowment fund for the Virginia Mollenkott Award had a very high rate of return on investments, increasing the fund balance to almost \$58,000, after covering expenses for the 2023-24 Award.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



LGBTQ-RAN is deeply grateful to the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for its generous grant support for our operations. A special grant from the Haney-Leighton Fund helped cover the expenses for the Queer Spirit podcast exhibit.

\$1,000+

Mark Bowman
Fetzer Institute
Ron Gebhardtsbauer
and Greg Wright
Scott S. Haldeman
Institute for Judaism, Sexual
Orientation and Gender
Identity
Nancy E. Krody
Joel L. Kushner
Jim Mitulski
Richard Petersen
and Wayne Bradley
Bob Roehm
Marnie M. Warner

\$500-\$999

Kim Byham
Judy Cayot
Lisa Edwards and Tracy Moore
First UMC Austin
Morris Floyd and Alex Herrera
Jay E. Johnson
Lynn Jordan
Ted Karpf
Roberto Ochoa
Stephen P. Pentek
Chuck Phelan
Isaiah J. Lewis Poole
Marti Scheel
Michelle A. Scheidt
and Barbara Crock
David Showers and Bruce
Calvin

\$250-\$499

Affirmation: United Methodists
for LGBTQ Concerns
Rebecca T. Alpert
Association of Welcoming
Affirming Baptists
Auburn Theological Seminary
Jim Bailey and Paul Burguières
Bexley Seabury Seminary
Ashley Boggan
Boston University School
of Theology
Brite Divinity School
Cathedral of Hope
Center for LGBTQ and Gender
Studies in Religion
Chicago Theological Seminary
Church of the Covenant
Colgate Rochester Crozier
Divinity School
Congregation Beit
Simchat Torah
Congregation Kol Ami
Congregational Archives
and Library
Dignity USA
Karen Doherty
Eden Theological Seminary
Janet Edwards
Denise L. Eger
Bob C. Eiffert and Michael
Curry
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary

Jakob Hero-Shaw
Lancaster Theological
Seminary
Jan M. Lawrence
Lutheran Theological School
at Chicago
Brian R. McNaught
and Ray Struble
J. Gordon Melton
Metropolitan Community
Churches
National LGBTQ Task Force
Old South Church
Open and Affirming Coalition
Anthony Michael Petro
Reconciling Ministries Network
Annabeth Roeschley
St. Paul's UCC
Eric Schuman
Gary Shephard
Soulforce
Roland Stringfellow
Richard Henry Taylor
Union Theological Seminary
United Theological Seminary
of the Twin Cities
Vanderbilt Theological School
Wesley Theological Seminary
Melissa M. Wilcox
and Nicole Pitsavas
Yale Divinity School
Stan Yogi and David Carroll

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



\$100-\$249

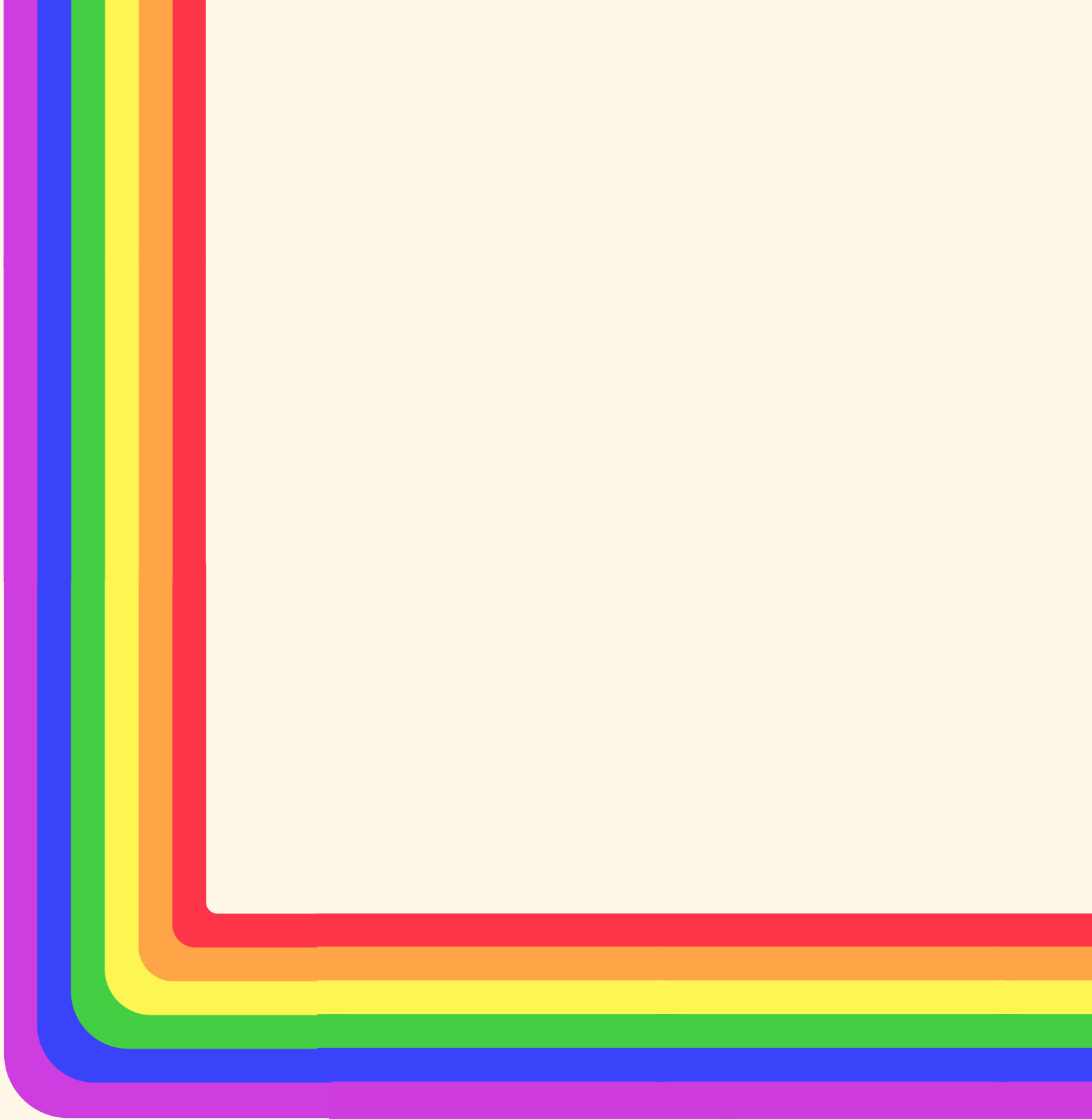
Grace Aheron
Dennis and Gail Alexander
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Jim and Jackie Spahr
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Leo Treadway
Trudi Veldman
Ralph Earl Watkins
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Lucy Williams and Faith Perry

\$1-\$99

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