

2025 Annual Report



LGBTQ
Religious Archives Network



LGBTQ-RAN is an innovative venture

in preserving and encouraging the study of LGBTQ+ religious history around the world. LGBTQ-RAN:

- Assists LGBTQ+ religious leaders and groups in determining how best to preserve their records and papers in appropriate repositories.
- Provides 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.
- Encourages scholarly research and study and education on LGBTQ+ religious history.
- Presents programs featuring authors, scholars, and faith leaders that amplify key facets of LGBTQ+ religious history as well as current issues.

In 2025, LGBTQ-RAN:

- **Increased to more than 500 the number of archival collections** listed in the online catalog, up from 450 at the start of the year.
- **Published nearly 100 new biographical profiles** of leaders of LGBTQ+ religious movements around the world, increasing the total to nearly 750.
- **Increased to 90 the number of oral histories** on LGBTQ+ religious movement leaders.
- **Continued to host 17 online exhibitions** featuring digital artifacts arranged to dramatically portray the story of a particular element of LGBTQ+ religious history.
- **Hosted 10 monthly webinars viewed by more than 1,200 people** either live or on demand on YouTube.
- **Presented two cash awards to recognize excellence** in scholarship and teaching about LGBTQ+ religious history: the Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Award to Italian historian Achille Marotta for his paper on same-sex intimacy between Muslims and Christians in 18th-century Italy, and the Educational Resource Prize to Sydney Sheedy for her slide show examining the spiritual side of queer organizing at the height of the AIDS epidemic.
- **Held an annual online GALA that honored five movement elders** and three of today's changemakers. It raised more than \$25,000 to support LGBTQ-RAN programs, thanks to the support of seven champion-level and 41 partner-level sponsors as well as more than 50 individual donors.



An average of 213 people a day visited

lgbtqreligiousarchives.org in 2025. They most often come to read our profiles, but over the course of the past year about 3,000 people have visited our online exhibits and more than 1,600 have visited our oral history page. In addition, our email list grew 9% to bring our subscriber total to 3,698.

Our audience is increasingly international: 17% of our web traffic is from outside the United States. That includes 6% from the United Kingdom, 4% from Canada, and significant numbers from Germany, Brazil, and Australia.

It began in 2001 with an audacious idea:

What if the internet, which at that time was rapidly becoming a primary way for people to find and share information, could be used as a repository for the often untold and underappreciated stories of LGBTQ+ people of faith and their impact on the quest for a more just and inclusive world?

That year, Mark Bowman launched the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network as a project of Chicago Theological Seminary with seed funding from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Using emerging digital technologies, LGBTQ-RAN began building a virtual archive that included its own profiles and links to collections held in repositories around the world, accessible to anyone in the world with access to a web browser.

This year, LGBTQ-RAN celebrates its 25th anniversary, having grown from a seminary project to an independent, 501(c)(3) organization with a global footprint. The stories and resources aggregated by LGBTQ-RAN have become the backbone of numerous books, research papers, and podcasts. Importantly, the chapters in the continuing story of LGBTQ+ equality are now written with LGBTQ+ people of faith where they belong in the center of the narrative.

We are celebrating, but we are not resting. We are adding a European Public Historian to our small but mighty part-time contract team. We have launched a new \$1,500 exhibit grant to encourage the creation of a high-quality virtual exhibit based on scholarly research of a significant milestone in LGBTQ+ religious history. We are continuing to host monthly webinars that use significant historical events, trends, and people in LGBTQ+ religious history to inform the present and forge the future. And we continue to encourage records preservation and the use of those records in scholarly research.

As one of our board members, Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, likes to say, “archiving is activism.” Archiving is the difference between a voice that is heard for one moment in one place and a voice that echoes through time and space. Archiving means that our voices are not silenced, but can educate and motivate again and again. Making that possible has been the mission of LGBTQ-RAN, and we are committed to making sure our voices are preserved and amplified for generations to come.

That commitment has always been possible only because of your generous support—and for that we give you our deepest thanks. We hope we can count on you to continue this sacred journey with us. We need each other more than ever.



A dedicated board of directors oversees

the work of LGBTQ-RAN. That work is executed by a small 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.



Marnie Warner
(Chair)



Rabbi Camille Shira Angel



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Rev. Cedric A. Harmon



Ve'Amber D. Miller



Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski



Monique Moultrie, PhD



Rev. Roberto Ochoa



Richard ('Rick') Peterson

The backbone of LGBTQ-RAN is

a small team of part-time contract staff and volunteers led by executive director and founder Mark Bowman. Volunteers assist with biographical profiles, recording oral history interviews, and gathering artifacts for online exhibitions. LGBTQ-RAN provides training and guidance. To learn more about our team members, go to lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/team.

Our interns are essential contributors

to our work—and especially so in 2025. Our intern program is designed to give students and scholars valuable opportunities to not only bolster our programs but advance their academic or career aspirations. Here's some of the outstanding work each of our interns did in 2025.



Soad Elbahwati connected with queer Muslim leaders and groups and wrote a number of biographical profiles of those leaders.



Tiarra Hill wrote profiles and created video content for the GALA and our social media channels.

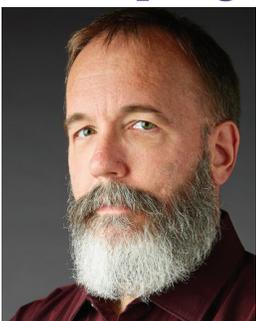


Elina Mäkinen gathered information about key European LGBTQ+ religious groups and leaders, including their archival collections, and wrote several profiles.



Livy Brager created social media videos about LGBTQ-RAN events and edited the organization's new introductory video.

We pay special tribute to Carl Foote



who retired from LGBTQ-RAN after 24 years of service to the organization. Carl was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the online infrastructure that made LGBTQ-RAN possible, using when possible open-source platforms that enabled the organizations to minimize its expenses while offering a high-quality, robust website. We are deeply indebted to Carl for his steadfast dedication to the organization and his unmatched skill in making our ever-expanding trove of content available to the world.

Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Financial Report

OPERATING FUND

Revenue	
Donations	\$72,285
Grants	\$32,000
TOTAL	\$104,285

Expenses	
Historical Preservation	\$37,954
Educational Resources	\$22,652
Communications & Outreach	\$36,021
Administration	\$23,295
TOTAL	\$109,922

YEAR-END FUND BALANCES (12/31/2025)

Operating Fund	\$5,089
Reserve Fund	\$15,527
Bob Roehm Intern Fund	\$8,842
Mollenkott Endowment	\$67,295
TOTAL ASSETS	\$99,153

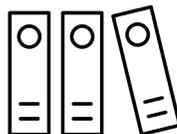
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Donation revenue increased** by 37% from the previous fiscal year—from \$52,806 to \$72,285. The number of givers increased by 15% from 174 to 200.
- **Operating expenses** (which are largely for contract personnel) increased by 23% to \$109,222, leaving a positive fund balance of \$5,089 at the end of the fiscal year.
- **A generous \$10,000 gift** from major donor Bob Roehm was invested and will be used to pay a stipend for one part-time intern for several years.
- **The endowment fund** for the Virginia Mollenkott Award had a strong return on investments, increasing by almost \$10,000 even after covering expenses for the 2024-25 Award.

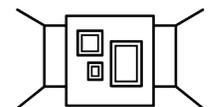
Our supporters have enabled us to host:



743
profiles of
LGBTQ+
faith leaders



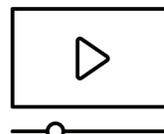
518
links to primary
source collections



17
online
exhibitions



95
oral histories



50
webinars and
online events

Thank you to our donors

Major support for LGBTQ-RAN's operations was provided by an annual grant from the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

\$2,500+

Mark Bowman
Congregational Church of the Peninsula
Sharon Groves
Nancy E. Krody
Rick Peterson & Wayne Bradley
Bob Roehm
Marnie M. Warner

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Carter Heyward
Lynn Jordan
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Monique Moultrie
Reconciling Ministries Network
Starr King School for the Ministry
United Church of Christ, National Setting
Virginia Theological Seminary

\$500-\$999

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\$250-\$499

Affirmation: United Methodists for LGBTQ Concerns
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James Doig Anderson

Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists
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Christian Theological Seminary
Church of the Covenant
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Wesley Theological Seminary
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual
Wyoming Equality

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Holy Troublemakers Gala Champions



Holy Troublemakers Gala Sponsors



OUR STORIES MATTER



Congregational Library & Archives





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