

# Madison LGBTQ Archives

Andrew Shaffer gives us a glimpse of the growing collection of Madison queer history memorabilia now on display.

Over the last year the Madison LGBTQ Archive has grown to encompass more than 50 individual collections spanning 75 years of local LGBTQ history. We are still actively seeking donations, but we want to let you know about some of the rich history we have collected so far and how you can learn more about Madison's vast queer past.

Interested in the local lesbian music scene? The archive contains performance posters, files, and correspondence from the Fallen Woman collective and nearly a decade of Cowgirl Sweethearts files and memorabilia in the Beverly Buhr collection.

Or maybe you want to know about the queer newspapers that pre-dated *Our Lives*. Explore the Brooks Egerton collection and its wealth of information about OUT!, Gay Madison, and Egerton's other jour-

nalistic endeavors. Or browse old issues of the Hag Rag, Wisconsin's lesbian feminist magazine, in the Lance Link Collection and a whole host of regional and national LGBTQ periodicals in the Sue Goldwom-on collection.

Frustrated with politics in 2016 and want to explore the queer political landscape of yesteryear? Dive into Judy Greenspan's 1973 candidacy for Madison School Board, or campaign files from Dick Wagner's political career. The Outreach and Integrity/Dignity collections contain

information about the work these organizations have engaged in for decades to promote the rights and perspectives of queer people in Madison and around the country.

Madison's queer community has long been involved in local schools and we have a growing collection from teachers and administrators about queer life in education. Pat Calchina's collection contains fascinating accounts from her career as an educator, and the PFLAG collection holds two decades of information about the organization's work with young people. To learn about college life, try the Joe Elder collection, which includes course syllabi and readings from his LGBTQ courses, or the George Mosse collection for more about this iconic figure and his role in the university.

Finally, you can learn about important queer spaces by diving into the Lewis Bosworth and Robert Haman collections, where you'll find pictures, newsletters, holiday cards, and letters from patrons to Rod's and the New Bar. Michele Besant's files include original signs and menus from Lysistrata as well as news clippings about the fiery destruction of this space that was important for so many local queer women.

This is just a small sampling of the stories contained in the archive, which are now permanently preserved for future researchers and community members. We invite you to come by the archives, located in Steenbock Memorial Library, to browse the collection and see where you fit in. Visit us online at [go.wisc.edu/LGBTQ60s](http://go.wisc.edu/LGBTQ60s) to learn more about the archive and to find out how you can contribute to this growing collection of local queer history. ■

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