The Queer Omaha Archives: The First 5 Years

Amy C. Schindler
University of Nebraska Omaha, acschindler@unomaha.edu

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The Queer Omaha Archives: The First Five Years

Amy Schindler, she | her | hers
Director, Archives and Special Collections
UNO Libraries

NCompass Live
October 6, 2021
Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the University of Nebraska at Omaha is a metropolitan university with campuses, programs, service learning, and community engagement spread across the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Omaha, Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kaw Peoples, as well as the relocated Ho-Chunk, Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples. Please take a moment to consider the legacies of more than 100 years of displacement, violence, settlement, and survival that bring us together here today.

https://native-land.ca/
About the QOA

• LGBTQ+ collecting initiative began after community consultation
• Collect, preserve, & share LGBTQIA2S+ history
• Archival material includes:
  – Photos & scrapbooks
  – Fliers, posters, & signs
  – Video & audio recordings
  – Correspondence
  – Meeting minutes + more
What is in the Archives?

• 40+ individual & organizational donors
• 80+ cubic feet & 3 GB of archival material
• 3,000+ book, magazine, and newspaper titles
  – Books: fiction and non-fiction, mostly U.S.
  – Local newspapers & magazines
GAY FREEDOM

Issue #1
August 19, 1972

WHY A GAY VOICE'S CAUSE? A BY B.J.

Gay women have many different problems than do gay men, and considerably different interests (frequently). Hopefully, a women's caucus will provide us a chance to get together with our interests, problems, and projects.

We can deal with things as a group that are not the province of man. Saturday, Au-

26th, we will have a table at the Nebraska Women's Equality Conference. While there, we will distribute literature, talk with people and generally participate in the conference (for after all, we are women), and caucus. We might even get a few of the lates out of their glasses. (Cont. page 2, col. 2)

FIGHTING POLICE HARASSMENT IN OMAHA

We are going to be talking to police officials about gay rights. Anyone who feels he has been harassed by police, is being harassed, or is harassed in the future, please contact the OGFL — we want to know. We want to collect reports of harassment by either police or "nasty renters" to substantiate our case.

We can rent city pools for a swim party if we want. If you're interested in a gay swim party followed by a poolside dance contact an OGFL chairperson or committee. Soon.

IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT SATIETY OR PROBLEMS ABOUT ANYTHING GAY, OR JUST HAVE SOMETHING TO GAY, CONTACT THE OMAHA GAY FREEDOM LEAGUE.

WE DON'T HAVE A PHONE YET, BUT YOU CAN WRITE US AT THIS ADDRESS:

Omaha Gay Freedom League
P.O. Box #228
Downtown Station
Omaha, NE 6810

WE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

(Cont. page 1, col. 2)

Graphic: The same sign in a magazine for killing or man

Daub Campaign Sparks Anger in Gays

Daub, Gays Discuss Objections to TV Ad

GAIN GAY AWARENESS IOWA NEBRASKA
The New Voice of Nebraska, 1984-1998

All issues are available on the website.
The archives is seeking more issues of these newspapers. These titles are not available online.
The GayZette, 1999-2016

All issues are available on the website.
Terry Sweeney & Pat Phalen Papers
National Events, Local People
Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha
LGBTQ+ Voices:
The Queer Omaha Oral History Project
• Sharing your story in audio form
• 50 interviews collected
• Past funding from individual donors, Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and matching awards from UNO Libraries’ Eugene S. and Sunny M. Thomas Fund for Innovation
Outreach

artist talk featuring
CASSILS

Co-sponsored by the Department of Art & Art History, the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, UNO Libraries, and Queer and Trans Services
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

UNO Libraries
Archives and
Special Collection

"You are okay. You are loveable. You have a right to exist."
— Ferial Pearson

All quotes taken from LGBTQ+ Oral History Collection
Supporting the Queer Omaha Archives

• Donate material to the archives
• Visit and share the collection
• Make a financial contribution
• Volunteer to be interviewed

Visit library.unomaha.edu