

**IOWA**



**OUT &  
ABOUT**

**Queer Life in Iowa City**  
January 17 - June 30, 2023  
Main Library Gallery



## CURATOR'S NOTE

I turned in my initial gallery proposal in a kind of manic, overly self-assured frenzy. I was a queer person with weird feelings about gender who'd just taken a class on museum curation. I felt like the Main Library Gallery was a safe place to practice and experiment with my newfound knowledge. In grad school and in my job at University of Iowa, I was seeing barriers and limitations in GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) institutions that perpetuate the marginalization of oppressed people. I felt that it was important to push back against those barriers. As such, I wanted to use this opportunity to make and take up space on a couple of fronts.

First, when I submitted a proposal for this gallery exhibit, I was still working towards my Master of Library Science (MLIS) degree. I was a library worker with many years of experience, but I wasn't a "real librarian." I didn't have the credentials or prestigious title of "librarian" or "archivist." My work with collections required a lot of physical labor—work that is necessary but often looked down upon as "just moving books." I'd found that as a library worker but not a "real librarian," folks (including myself) often feel hesitant or unable to step forward and take on larger-scope projects that fall outside of their typical job description. As such, submitting the proposal felt like an act of rebellion. Being in this kind of peripheral position—and being in a role with a supportive supervisor and enough flexibility to accommodate it—I wanted to take on this task in hopes that it would inspire other library workers to inquire about and seek out these types of creative work opportunities that often fall into the laps of folks with higher degrees or professional credentials.

Second, I wanted the ability to highlight the queer histories and stories of people from both the University of Iowa and Iowa City communities, to bridge the "town and gown" gap that so often appears in college towns like ours. I wanted people in the wider community to feel like they have a place in the University Libraries too and that they can use our resources (Community Borrower cards are a thing that not enough people know about!), use our space, and be seen as valuable members of our community regardless of their relationship to the university.

Third, while there are endless examples of struggles, bigotry, and violent oppression throughout LGBTQ history, I hoped to highlight the joy that exists in queer life. Happiness and elation in everyday life is an act of resistance against a culture that doesn't want LGBTQ people to exist or thrive. While the protests and struggles are important, so is the celebration of queerness and love and community. That is something I really hope people take away from this exhibit—the persistence of LGBTQ happiness despite systemic oppression and bigotry.



Photo by Ann Kreitman.

Lastly, I wanted to highlight what we had in our collections (both at the University of Iowa Libraries and at the LGBTQ Iowa Archives & Library) while acknowledging the gaps. The notable lack of BIPOC representation. The absence of trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming voices. The ways in which our collections still need to grow so that archival spaces can be trusted repositories for these communities and stories. I hope that this exhibit will begin to build that trust through honest acknowledgment of the systemic ways specific groups are marginalized while also providing the opportunity for folks to build our collections as a community through the interactive part of this exhibit.

Those were my big goals with my initial proposal, and I immediately fell into a panic when it was accepted and I realized I had no idea how to make it happen. Thankfully, there was a crew of people that helped along the way and made the exhibit what it is. I hope that, in some ways, this exhibit meets my initial goals. I hope that people leave with a good story, a new queer role model, a better understanding of LGBTQ history, a sense of belonging, and more empathy for our neighbors with different experiences than our own. Let's keep celebrating, growing, and being better and more caring people.

All the love,  
Madde Hoberg [she/they]  
Annex Assistant, University of Iowa Libraries  
Interim Executive Director & Archives Coordinator, LGBTQ Iowa Archives & Library

## GUIDE TO OBJECTS ON DISPLAY

### ORGANIZING ON CAMPUS

1. Policy on Campus Homosexual Organizations, ca. 1970. Gay Liberation Front, Subject Vertical Files [RG01.0015.005], UA.
2. *The Gay Iowan*, Spring 1985. Student-Produced Publications and Newsletters Collection [RG02.0005.001], UA.
3. Gay People's Union brochure, undated. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.
4. Spring Fashion Dance program, 1997. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.
5. Gazebo Gayla flyer, undated. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.
6. GLBTAU brochure, early 2000s. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.
7. Alternative prom flyer, 2010. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.



Gay Liberation Front "Outrageous Weekend" flyer, 1974. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.





Scrapbook photos, 1980s. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], University Archives.

8. GLBTAU Drag Ball flyer, undated. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.
9. Spectrum UI kickoff meeting, late 2010s. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.

## **GRUPO LL**

10. Grupo LL flyer, mid-late 1990s. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union Records [RG02.0003.018], UA.
11. Photos of Grupo LL at the Iowa City Pride Parade, 1994. Latino-Native American Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.007], UA.
12. Grupo LL “¿Quienes somos?” flyer, 1994. Nancy V. “Rusty” Barceló Papers [RG99.0351], UA.

## **LGBTQ+ GREEK LIFE AT IOWA**

13. First annual Queernival flyer, 2017. Organizations & Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.
14. “Delta Lambda Phi striving to give gay, progressive men fraternity experience.” Tara Bannow, *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Dec. 21, 2012. Organizations & Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.
15. Gamma Rho Lambda paddle, 2019. On loan from Quentin Kinzy.
16. “Group seeks gay frat.” Logan Edwards, *The Daily Iowan*, Feb. 2, 2012. Organizations & Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.

## **FINDING COMMUNITY**

17. “Trans Power” sign made by Olivia Anderson for the 2021 Trans Day of Visibility rally in Iowa City. On loan from the LGBTQ Iowa Archives & Library.

18. Trans Week of Action flyer, 2017. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.
19. TransWeek flyer, 2010. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.
20. The Outlaws brochure, undated. Organizations & Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.
21. Flyer for The Mirage, 2019. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.
22. Iowa Pride parade banner, 2019. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.

## **RAINBOW GRADUATION**

23. "Out & Proud" flyer for Rainbow Graduation, 2004. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
24. First Annual University of Iowa Rainbow Graduation, 2000. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
25. Transgender and rainbow graduation cords. On loan from Danielle Martinez.
26. University of Iowa Rainbow Graduation program, 2019. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.

## **LGBTQ+ COUNCIL**

27. Outstanding Academic Service and Outreach Award, 2007. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
28. First Friday Socials flyer, 2004. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
29. Brochure for the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Staff & Faculty Association, 1990s. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
30. Promotional bookmark, undated. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.
31. Rainbow Graduation program agenda, 2007. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Staff and Faculty Association Records [RG03.0011.001], UA.

## **PRIDE ALLIANCE CENTER**

32. transGroup flyer, 2009. LGBT Resource Center Organizations, Subject Vertical Files [RG01.0015.005], UA.
33. Fluidity Group flyer, 2009. LGBT Resource Center Organizations, Subject Vertical Files [RG01.0015.005], UA.
34. QPOC (Queer People of Color) flyer, 2009. LGBT Resource Center Organizations, Subject Vertical Files [RG01.0015.005], UA.
35. "The RC: a home away from home" card, 2006. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.

## **GRACE & RUBIES WOMEN'S RESTAURANT**

36. Grace & Rubies Rats softball cap, 1970s. Kimela Nelson Papers [IWA0933], IWA.
37. Grace & Rubies kitchen, 1976-78. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.
38. Grace & Rubies business card, 1976. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.
39. Grace & Rubies support letter, 1976. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.

## **RUBY'S PEARL**

40. "Don't forget your daddy" flyer, early 2000s. Ruby's Pearl Records [IWA0549], IWA.
41. Cardboard photo archive sign, early 2000s. Ruby's Pearl Records [IWA0549], IWA.

42. Ruby's Pearl file folder art, early 2000s. Ruby's Pearl Records [IWA0549], IWA.

## **I.C. KINGS**

43. I.C. Kings t-shirt, 2011. On loan from Sara Tate.

44. I.C. Kings shot glass, sticker, pin. On loan from Sara Tate.

45. "Artisian Tampon " by Varla. On loan from Claire Czerwionka.

46. Varla pin. On loan from Sara Tate.

## **IOWA CITY WOMEN'S PRESS**

47. *A Women's Poetry Reading: All Women Are Welcome to Read Their Poetry*. Iowa City Women's Press, 1972 proof. Susan Redfern Papers [IWA0998], IWA.

48. Cards from Spinster, "a lighthearted lesbian gayme." Created by Lavender Lace, printed by Iowa City Women's Press, 1982. Iowa City Women's Press Records [IWA0220], IWA.

49. *The Greasy Thumb Automechanics Manual for Women*. Barb Wyatt with illustrations by Julie Zolot. Iowa City Women's Press, 1976. Jill Jack Papers [IWA0519], IWA.



Grace & Rubies. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], Iowa Women's Archives.

## **RFD: a COUNTRY JOURNAL FOR GAY MEN EVERYWHERE**

50. *RFD*, Autumn 1974. Donald Engstrom Papers [MsC1170], Special Collections & Archives.

51. *RFD*, Summer 1976. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

52. *RFD*, Fall 1986. Donald Engstrom Papers [MsC1170], Special Collections & Archives.

## **BETTER HOMES AND DYKES**

53. *Better Homes and Dykes*, Summer 1976. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

54. *Better Homes and Dykes*, Dec. 1975 - Jan. 1976. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

55. *Better Homes and Dykes*, Fall 1976. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

## **accessline**

56. *ACCESSline*, Vol. 2, No. 2, March 1988 [Coll. 8]. On loan from LIAL.

57. *ACCESSline*, Vol. 11, No. 4, July/August 1997 [Coll. 8]. On loan from LIAL.

58. *ACCESSline*, Vol. 22, No. 3, May/June 2008 [Coll. 8]. On loan from LIAL.

## **a LESBIAN QUARTERLY**

59. No. 5. Fall 1982. Printed by Iowa City Women's Press. *Common Lives / Lesbian Lives* Records [IWA0102], IWA.

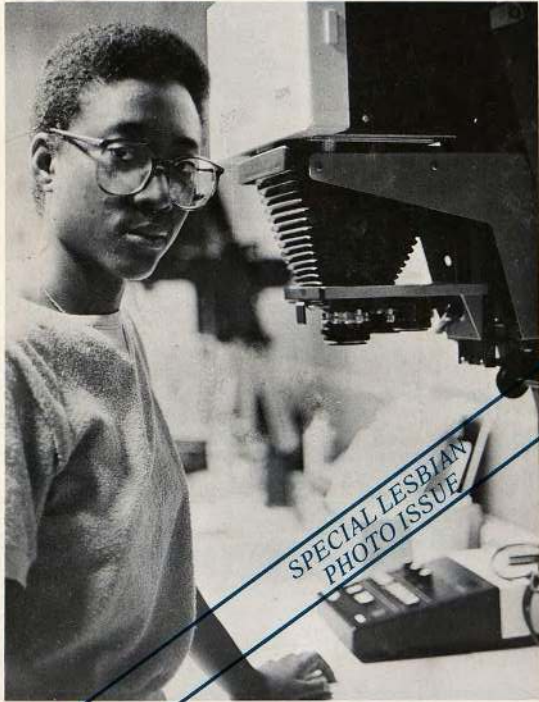
60. Schlesinger Library fan mail and subscription request, Sept. 21, 1982. Jo Futrell Papers [IWA1305], IWA.

61. No. 7. Spring 1983. *Common Lives / Lesbian Lives* Records [IWA0102], IWA.



## COMMON LIVES LESBIAN LIVES

a lesbian quarterly



number twelve

Summer 1984. *Common Lives / Lesbian Lives* Records [IWA0102], IWA.

### **COMMON LIVES/LESBIAN LIVES:**

62. No. 9. Fall 1983. *Common Lives / Lesbian Lives* Records [IWA0102], IWA.

63. No. 33. Winter 1989. *Common Lives / Lesbian Lives* Records [IWA0102], IWA.

### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

64. "Sit On My Base" softball jersey and Lambda Softball Association of Eastern Iowa sticker. On loan from Ann Kreitman.

65. Softball photos, 1970s. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.

66. W.R.A.C. (Women's Resource and Action Center) Rats softball jersey, c. 1980s. Jill Jack Papers [IWA0519], IWA.

67. Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride, Iowa Lesbian and Gay Pride 1989 program. Linday Yanney Papers [IWA0413], IWA.

68. Studio 13 ad. *The Gazette*, May 25, 2008. Pride Alliance Cultural Center Records [RG02.0003.060], UA.

69. Statement excerpts from the LGBTQ Iowa Archives & Library, June 2020. Courtesy of LIAL.

70. LIAL pins. On loan from LIAL.

71. *No Cops at Pride! A History Lesson* zine, 2022. Created by Aiden Bettine and Ann Kreitman. On loan from LIAL.

### **LOCAL AIDS AWARENESS**

72. AIDS Community Support Training packet, 1987. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

73. "ICARE offers support for area HIVers" clipping. Anne Johnston, *The Daily Iowan*, December 4, 1992. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

74. Iowa Center for AIDS Resources and Education brochure, undated. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

75. "A safer sex workshop for gay & bisexual men" flyer, 1990. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

76. 11th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization flyer, 1994. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

77. AIDS Coalition of Johnson County Newsletter, June 1991. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

78. ICARE News. Winter 1998, issue 16. Patricia Herring Papers [IWA0741], IWA.

### **LESBIAN ALLIANCE**

79. *The Women's Coffeehouse News*, September. Early 1980s, undated. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

80. Series of photographs from *The Women's Coffeehouse*. Early 1980s. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.

81. *The Women's Coffeehouse* special events calendar, May - June 1982. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

82. Lesbian Alliance questionnaire, undated. Jo Rabenold Papers [IWA0191], IWA.

83. Photographs from the Lesbian Alliance and the Women's Resource and Action Center, 1970s-1980s. Karla Miller and Jean Bott Papers [IWA0997], IWA.

84. "Constitution of Lesbian Rights," late 1980s. Jill Jack Papers [IWA0519], IWA.
85. "Group alleges discrimination, files \$10,000 suit against UI" clipping. John Bartenhagen, *The Daily Iowan*, May 12, 1987. Organizations and Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.
86. Lesbian Alliance info sheet, 1981. Organizations and Clubs Vertical Files [RG01.0015.004], UA.

## CREDITS

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