

Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries
June 4, 2024

1) ARCHIVES

- a) Roanoke College research assistant, JM, offered to continue archives work through summer/fall as volunteer:
 - i) *Blue Ridge Messenger* (1997-1998) - one issue needs to be fixed; otherwise done
- b) Graduate-level (MLIS) intern from Old Dominion University finished work in December, but is still volunteering for the project:
 - i) A Version 2.0 of the *Blue Ridge Lambda Press* Subject Index has launched, now covering from 1981 through 1995:
https://swvalgbtqhistory.files.wordpress.com/2024/02/brla_brlp-subject-index-v.2-.pdf
- c) Work is slowing to a stop for now as we have diminishing access to Roanoke College digital archives - possibly find other ways to continue in the future (Hollins internships?)

2) ORAL HISTORIES

- a) Next steps?
 - i) GSR: possibility of May 2025 oral history bootcamp (two nights a week, over 3 to 4 weeks), open to the public, at Washington & Lee University

3) PODCAST

- a) Episode 7 on queer youth in our public schools released May 1st!
- b) Episode 8 (potentially) may be a collab with Washington & Lee students in Fall 2024

4) WALKING TOURS

- a) Pride tour upcoming 6/23 - GSR taking over from KS
- b) Brochure - GSR
 - i) Updated by JM & one hundred new copies printed!

5) TRANS WELLNESS FUND

- a) Updates:
 - i) As of May 2024:
 - ii) Money distributed: \$2,275
 - iii) Money remaining: unclear until we get official figures from LGBR (probably around \$1K in new donations so far)
 - iv) Total applications received: 127
 - v) Total awardees: 8
 - vi) Percentage, BIPOC awardees: 75%
- b) New donation web page launched: <https://swvalgbtqhistory.org/donate/>

- c) Application portal is open again, will close on June 30th, and first round of funding under new model will occur in July or August

6) EVENTS

- a) Bar crawl
 - i) Went great! ~30 people throughout the night, good weather, easily accommodated (skipped Martin's, but no other changes to itinerary), called ahead a few days before/morning of to Cuba Pete's and that was appreciated
- b) Community Picnic - plan for Tues June 18
 - i) Community partners - RDC, LGBR, Ursula's Cafe, Second Friday
 - ii) Had to get city permit this year in addition to reserving the space. More hoops to jump through for the waiver/permit. Managed to get the city to back off on requiring insurance but heads up that could be a hurdle in future years. (Event size was the triggering factor)
- c) Gay History bar crawl for Second Friday birthday (Oct 11)

7) ROANOKE COLLEGE DIVORCE

- a) Our new, independent website is live at swvalgbtqhhistory.org.
- b) As for the digital archives, we'll look into preserving our digital archives materials (PDFs and metadata) off of RC platforms so that it can be used in a different, future setting if desired

8) NEXT MEETING?

- a) Monday, Aug 12, 2024 @ 6pm in the Parrott Room, Downtown Roanoke public library