



Archives and Research

Finding Aid

Collection Number: Coll. 21
Title: Robert Wheatly Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): Robert Wheatly
Title: The Collection of Robert Wheatly
Extent: 5 linear feet
Date Span: c. 1968-2002
Location: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Research Department by Sage L. Moses under the supervision of William Holden.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rev. Robert P. Wheatly, b. 1919 d. October 31, 2002, was a Gay Unitarian Universalist Minister and social justice pioneer who lived and worked in Massachusetts from 1949 until his death in 2002. He attended Harvard Divinity School. He lived in Cambridge until his death and was active in several positions in the Unitarian Universalist Church, LGBT groups, specifically in Boston and 3 Cambridge and also groups related to aging and affordable housing groups. In 1998-2000 Rev. Wheatly had contacted THP concerning disposition of his collection of materials and papers related to LGBT issues. At his death, his partner, Kenneth J. English arranged with The History Project to receive his papers.

Throughout his tenure as director of the Unitarian Universalist (U.U.) Office of Gay Concerns, he traveled extensively throughout North America to attend conferences and workshops, and speaking engagements associated with LGBT and church issues. Wheatly's first church position was as an ordained minister in the Disciples of Christ where he worked at a church in Gainesville, Florida from 1942-1943. Following that position, he served in the Air Force from 1943-1946 stationed in Alaska. After World War II he returned to Florida and earned a B.A. degree from Stetson College. At this time, he became a Unitarian and served in U.U. churches. Wheatly served U.U. churches in Westboro, Lawrence and Manchester, N.H. He also attended Crane School of Religion at Tufts and graduated in 1968, prepared for the ministry in the U.U. churches. Wheatly also worked in credit management and personnel at Beth Isreal Deaconess and Children's Hospital and coordinator of services for the Cambridge Committee of Elders and executive director of the Cambridge Council on Aging. In 1977, he was appointed Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Office of Gay Concerns (which was re-named during his tenure as the Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Concerns, currently the Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Ministries or LGBTQ Ministries). Wheatly retired from that position in 1987.

During his career, Wheatly traveled extensively to Unitarian Universalist conferences and churches presenting the case for new understandings, attitudes, rights and services for gay people. He lobbied at the State House in Boston, took part in the Annual Boston Gay Pride Parade, and gave leadership to Gay Pride Worship Services. He also compiled A Planning Guide for a Same Sex Holy Union Ceremony, published by his office in 1987. He officiated at same-sex holy unions throughout his career. Wheatly was known for his humor, once speaking on Groundhogs and Fairies for Groundhog Day. Wheatly was a founding member in 1987 of Prime Timers, a group of older gay men, now a worldwide organization with thousands of members. Upon his death, he was survived by his life's partner of 45 years, Kenneth J. English, who died in 2006.

SUBJECT TERMS

Organization Names:

Am Tikva	Homophile Community Health Service
Bay Windows Advisory Board	Human Rights Charitable Foundation
Briggs Initiative - California	Integrity
Boston Gay Religious Coalition	Kinsey Report
Boston Institute for Gay Studies	Men Against a Sexist Society
Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance	NGLTF - National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce
Boston Pride	National Association for Lesbian and Gay Gerontology
Cambridge Lavender Alliance	New England Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans
Campaign to End Homophobia	Prime Timers
Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts	Project 10
Committee on Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom	Project 10 East
Dignity	Seacoast Gays
Family Protection Act	Speaker's Bureau
Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau	SpeakOUT
GAY GA - Georgia	The Boston Coalition for GLBT Youth
GAYLA (U.U Gay and Lesbian Association)	Tri-City Defense
Gay Rights Legislation - Massachusetts	Unitarian Universalist Association (U.U.A.)
GLISTEN	Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus
Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Interfaith Coalition (GBLGIC)	Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay Concerns

RELATED COLLECTIONS

- #02 - David Scondras
- #07 - LGBT Youth
- #39 - Gay Legislation
- #52 - Boston Prime Timers
- #73 - Joyce Crowder
- #75 - Boston LGBTQ Religious Groups

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection totals 5 boxes of Wheatly's papers relating to LGBTQ ministry. Many of these documents pertain to his role as Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Office of Gay Concerns (later changed to the Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Concerns, currently the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Ministries or LGBTQ Ministries). Other papers and correspondence were donated by Kenneth J. English and the History Project to Andover Newton Library at Harvard Divinity School. In It has been attempted to retain Wheatly's original folders of papers, particularly those related to memorial services, sermons, and research topics. In one case Wheatly officiated at both the holy union and the funerals of a couple and papers related to these individuals have been kept together. Wheatly preached a sermon entitled, "On Being Homosexual," at a number of churches in the United States throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s. These are foldered by location. The collection includes several brochures and clippings on sexuality as related to theology and/or religious institutions.

FOLDER LIST

Series I. Work and Ministry

Box 1

- Folder 1: Correspondence
- Folder 2: Aging
- Folder 3: Washington, DC. March, 1987
- Folder 4: Homophobia
- Folder 5: 1970-1980s Gay Manifestos
- Folder 6: A Theology for Gays. *Good Samaritan and the Gays.*
- Folder 7: Harvey Milk Memorial, 1978
- Folder 8: Violence Against L/G
- Folder 9: National Interfaith LGBT Materials
- Folder 10: Washington March, c. mid-1980s
- Folder 11: Kinsey Scale & Joseph Barth Sermon, 1948
- Folder 12: Falwell Harvard Speech 9/20/1984
- Folder 13: Humanism - Colleague's Sermon's & Brochures
- Folder 14: Kim Crawford Harvie, Arlington Street Church
- Folder 15: Foster Care
- Folder 16 (a & b): Bi-Sexual
- Folder 17: Psychiatry/Psychology

- Folder 18: Florida - 1989, 1990, & 1993
- Folder 19: Lesbian & Gay Youth
- Folder 20: Lesbian and Gay Marriage - Includes three photos and UUA outline for same-sex weddings
- Folder 21: Human Rights in England
- Folder 22: Memorial Service for Clark Allen Richardson, Rev. Douglas Warren Sears Presiding
- Folder 23: Gay Parenting
- Folder 24: Atlanta 6/10-11/1976, Anita Bryant
- Folder 25: Pornography/Obscenity
- Folder 26: Promiscuity
- Folder 27: Family Protection Act
- Folder 28: AIDS
- Folder 29: Counseling/Councilors
- Folder 30: "A Crisis of Conscience: Homosexuals and the Church." The Detroit News. 3/23/1986
- Folder 31: The Castro/AIDS, The New Yorker
- Folder 32: Anita Bryant, Tri-city Response 1977-1978
- Folder 33: Alcoholism
- Folder 34: Hardwick Case, 1986
- Folder 35: Above Ground Records
- Folder 36: TV Evangelists
- Folder 37: The South & Southern Baptists
- Folder 38: Marco Vassi
- Folder 39: Barney Frank & Elaine Noble
- Folder 40: St. Patrick's Parade/Gay Controversy, 1992
- Folder 41: Tallahassee, FL. 1980

Series I. Work and Ministry (continued)

Box 2

- Folder 42: Washington State, 1978
- Folder 43 (a & b): Harvard / Youth 1968-1969
- Folder 44: Health Care & Homophile Community Health Service
- Folder 45 (a & b): Gay Legislation, 1987-1988
- Folder 46: Sex, Sex Role, Sexuality - includes 1942 Planned Parenthood manual
- Folder 47: Publications
- Folder 48: (a, b & c): Clippings
- Folder 49: Publications - Episcopal / Catholic
- Folder 50: Publications - Seventh Day Adventist
- Folder 51: Publications - Presbyterian / Methodist
- Folder 52 (a & b): Publications -Theology, Christianity, GLBTQ Publications
- Folder 53 (a & b): Theology, Christianity & Sexuality Clippings
- Folder 54: Notes Unknown
- Folder 55: Articles on Robert Wheatly

Series II. Unitarian Universalist

BOX 3

- Folder 1 (a & b): Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
- Folder 2: UUA. Houston & Dallas, TX. C. 1981
- Folder 3: Briggs Initiative California - includes photo of UUA protest

- Folder 4: Unitarian Universalist Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns
UUGLC (previously Office of Gay Concerns UUGC)
- Folder 5: Norfolk, VA
- Folder 6: Northeast
- Folder 7: UUA Board Homophobia Workshop
- Folder 8: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – St. Lawrence District
Meeting. 1979.
- Folder 9: Unitarian Universalists for Gay & Lesbian Concerns (UUGLC),
Houston, TX. 1985
- Folder 10: UULGC. Dallas, 1990
- Folder 11: UUA Retirement/Dismissal (also contains excerpts from
Navais, Gene. Abuses of the Clergy)
- Folder 12: UULG Clergy Conference 3/1984
- Folder 13: UULGC Co-ord. Committee
- Folder 14: UUA Sharing in Growth
- Folder 15: UU Gay Caucus, 1976
- Folder 16: Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual
Concerns
- Folder 17: Boston Unitarian Universalist Gays and Lesbians (BUUGL)
- Folder 18: UU Publications

Series III. Organizations and Conferences

BOX 4

- Folder 1: The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Speakers Bureau of Bostons
- Folder 2 (a & b): Prime Timers
- Folder 3: Gayla 1990/Ferry Beach
- Folder 4: Bagly
- Folder 5: Human Rights Charitable Conference
- Folder 5: Bay Windows Advisory Committee
- Folder 7: Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
- Folder 8: Boston Institute Gay Studies, Inc.
- Folder 9: Glisten Conference, 1992
- Folder 10: Campaign to End Homophobia – Cooper Thompson
- Folder 11: A Workshop on Prejudice, Materials & Trainings
- Folder 12: Committee for Civil Liberties and Social Freedom. Boston,
MA
- Folder 13: Gay Ga/Gala 1990's
- Folder 14: Mobile AIDS Resource Team
- Folder 15: Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM)
- Folder 16: Greater Boston Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Interfaith Coalition
(GBLGBIC) various years 1991/92
- Folder 17: Greater Boston Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Interfaith Coalition
(GBLGBIC) 1994/1996
- Folder 18: Gay Seminararians Conferences
- Folder 19: Am Tikva
- Folder 20: Cambridge Lavender Alliance
- Folder 21: L/G Gerontology Conference, 1980.
- Folder 22: National Association for Lesbian/Gay Gerontology –
Contains St. Priapus Church, San Francisco, December
Newsletter.
- Folder 23: Economic Justice and Churches Meeting of 1st Church
Committee. 1/5/1970.
- Folder 24: AIDS, Medford Conference

- Folder 25: Bi-sexuality Conference, 1989
- Folder 26: Gay and Lesbian Awareness Day, Harvard University
- Folder 27: Fenway Lesbian and Gay Alliance
- Folder 28 (a & b): The Healthy Boston Coalition for LGBT Youth
- Folder 29: New England LGBT Veterans
- Folder 30: Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus
- Folder 31: *Concern*, Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile
- Folder 32: Council on Religion and the Homosexual
- Folder 33: Paul Shanley & Exodus Center
- Folder 34: Interfaith AIDS Ministry
- Folder 35: Project 10
- Folder 36: Urban Ministries Convocation, 10/21-24/1985
- Folder 37: Domestic Violence Theology and the Church, Episcopal Divinity School. 10/25-26/1985.
- Folder 38: *The Bi-Monthly*, Bi-Sexual Center
- Folder 39: Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Veterans

Series IV. Writing and Sermons

BOX 5

- Folder 1: "On Being Homosexual." - Houston, TX. 11/3-5/78
- Folder 2: "On Being Homosexual." - Somerville, NJ. 1979
- Folder 3: "On Being Homosexual." 5/20-21/1978. "In Praise of an Old Man Named Alliston." 2/12/1978. Albany, NY
- Folder 4: "On Being Homosexual." - St. Lawrence District Meeting, 1979
- Folder 5: "On Being Homosexual." - Cleveland, OH. 11/4/1979
- Folder 6: "On Being Homosexual." - Jackson, FL
- Folder 7: "On Being Homosexual." - Iowa City, IA 3/2/1980
- Folder 8: "On Being Homosexual." - Leominster, MA. 1982
- Folder 9: "On Being Homosexual." - Northborough, MA. UUA. 4/26/1981
- Folder 10: "On Being Homosexual." - Concord, NH. 12/7/1980
- Folder 11: "On Being Homosexual." - Columbus, OH. 5/11/1980
- Folder 12: "On Being Homosexual." - Chicago, IL. 3/17/1989
- Folder 13: "On Being Homosexual." - Brewster, MA. 7/31/1983
- Folder 14: "On Being Homosexual." - Raleigh, NC. 4/25/1982
- Folder 15: "On Being Homosexual." & Aging - Deland, FL 2/13/1983
- Folder 16: "On Being Homosexual; On Having Homophobia." Mobile, AL. 6/23/1985
- Folder 17: "Gay, Going on Gray." Norfolk, VA
- Folder 18: "Gay, Gray and ????" North Shore G & L Alliance, 5/26/1981
- Folder 19: "On Being Hip on Religion." Westboro, MA. 3/2/1969
- Folder 20: "Homosexuals an Unseen Minority." - Racine, WI
- Folder 21: Sermons, Roxbury, MA. 1982-87
- Folder 22: "What Happened to the Rainbow?" Boston, MA. 4/19/1977
- Folder 23: Address to the Joint Judiciary Committee. Freedom to Mary Collection. 5/17/2001
- Folder 24: Christian Ministry to and with Homosexual Christian, United Church Christ. Holyoke, MA. 6/4/1983
- Folder 25: "Gay Anxiety During the Holiday Season." SeaCoast Gays. Portsmouth, NH 12/11/1988

- Folder 26: "On Groundhogs, Unicorns, and Other Mythic Creatures."
NOTE: CONTAINS PERSONAL HISTORY
- Folder 27: "Ceremony of Separation." Arlington Street Church. July 30, 1986
- Folder 28: "Human Rights in Our Denomination." Winchester, MA. 1/21/1980
- Folder 29: "Homosexuality and the Church." *The Gay Church*. WOR TV, Broadway, New York, NY. 7/2/1982
- Folder 30: Dignity/Unity, Worcester, MA. 1984/1986
- Folder 31: "Strangers, Maybe - But Never Aliens." Dignity, Boston, MA. 1/20/1985
- Folder 32: "Facing Up to 10%." West Newton, MA. 1986
- Folder 33: "Homophobia (Still) Among Us?" Same-Sex Weddings
- Folder 34: Commitment Ceremony: Melvina Grace & Rollins Edwards, 5/25/1989
- Folder 35: "The Church & Social Problems," 1960's
- Folder 36: "Ministerial Responsibility for Social Concerns"
- Folder 37: Christian Distortions Talk
- Folder 38: "Embracing the Stereotype," on doing drag
- Folder 39: Boston Pride, 1996
- Folder 40: Inadequacy of Individualism, 1970s
- Folder 41 (a & b): "The Church and Senator McCarthy," 3/14/1954

Series V. Memorial Services

BOX 5

- Folder 1: Robert William McGill, Jr., 1989
- Folder 2: Jacob Kachador Vartabedian, 1990
- Folder 3: Arthur Leo Bailey, 1990
- Folder 4: Samuel Boraks, 1990
- Folder 5: Kevin Thibodeau & Thomas Henkalin, 1986-1990
- Folder 6: Jane Chambers, 1983
- Folder 7: Marion S. Latner, 1989
- Folder 8: Melvina Grace (Adolpus Moses Grace), 1986
- Folder 9: Curt Muller (Curtis A, Jr.), 1985
- Folder 10: Dean N. McDowell, Jr. 1984
- Folder 11: 'Ed'
- Folder 12: Jeff Barmeyer
- Folder 13: Burton Ross Pierce, 1986
- Folder 14: Craig A. Miller 1986
- Folder 15: William Thomas Rogers (Tommie/Monique), 1986
- Folder 16: Thomas (Tommie) A. Connors, III at Sandy Latner's home, 1988
- Folder 17: Robert L. Donner, 1988
- Folder 18: Joseph Farinella, 1988
- Folder 19: Hiram Hunt Nickerson, 1987
- Folder 20: David Tatum, 1988
- Folder 21: Katharine E. Peirce, 1987
- Folder 22: Mathilda Goldstone Moore, 1988
- Folder 23: Edith Schaffer, 1986
- Folder 24: John Cross, 1989
- Folder 25: Mark Mosher DeWolfe, 1982
- Folder 26: Marilyn A. (Mahoney) Drew, 1989
- Folder 27: Douglas A. (Ian) Johnson, 1989

Folder 28: Allyn Amundson, 1975. Includes full page article and chapbook *Night Blooming*, with poems and remembrances of Amundson

Folder 29: Seth Steeves, 1987

Folder 30: Jerry Sawyer, 1985

Folder 31: Richard Evans Miller

Folder 32: Charlie Howard, 1989

Folder 33: Russel Alan Koning, 1989

Series VI. Personal

BOX 5

Folder 1: Photographs

Folder 2: Travel Brochures