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# Finding aid for the Grand Rapids lesbian and gay organizations project collection Collection 307

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on July 06, 2022.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids History Center
<b>Title:</b>	Grand Rapids lesbian and gay organizations project collection
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 307
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1980s-2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.1 Linear Feet 14 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection was primarily initiated in 2002 by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission member Paul Kutsche. Holdings include a series on Gerry Crane and Randy Block, an oral history series with ten interviews, select information from Concerned Clergy, select information from the Lesbian & Gay Community Network (LGCN) including their monthly periodical from 1988 to present, and also the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), plus miscellaneous ephemera and documents related to the local and Western Michigan gay and lesbian community since the 1980s.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Paul Kutsche, agent. Various donors and accession numbers, listed with the material in the finding aid.

Block, Randy. 2001.127 Broadhurst, Ann. 2002.054 Knieriemen, Linda. 2002.033 Otten, Thelma. 2002.035 Ribbens, Bryan. 2002.059 Skidmore, Ron. 2002.032 Van Doren, Douglas. 2002.031 Watt, David N. 2002.051

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- oral histories
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- records (documents)
- Lesbians -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Homosexuality -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Gays -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I. Concerned Clergy

Title/Description	Instances
2001.117 Van Doren	Box 1
2002.031 Van Doren	Box 1
2001.130 Knieriemen	Box 1
Dignity	Box 1

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### Series II. Oral Histories and other audio records

#### Master cassette tapes

Title/Description	Instances
MT1. Douglas Van Doren 2002.031	Box 2 Cassette MT1
MT2. Randy L. Block (2) 2001.127	Box 2 Cassette MT2
MT3. Ron Skidmore 2002.032	

	Box 2	Cassette MT3
MT4. Linda Knieriemen 2002.033	Box 2	Cassette MT4
MT5. David N. Watt 2002.051	Box 2	Cassette MT5
MT6. A service of Witness ... Jan. 3, 1997. 2002.041	Box 2	Cassette MT6
MT7. Thelma Otten 2002.035	Box 2	Cassette MT7
MT8. Bryan Ribbens 2002.059	Box 2	Cassette MT8
MT9. Ann Broadhurst 2002.054	Box 2	Cassette MT9
MT10. Jeffery L. Swanson 2003.051	Box 2	Cassette MT10

### User cassette tapes

Title/Description	Instances
UT1. Douglas Van Doren 2002.031	Box 3 Cassette UT1
UT2. Randy L. Block (2) 2001.127	Box 3 Cassette UT2
UT3. Ron Skidmore 2002.032	Box 3 Cassette UT3
UT4. Linda Knieriemen 2002.033	Box 3 Cassette UT4
UT5. David N. Watt 2002.051	Box 3 Cassette UT5
UT6. A service of Witness ... Jan. 3, 1997. 2002.041	Box 3 Cassette UT6
UT7. Thelma Otten 2002.035	Box 3 Cassette UT7
UT8. Bryan Ribbens 2002.059	Box 3 Cassette UT8

### Oral History Transcriptions

Title/Description	Instances
TR1. Douglas Van Doren 2002.031	Box 3.5
TR2. Randy L. Block (2) 2001.127	Box 3.5
TR3. Ron Skidmore 2002.032	Box 3.5

TR4. Linda Knieriemen 2002.033	Box 3.5
TR5. David N. Watt 2002.051	Box 3.5
TR6. A service of Witness ... Jan. 3, 1997. 2002.041	Box 3.5
TR7. Thelma Otten 2002.035	Box 3.5
TR8. Byran Ribbons 2002.059	Box 3.5
TR9. Ann Broadhurst 2002.054	Box 3.5

## Oral History Transcription Diskettes

Title/Description	Instances
D1.1 Douglas Van Doren 2002.031	Box 3.6
D1.2 Randy L. Block (2) 2001.127	Box 3.6
D1.3 Ron Skidmore 2002.032	Box 3.6
D1.4 Linda Knieriemen 2002.033	Box 3.6
D2 and D3.2 David N. Watt 2002.051	Box 3.6
ND A service of Witness ... Jan. 3, 1997. 2002.041	Box 3.6
D1.5 Thelma Otten 2002.035	Box 3.6
D3.1 Ann Broadhurst 2002.054	Box 3.6

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## Series III. Lesbian & Gay Community Network of Western Michigan / LGCN

Title/Description	Instances
Letter, Bryan Ribbens, President, Lesbian and Gay Community Network of Western Michigan, RE sponsorship of Gay Pride Celebration [2001.116], 1989	Box 4 Folder 7
May 1989 news clippings regarding mayoral proclamation - Lesbian and Gay Pride Day [2001.116]	Box 4 Folder 6
Saving One Life fund-raiser invitation. Nov. 13, 2006. McCabe-Marlowe House invitation cover.	Box 4 Folder 5
PRIDE Festival Program, 2005, 2006.006	Box 4 Folder 8
Flier, Grand Rapids FrontRunner's Sixth Annual Pride 5K [2001.116], 2000-06-04	Box 4 Folder 9
Gay Pride Celebration, 1988 [oversized], 2001.116	Box 5
Gay Pride Celebration, 1989 [Letter sized], 2001.116	Box 5

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## Series IV. GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network)

Title/Description	Instances	
Accreditation Document, Feb. 5, 1998.	Box 4	Folder 10

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## Series V. Gerry Crane Story, 2002.041

### Processing Information:

### **Processing Information**

Processing work was done on this accession in September 2018. A cubic box of records (Box 9) was refoldered and reboxed into the current boxes 9 and 10 (and newspaper clippings were placed in box 8). During processing, notes and other references were left as is. Records were left in the order found, although it is unknown how much of this is original order.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Dear Community Leader" Religious Response cards, after the Byron Center School Board decision.	Box 6	
	Box 7	
Gerry Crane Scrapbook and Misc. Copies	Box 8	

## Gerry Crane files, re the controversy, 1995-1996

Title/Description	Instances	
Audio Cassette "A Service of Witness to the Resurrections, Gerald M. Crane, Aug. 25, 1964-Jan. 3, 1997. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Housed with Oral Histories and other audio records, master and user tapes, above.	Box 3.6	
Registration and program, Beyond Tolerance: Strategies for Change, 3rd Annual Midwest GLSTN Conference. Dedicated to the memory of Michigan music teacher, Gerry Crane. Cleveland State University., 1997-04	Box 9	Folder 1
Letter to parents and community, Superintendent Swainston, Byron Center Public Schools, 2000-06-19	Box 9	Folder 2
Legal documents and letters, Randy Block, Personal Representative of the Estate of Gerald Crane, et al, vs The Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education, 1999-2000	Box 9	Folder 3
GLSEN Respect. Fall 2001.	Box 9	Folder 4

Program, Come in from the rain: an exploration of homosexuality, homophobia and a hometown church, by Mike Smolinski, at Wealthy Theatre	Box 9	Folder 5
Hostile Climate: report on anti-gay activity, People for the American Way Foundation, 1999	Box 9	Folder 6
"Those Who Can, Teach," special to The Grand Rapids Press, Gerry Crane, 1996	Box 9	Folder 7
Letters to Crane and to school board, 1995-1996	Box 9	Folder 8
"Don't take away our teacher away from us," Oasis News & Reviews, 1996-03	Box 9	Folder 9
Invitation and program, wedding of Randy L. Block and Gerald M. Crane, 1995-10-21	Box 9	Folder 10
Transcript of 20/20 TV Show - Please Don't Teach our Kids, 1998-03-13	Box 9	Folder 11
Notes [from arbitration], 1996-11-25	Box 9	Folder 12
Randy Schmitt letter	Box 9	Folder 13
Notes and memorandum regarding Peter Marshall assembly at Byron Center High School, 1995-11	Box 9	Folder 14
Memorandum to High School Faculty RE Student and Outside Disturbances, 1995-12-15	Box 9	Folder 15
Resolution honoring Gerald Crane's contributions leading to Exemplary School Status, Byron Center Board of Education, 1995-01-09	Box 9	Folder 16
Memo: Staff Suspensions, Byron Center Public Schools Office of the Superintendent, 1996-03-14	Box 9	Folder 17
Memo: Department Chair Meeting, 1995-12-12	Box 9	Folder 18
Letters, David B. Prindle, President of Byron Center Education Association to Phil Swainston, Superintendent, Byron Center Public Schools, 1995-11-10, 1995-12-11	Box 9	Folder 19
Statement, Byron Center Board of Education, 1995-12-16	Box 9	Folder 20
Notes from meetings, 1995-11-1995-12	Box 9	Folder 21
Memorials and tributes, funeral program, news clippings	Box 9	Folder 22
Letters of support for Crane (to Board of Education), 1995-1996	Box 9	Folder 23-24
Letters of complaint re Crane (to Board of Education), 1995-1996	Box 9	Folder 25
Gerry Crane personnel file	Box 9	Folder 26
Documentation RE: Gerry Crane	Box 10	Folder 1
Gerry Crane notes / journal, 1996-02-13-1996-11-25	Box 10	Folder 2



Processing Information:

**Processing Information**

The looseleaf pages were numbered on September 21, 2018

Byron Center Board of Education minutes (excerpts), 1995-11-20-1996-08-05	Box 10	Folder 3
GLSTN Kalamazoo / Teachers Alliance for Justice, meeting minutes, 1997-02-10	Box 10	Folder 4
Letters to school board, 1995-1996	Box 10	Folder 5
Memorandums from William C. Skilling, Principal to Gerry Crane, 1996-01-1996-06	Box 10	Folder 6
Letter, To the Community of Byron Center, Barbara Lyndrup; with annotations and note from Gerry Crane	Box 10	Folder 7
Grievance meeting notes and memos, Kent County Education Association	Box 10	Folder 8
Two letters to Dr. Skilling from parents	Box 10	Folder 9
Letters and papers from Gerry Crane's lawyers, 1996-1997	Box 10	Folder 10
Grievance memos and notes; Board of Education policies	Box 10	Folder 11
Agendas, Byron Center Board of Education , 1995-11-20, 1996-03-18	Box 10	Folder 12
Various letters from students and parents, addressed to Randy Block, Gerry Crane and/or School Board	Box 10	Folder 13
1997... a mixed bag of goods, manuscript by Randy Block, published in Network News	Box 10	Folder 14
Letter, Cherry Hill United Methodist Church (Canton) to Randy Block, 1997-01-29	Box 10	Folder 15
Memorandums between Gerry Crane and Phil Swainston	Box 10	Folder 16
Miscellaneous correspondence	Box 10	Folder 17
Southern Voice (brief article, p. 8 - Michigan School Must Honor Late Gay Man's Severance), 1999-04	Box 10	Folder 18
Between the Lines, 1996 Year in Review, 1997-01	Box 10	Folder 19
News clippings	Box 8	Folder 1
News clippings	Box 8	Folder 2

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**Series VI. Ancillary Materials**

Title/Description	Instances	
Saugatuck/Douglas Area Gay Guide [flyer], 2003-2006	Box 4	Folder 1-2
A People's History of LGBTQ Grand Rapids, n.d.	Box 4	Folder 4
GR History [Gordon Olson file]: Homosexual marriage [Annie Hindle and Annie Ryan], 1886	Box 4	Folder 3

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<b>2006.006D - Civil Rights research - unprocessed</b>	Box 12
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