


Fall 9-2017

## **LG MS 044 Lewiston-Auburn Gay Youth Collection**

Naomi Hawkes

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### **Recommended Citation**

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**LEWISTON-AUBURN GAY YOUTH COLLECTION  
LG MS 44**

**Total Boxes: 2  
Map Case Drawers: 1  
Linear Feet: 3**

**By  
Naomi Hawkes**

**Portland, Maine  
September 2017**

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## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** The Lewiston/Auburn Gay Youth Collection was donated in August, 2008 by Heidi Conn, a former Guidance Counselor at Edward Little High School. Additional materials were donated by Ryan Conrad, the Edward Little Gay Straight Alliance, Penny Sargent, and Sarah Holmes. The Lewiston Auburn Gay Youth Collection contains print material and photographs of activities of Outright Lewiston/ Auburn and the Edward Little High School Gay Straight Alliance between the years 2008 and 2011.

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**Cite as:** Lewiston/Auburn Gay Youth Collection, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

**Restrictions on Access:** None.

## **Historical Note**

Outright Lewiston/Auburn began in 1996 with a group of young people and adults coming together to form an organization where LGBTQ people and allies could find resources as well as support and community. Since 1996 Outright L/A has expanded its mission with the recognition that former terms are too narrow, today its website states "Outright is for people of all genders and sexualities." Outright L/A has progressed from days of drop-ins at the YWCA and "stealth" activities to hosting large events beyond its boundaries to educate youth and the community about LGBTQ issues.

Today, participants find support and community in a number of Outright L/A's programs, including queer conferences, Maine summer youth summit, speaking engagements at schools and for other organizations, involvement in political activities, Pride activities, and various other events to help promote a safer, more affirming environment for LGBTQ youth in the state of Maine. Additionally, Outright L/A holds weekly drop-ins for youth ages 14-21 who identify as LGBTQ; provides trainings for youth and adult volunteers to assist with trainings, fundraisings and one-on-one support for youth in need; hosts trainings for professionals who work with youth about increasing safety and awareness programs in schools; collaborates with other programs working with LGBTQ youth, and many more activities that provide and encourage safe and affirming environments for LGBTQ youth.

## **Description of the Collection**

The collection contains materials related to Outright Lewiston/ Auburn's activities between the years 2008 and 2011. The bulk of the materials included represent

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programmatic events hosted by or sponsored by Outright L/A. Many materials include activities by Outright L/A youth and students in the Edward Little High School Gay Straight Alliance. Additional materials include publications and resources related to Outright L/A and the youth participants.

The collection has been divided into four series.

Series 1 contains materials related specifically to programmatic events hosted, co-hosted, or raising financial support for Outreach L/A and student participants. Folder one contains materials related to the “Day of Silence,” a national student-led event created by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), sponsored by Edward Little High School’s Gay Straight Alliance and hosted at Edward Little High School on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The event is a silent protest organized in thousands of schools to bring awareness to the silencing effects of anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. The photographs and student and local newspaper articles included in this folder demonstrate the hundred students that took the vow of silence, speaking only in response to teachers directing questions at them, and the 400+ students who identified themselves as allies sympathetic to the cause by wearing rainbow ribbons throughout Edward Little’s school day. The event ended in a march and a protest outside the school building.

Folder two contains a DVD of the Governor’s Commission held on October 7, 2009 and a flyer promoting the event. Folder three contains advertising materials for an annual Solidarity Supper. Folder four contains advertising materials for the 2010 and 2011 Maine QT Youth Summit, and t-shirts from both years’ events. Folder five contains materials related to Edward Little’s “Lewistunning Dragapalooza,” an annual drag show hosted by Outright L/A and held at Bates College. Folder six contains materials related to miscellaneous other events hosted by Outright L/A. Included in this series but housed in oversize are three posters and one flyer promoting various events.

Series 2 contains publications written either by Outright L/A specifically, or by youth supported by and involved in Outright L/A activities.

Series 3 contains resources about Outright L/A that would have been distributed in the community to people wishing to know more about the organization’s mission and activities.

Series 4 contains oversized materials, including three posters and flyers promoting Outright L/A events.

### **Keywords**

Outright Lewiston/Auburn, Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, GLSEN, Gay Straight Alliance, Edward Little High School, Day of Silence, Governor’s Commission, Solidarity Supper, Lewistunning Dragapalooza, Heidi Conn, Ryan Conrad, Penny Sargent, Sarah Holmes.

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 1: Outreach L/A and GSA Programmatic Events (2008-2011)</b>			
1	1	Student newspaper, Latitude 44 – article about Day of Silence	2008 Mar 31
1		Sun Journal newspaper clipping, "Day of Silence ends with Yell"	undated
1		Photo CD, photos of Lewiston-Auburn Gay Youth Collection	undated
1	2	DVD, Governor's Commission	2009 Oct 7
1		Flyer, Governor's commission	2009 Oct 7
1	3	Small flyer, 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Solidarity Supper	2009 Dec 19
1		Large flyer, 7th Annual Solidarity Supper	2009 Dec 19
1		Poster, 7th annual Solidarity Supper (See OVERSIZE)	2009 Dec 19
1	4	Poster, Maine QT Youth Summit (See OVERSIZE)	2010 May 22
1		Flyer, Maine QT Youth Summit	2010 May 22
1		T-Shirt, QT Youth Summit 2010	2010 May 22
1		T-Shirt, QT Youth Summit 2011	2011
2	5	Flyer, Lewistunning Dragapalooza	9-May
2		Program, Lewistunning Dragapalooza, 2nd annual	2010 May 8
2		Poster, Lewistunning Dragapalooza, 2nd annual (See OVERSIZE)	2010 May 8
2		Barbie, Lewistunning Dragapalooza award	undated
2	6	Flyer, "You are not alone!" rally	6-Nov
2		Flyer, Library Dance Party (See OVERSIZE)	18-Apr
<b>Series 2: Publications (2009, undated)</b>			
2	7	Zine, "Left Out," a collection of art by queer youth	undated
2		Outright LA newsletter, spring 2009	2009
2		Outright LA newsletter, fall 2009	2009
<b>Series 3: Resources (undated)</b>			
2	8	Brochure, Outright LA	undated
2		DVD, outright LA Oral history video	undated
2		Sticker, Safe Zone	undated

**Mp Cs6 Dr1 Description****Series 4: Oversize (2009-2010, undated)**

Poster, 7th annual Solidarity Supper	2009 Dec 19
Poster, Maine QT Youth Summit	2010 May 22
Poster, Lewistunning Dragapalooza, 2nd annual	2010 May 8
Flyer, Library Dance Party	18-Apr