

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ARCHIVES



GALA

AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY ARCHIVE TRUST

2004

Prepared by Ruth Morgan (Director)

Postal address: GALA. PO Box 31719, Braamfontein, 2017, South Africa

Telephone: +2711 7174239. Fax: +2711 7171783

Email: morganr@gala.wits.ac.za (director)

gala@library.wits.ac.za (general)

Website: www.gala.wits.ac.za

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1. CONTEXT

Established in 1997, GALA is an independent project of the South African History Archives Trust (SAHA) which forms part of the Historical Papers collection based at the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. For SAHA this was a valuable extension of its existing collections that echoed SAHA's historic commitment to documenting human rights struggles in South Africa. GALA represents a unique resource of material relating to lesbian and gay experience in Southern Africa. It is appropriate that the only lesbian and gay archive on the continent should be located in South Africa, considering that this is the first country in the world to enshrine equality on the basis of sexual orientation in its constitution. In the light of the constitution making process and the ensuing legal reforms, South Africa has become a focus for international and local research attention.

The bulk of the collections are organisational records dating from the 1960s. These document the history of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement in South Africa. More personal records, including letters, scrapbooks and photograph albums complement these collections. There is also an extensive oral narrative collection of both historical and contemporary material.

Recognising that gay and lesbian communities in South Africa are not homogeneous, the Gay and Lesbian Archives strive to reflect that diversity in the collections and by devising appropriate strategies for making the collections more accessible to the public. GALA actively seeks to focus on the histories and experiences of those communities who have been marginalised, not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also on grounds of race, class, gender or disability.

GALA was established as a community archive that aims to serve the needs of academic research, while maintaining its primary function as a repository of community histories, and cultural artefacts. This dual function is reflected in GALA's location as a community archive within an academic institution. GALA has attempted to integrate acquisition and outreach programmes in order to raise public awareness about the archives and to fulfil its role as a community archive. Theatre, video and film productions and innovative tours have complemented more traditional exhibitions as part of the archive's outreach strategy.

In terms of our location in the academy we also recognise that research is a critical function of a gay and lesbian archive in an African context. GALA has been at the forefront of stimulating new avenues of academic enquiry into sexuality in South Africa. Providing both the source material and undertaking research projects that further enhance knowledge and teaching in the sphere of gender and sexuality studies. The research projects undertaken by GALA follow the pattern of previous research projects by emphasising archival collection of life histories, documents, audio and video recordings of community activities and events. As a national lesbian and gay archive, GALA also strives to collect material from a wide range of geographically dispersed lesbian and gay communities throughout Southern Africa. As the only LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex) archive in Africa, we have recently extended our focus to East Africa and in 2005 aim to create linkages with LGBTI organisations throughout Africa.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Introduction

GALA has for the first time since its inception acquired a suite of offices for the administration, outreach and research units when we relocated from a single office within WISER to University Corner in February 2004. University Corner offers an ideal location for the archive as it forms part of the Cultural Arc (Newtown, Mandela Bridge, Constitution Hill) of Johannesburg. University Corner while part of the University of the Witwatersrand, allows direct street access to GALA and houses other NGOs as well as University departments. The additional space allowed our community library to be accommodated within the GALA offices. The archivist is still based at the William Cullen Library which enables him to work closely with SAHA and Historical Papers.

In 2004 our work has continued to focus on expanding the collections, community outreach and research. These three core functions of GALA are integrated wherever possible, thus oral history research projects are used to expand our collections. This ensures progress towards our long term goal of creating a unique repository of the history and lived experience of the gay and lesbian community serving as a basis for further documentation and research which both enhance broader public understanding of issues faced by the gay community and foster improvement in the human rights of the community.

GALA made its collections more accessible to the public through the website and on-line newsletter which now includes a library newsletter. The Guide to Resources was updated, printed and distributed and is also available on the website. Part of reaching a broader audience involved a range of community outreach projects including extending the hours of the gay and lesbian community library, the promotion of the Queer Tour of Johannesburg and a range of theatre, film and publishing projects based on archival collections.

2.2 GALA-SAHA relationship

GALA is constituted as an independent project of the South African History Archive Trust (SAHA). The SAHA deed of trust and SAHA management policy formally include GALA. The SAHA Board is the overall management structure of GALA. In addition, the GALA advisory committee serves to monitor the work of GALA. The advisory committee represents a wide range of interest groups associated with the archives. The six member advisory committee meets quarterly. The advisory committee consists of Sandra Gordon, media expert and business owner (publishing, advertising and public relations) who brings business and media expertise to the project. Dr Rehana Ebr-Vally, a social anthropologist from the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mr Thofi Bishop, also from the University of the Witwatersrand (Division of Bioethics, Faculty of Health Sciences), Graeme Reid, former director and current researcher at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) in the Cultures of Sexuality and Power programme, Zackie Achmat, Chairperson of the Treatment Action Campaign and ex-director of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and Karen Martin, free lance editor and former Archivist. Sello Hatang (director of SAHA) attends all meetings in an ex-officio capacity. GALA regretfully accepted the resignation of Michelle Pickover, Curator of Manuscripts at the University of the Witwatersrand and SAHA Board

Member from the advisory committee during 2004. However she offered to continue liaising with- and advising GALA on an informal basis.

GALA was established as an independent project of SAHA in 1997. Both GALA and SAHA have a close and complex relationship with Historical Papers (HP). The latter gives both organisations physical space, infrastructural support and the assistance of Library members of staff. In significant ways the SAHA and GALA collections are integrated with the broader HP collections. GALA's collections are housed by the Historical Papers Department (HP) in the William Cullen Library free of charge, together with SAHA's collections under a pre-existing 1994 agreement between the University and SAHA for a duration of fifty years. This agreement includes the provision of infrastructural support and the assistance of library staff in times of need which are critical to sustainability.

The directors of GALA and SAHA continued to work closely together in 2004. However, GALA remains autonomous in the sense that it continues to be responsible for its own fundraising and the management of its own affairs.

GALA is governed by the SAHA Financial Policies and Procedures.

GALA's auditors are Douglas and Velcich. On completion of the audit, the audited financial statements for 2004 will be distributed.

The contact details of the auditors are as follows:

Douglas and Velcich

10th Floor

Sable Centre

41 de Korte Street

Braamfontein.

Tel: (+2711) 403-3835

Fax: (+2711) 339-7762

2.3 Collaboration with other organisations

In 2004 GALA collaborated with the following organisations as outlined below:

- The directors of GALA and SAHA continued to work closely together. However, GALA remains autonomous in the sense that it continues to be responsible for its own fundraising and the management of its own affairs.
- GALA collaborates with the Soweto HIV Counselling Association (SOHACA), The Hope and Unity Metropolitan Church (HUMCC), Living Together and the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU) of Wits University / HIVSA on the HIV oral history and outreach project (see 3.3.3.2).
- GALA worked with the Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and Gauteng based organisations by co-ordinating the nominations for the "Just a Minute" Film Development workshop .

- GALA participates in The Joint Project initiative which includes: OUT, The Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, the Triangle Project, The Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW), and the Durban Lesbian and Gay Community and Health Centre. This group meets four times a year to collaborate on projects in three focus areas: lesbian visibility, research and communications. Although GALA is not responsible for a specific project, it attends meetings, offers input to all projects as well as providing a record keeping function.
- GALA has provided record management input and training for FEW and will continue to do so in 2005. In addition GALA provided on site training for The Rainbow Project (TRP), Namibia who are setting up a resource centre. GALA also facilitated that the TRP representative, Steven Scholtz, attend an intensive short course in record management and archiving provided by the former director of SAHA.
- Through the African Women's Life History Project we have continued to work with the women from East and Southern Africa and five of these organisations TALESA (Tanzania), GALEBITRA (Kenya), the Right Companion Foundation (Uganda), Sister Namibia and The Rainbow Project (Namibia). The Coalition for African Lesbians co-ordinated by Madelene Isaacks (TRP) is an outgrowth of this project.

2.4 Resources

In 2004 we had three full time staff members (the director, archivist and administrator/ outreach co-ordinator), seven contract workers (two researchers/writers (youth book), researcher (Gay Men in the Military project), interviewer and facilitator for HIV oral history and outreach project, a book keeper and two part time librarians) and a full time Deaf volunteer (Deaf oral history project).

The total income received for core and project funding for GALA for 2004 was R909,869. The operating budget for 2004 was R1,191,350. GALA had three core funders for this period. HIVOS (Zimbabwe) provided a grant of R233,892. The U.K based Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust provided a grant of R115,000. Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland) provided a grant of R400 000 for the period Jan to June 2004. The shortfall of R327,865 was covered by the balance brought forwards from 2003 of R358,033.

Funding for specific projects, is usually raised separately from our core budget from a range of local and foreign sources. In 2004, Atlantic Philanthropies funding covered all projects except for the continued project support (R279,580) from the HIVOS Gender, Women and Development Desk (Netherlands) for the publication of the book "Tommy boys, lesbian men and ancestral wives: exploring female same sex practices in Africa" arising from the African Women's Oral History Project for the period 2004-05 (see 3.2.5.2).

2.5 Sustainability

GALA relies on funding for its continued existence and activities. This comes from foreign and local sources. GALA has secured a three year grant of R3,880,000 for the 2005-07 period from Atlantic Philanthropies. A balance between foreign donor funds and local funding will help to ensure the

continued support for the project from abroad. GALA worked with a professional fundraising company Thuynsma and Associates to devise a fundraising strategy for the 2005-2007 funding period so as to expand and diversify the funding base for long term sustainability. The strategy includes a "low dollar campaign" targeting individuals both locally and abroad for debit orders and regular contributions.

3. PERFORMANCE REPORTS

3.1 The collections

This is GALA's core activity. It was established as a source of information to the public and to serve as a catalyst for generating otherwise silenced community histories and personal narratives. The GALA collections are housed in the William Cullen Library in terms of the agreement between SAHA and the University of the Witwatersrand. The archives groups are arranged according to the creator of the group. GALA collects a wide range of documentary material, artefacts and oral sources. GALA, like other lesbian and gay archives internationally, pursues an open and flexible acquisition policy, in keeping with the concept of a community archive - this allows individual donors to participate in determining what should be preserved in the archives. Individuals are encouraged to donate personal mementoes, letters, diaries, scrap-books and photographs to the archives. These contributions, coupled with interviews, provide a unique insight into the experiences of individual lesbians and gay men and form part of the larger tapestry of community history and cultural experience.

The archives have also secured an extensive collection of organisational records, which mark the beginning of the process of establishing the source material for a comprehensive lesbian and gay social history in South Africa. This history sheds light on the broader processes of oppression and social transformation in South Africa and, as such, it is a useful tool for viewing aspects of South African history from the margins. Contractual arrangements with a number of organisations ensure that future records will be deposited with GALA.

3.1.1. Acquisitions

The 2004 acquisitions have further broadened the scope of material at the archives: for example, Estian Smit donated material on transgenderism and transgendered rights in South Africa, an area of growing interest to our researchers. Material at the archive documenting the experience of black lesbians in South Africa has also expanded: in addition to material generated by GALA's oral history research projects (3.3.3), there are body maps created by lesbians affected by HIV, video recordings and photographs of the Miss Lesbian pageant 2003 and 2004, and exhibitions by photographer Zanele Muholi of her own work ('Visualize Sexuality') and those of others. Material on neighbouring countries Namibia, Botswana and Zambia was also donated.

A large and exciting intake of material came at the turn of the year, with the acquisition of an extensive collection of photographs, posters, costumes and papers documenting the Mother City Queer Project (MCQP) in Cape Town which will be delivered in January 2005. The launch of this annual party coincided with the first democratic election in South Africa, and will be of interest to researchers on contemporary gay rights, tourism, and the 'pink rand'.

Other photographic acquisitions to be highlighted are a sizable collection of South African male erotica from the 1960s (Jan Salie Collection), Joe Garmeson's photographs and albums of gay life in the 1950s and 1960s, and Carl Collison's photovoice project on gay and lesbian people living with HIV and AIDS ("Nine Lives").

Our collection of sound recordings has grown sizably over the past year, and two are worth highlighting: interviews collected for the Youth Project (see 3.3.3.1), which have been deposited and archived, and interviews with prominent LGBTI activists collected for a research project on the LGBTI social movement in South Africa. Our collection of video recordings has also grown, with a significant recent donation by Matthew Krouse.

The 2004 acquisitions have also expanded the range of material in existing collections, including significant additions to the collection of a comprehensive set of the outstanding material of Constitution related legal material related to court cases. These include material donated in 2004 from Crystal Cambanis for cases relating to employee benefits (Satchwell vs President of the RSA and another and the POLMED case) and some additional adoption records (Du Toit v. Minister of Welfare and Population Development). GALA also received records from Raymond Tucker donated prior to his death on the benefits for partners of judges case (Satchwell vs President of the RSA and another). The only outstanding material is that relating to the current same sex marriage case that is in progress. The Lesbian and Gay Equality Project will donate the material at a later stage.

Other collections which received additional material were: Transvaal Organisation of Gay Sport, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, and the Gay Association of South Africa collections. GALA has also received numerous donations of academic papers, theses and dissertations, journals, press clippings, and videos and television programmes. We wish to thank all those who have donated material to the archive over the past year.

3.1.2. Control and Preservation

In 2004 GALA continued its process of digitizing sound recordings and key photographic holdings in order (1) to ensure the long term preservation of these records, (2) to provide access to photographic holdings and eventually sound recordings online, and (3) to enable long distance researchers (i.e. those who cannot travel to the archives) to make use of these records.

Deterioration of sound recordings on cassette tapes was identified in 2001 as an area requiring priority attention. GALA has participated in the joint digitisation project conducted by SAHA, GALA and Historical Papers. Audiotapes are being converted to CD with equipment purchased by SAHA which GALA has limited access to. In 2004 GALA converted 15 audio tapes from additions to GALA's oral history project the majority of which came from Dirsuweit's social movements project. Progress is slow as the process is time consuming and GALA only has access to the equipment for one afternoon a week.

The digitisation of key photographic holdings has also increased in 2004 and includes Pride photographs, the Kewpie Photographic Collection, one of the Joe Garmeson albums, and the Miss Lesbian 2003 photographs and miscellaneous photographs that are needed for the website. Approximately 400 images were digitised in 2004.

3.1.3. Arrangement and Description

In 2004 we completed the processing of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality records, our largest collection at over 70 archive boxes. New acquisitions have also been processed. During the past year we have also done much to standardize and regularize the procedures for processing new material in conjunction with Historical Papers and SAHA.

The database software (Inmagic) has been installed on a dedicated computer for use by researchers. A large database has been set up to allow for different types of searches. During 2004 data from an extensive collection of press clippings from 1998 were entered into a new database. We ultimately aim to enter information on this ongoing collection which started in 1997.

3.1.4. Access and Use

GALA and SAHA are physically located in the Historical Papers Department of the University of the Witwatersrand at the William Cullen Library, East Campus. A single reading room accesses all three archives. It is serviced by Historical Papers professional staff who integrate all knowledge of all three collections. SAHA and GALA staff provide expert support when required. Guides, inventories, indexes and reference books are available for use. The introduction of the InMagic database in 2003/2004 has brought tangible benefits to researchers, allowing visitors to the archives to search collections more quickly using a keyword search.

GALA responds to enquiries via email, telephonically, through correspondence and through personal visits. As a service to distance users, inventories are sent either electronically or by post and copies of relevant documents supplied to researchers. The web page is also of use to researchers. With the exception of the provision of copies of records, all GALA access and use services are provided free of charge.

Researchers in 2004 represented universities (both staff and students), publishers, film, television and media companies, museums, NGO's and human rights organizations, law firms, artists, and the general public. GALA's international contribution to scholarship is evident in the large number of researchers from outside South Africa, representing 14 countries, who made use of our collections and expertise. The most heavily represented being the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the United States. Other countries include Australia, Botswana, Denmark, India, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, and Zimbabwe. The majority of researchers from South Africa came from Gauteng, but also included Kwa-Zulu Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and the Orange Free State. The number of reading room researchers was 63 (this does not reflect the number of visits made, for example, one researcher made use of the archive 20 times.) The number of archive related email enquiries was 238 (this does not include follow up emails or emails related to other GALA activities). The number of telephone enquiries was not recorded, but will be in 2005. In addition, a number of tours of the archive were conducted for community members including large groups of trainees from the Forum for the Empowerment of Women as well as interested persons.

Our records were used in 2004 to support book, magazine and newspaper projects, photographic projects, dissertations and theses, exhibitions, video and television productions, a novel, and a lawsuit,

amongst other purposes. The most frequently cited purposes for use of our records in 2004 can be grouped as follows: historical research; dissertation/ thesis; and course work/ academic paper. The most accessed collection was the Hope and Unity Metropolitan Community Church Collection, the result of increased interest in religion on the part users in 2004 related to the controversy surrounding gay priests in the Anglican Church. Other frequently accessed collections were Media; Homophobic Violence; Triangle Project; Simon Nkoli; National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality; Oral History Project; Renee Liddicoat; Joe Garmeson; Everything Must Come to Light; Kewpie; Edwin Cameron; the aVersion Project; and After Nines. In addition to these collections, videos were well used as well as non-fiction books and magazines from the Gay and Lesbian Library.

The subject focus of the research undertaken reflects the strength and global diversity of the GALA holdings. Examples include: biographical research (on Simon Nkoli, Zackie Achmat, Edwin Cameron, Ivan Toms, and Sheila Lapinsky among others); religion (Christian perspectives on homosexuality; religious lobbying; queer ideas of God; homosexuals experience of stigmatization in the Church and so on); HIV and AIDS (legal ethics; personal narratives; origins of the HIV and AIDS movement in SA; responses to HIV and AIDS in the 1980s; HIV and the media among other topics); lesbian experience (violence against black lesbians, violence within lesbian relationships, lesbian writing in SA, lesbian experience in SA, lesbian sangomas); the law (same-sex marriage; the equality clause); media (SA medias coverage of homosexuality in pre and post apartheid eras; comparative study between coverage in Australia and SA). Other topics included masculinity (power and abuse in gay male relationships) migration, transgenderism in SA, education, and queer history and experience in Hillbrow, among other topics.

Our collections have also been used in a number of video and television productions over the past year, including four television productions broadcast on SABC, and two short films shown at the Out-in-Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Our material was also used for a documentary on South Africa's constitution to be broadcast in 2005.

3.1.5. Guide and Website

Our *Guide to the Resources of the Gay and Lesbian Archives* was updated and published in early 2004, and distributed to various archives, universities and other institutions in South Africa and internationally. This has led to more email and telephone enquiries in 2004.

The *Guide* is also available online on the GALA website, where it is updated on a regular basis. The website continues to be an important tool for long distance users of our collections, and many email enquiries mention that the user found us through our website. Regrettably, our website does not record the number of actual visitors/hits to our site (this function will be added in 2005). However, our site includes an option that allows people to subscribe to the GALA mailing list by entering their email address. Of the 117 people who subscribed using this option in 2004, the largest group (based on the information contained in the email address) was South African, quickly followed by persons from the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Germany, Australia and Canada were also well represented.

3.2 Community Outreach

3.2.1 Theatre

3.2.1.1 Two Men Talking

In March GALA hosted a performance of "2 Men Talking" which is based on a dialogue between two South African men currently living in New York, one of whom is HIV positive. The performance was well attended by the young disadvantaged LGBTI community and translated well into a township context. In 2005 we plan to conduct a joint project with Paul Browde and Murray Nossel from "2 Men Talking" to create a South African production based on our HIV life story project (see 3.3.3.2). Browde and Nossel have devised a training manual to facilitate other narrative performances around HIV issues in different contexts. They are excited to pilot this with GALA in South Africa. The GALA fundraiser is working closely with them to raise the necessary funds for this project.

3.2.2 Films

3.2.2.1 Film Development

GALA has purchased a broadcasting quality video camera and a GALA staff member, Busi Kheswa is learning to use this sophisticated equipment. Due to lack of funds in 2004 for training, she relied on voluntary assistance from Wits TV staff and students. The camera has already been put to good use filming key events at the LGBTI pride week. Other LGBTI organisations have requested that GALA film community events such as the Women's Day events focusing on lesbian issues and workshops around the same sex marriage campaign organised by the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project. GALA has also assisted in the filming of a documentary by Donna Smith on lesbian poetry. The camera has proved indispensable in that we can now collect audio-visual archival footage and for the various oral history projects. The Deaf oral history project has been able to proceed since the acquisition of the camera.

3.2.2.2 Documentary: *Everything Must Come to Light*

This documentary co-produced by GALA and Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival was completed in February 2002. The film was co-directed by the late Mpumi Njinge and Paulo Alberton and produced by Ruth Morgan. It features three dynamic vibrant sangomas (traditional healers) involved in same-sex relationships living in Soweto. Funding for this film came from Atlantic Philanthropies and Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The film breaks down stereotypes about "African culture", kinship, sexuality and gender identity in an African context. This project follows the format of other projects that include a collection and documentation component, a research dimension and a dissemination programme in the form of the video documentary. The film has been distributed in North America to film festivals and educational institutions by First Run/Icarus Films. It has been also internationally distributed by GALA on request.

In 2004 GALA sent the documentary to the following film festivals for screening: The 18th London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in the UK, The 3rd Commonwealth Film Festival in the UK, the 18th Milano International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in Spain, the first international human right film festival in Spain, The 20th Berlin Lesbian Film Festival in Germany, DIVERSA in Argentina, Mix Brasil Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and the Paris Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The film was also screened at an African Studies Conference at Universitat de Leon in Spain and the WERRC Conference in Dublin, Ireland in 2004.

In addition it was requested by Diva magazine in the UK who ran a story on the making of the documentary.

Preview copies were sent to: The Camden LGBT forum in the UK, LesGaiCineMad in Spain, the 12th FEMINALE, the International Women's Film Festival in Cologne, Germany, the 15th Hamburg Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and the 19th Copenhagen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Denmark,

First Run/Icarus continues to distribute the film in North America. The film was rented by Nazareth College, and leased for life to :CSU Dominguez Hills, Harvard College Library, Weber State University, University of San Diego and the Northwestern University Library. It was screened at the Seattle Lesbian / Gay Film Festival and previewed for purchase by the University of Delaware and previewed for broadcast by Worldlink.

GALA has also distributed the documentary on same sex sangomas in 2004 to the following institutions and organisations in South Africa who have requested it: Rhodes University Library, University of Cape Town Library, Rand Afrikaans University, the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation resource centre, the Triangle Project and the Western Cape Provincial Library Service.

3.2.2.3 “Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free”: Small town gay and lesbian life through the lens of the hairdressing saloon

This video documentary co-directed by Graeme Reid and Paulo Alberton was produced by GALA, Franmi and Vidiola in 2001. Since then it has been screened extensively at film festivals internationally. In 2004 it was screened at the 20th Turin International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in Italy and the Paris Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. This project included research, archival and dissemination components. The research aspect involved travelling to small towns, urban peripheries and rural areas and documenting the lives of gay men and lesbians living in more remote areas. This sought to address the imbalance of the archive holdings, which tend to collect the life stories, papers and records from the urban centres. Interviews were conducted in audio and video format and several individuals have loaned personal photograph albums for duplication and narration.

3.2.3 Queer Johannesburg Tour

GALA, in partnership with other organizations, developed a tour of historical Johannesburg and surrounding areas in 1999. The particular focus of the tour is to give visitors a unique insight into the history of lesbian and gay culture and political development in the Gauteng region. The Queer Johannesburg Tour – substantially expanded and updated – was re-launched at the end of 2003, and the GALA archivist, Anthony Manion, and Outreach coordinator, Busi Kheswa, were trained as tour guides. The Tour has also benefited from the participation of sangomas Nkunzi Nkabinde and Phindile Khumalo. The Tour was offered on ten occasions in 2004, including four conference tours, a tour

organized by the Anthropology Department of Wits University for second year students, two open tours (a mix of locals and international visitors), an outreach tour (for local disadvantaged lesbians from the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) who could not afford the fee) and two tours on request from two journalists: a local journalist from the LGBTI publication WRAPPED and a freelance print journalist from Germany.

The conference tours further illustrate GALA's international reach, and have included senior jurists from North America and Europe attending a Centre for Applied Legal Studies Human Rights Conference associated with ten years of democracy; international filmmakers brought out by the Out-in-Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; delegates from across the African continent attending the All Africa Conference hosted by Behind the Mask; and international Freedom of Information specialists attending the conference "Justice, Unfinished Business and Access to Information" organized by SAHA in conjunction with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The Tour has also proved to be of some interest to local residents. The Tour has also continued to attract positive local and international media attention. For more information visit our website, <http://www.gala.wits.ac.za>.

3.2.4 Gay and Lesbian Library

The library is one of GALA's most important ongoing outreach projects. The library relocated to the GALA offices at University Corner in April 2004. New shelving was built to accommodate the growing collection of books, videos and archival book collections. This was a positive move allowing for easy access for both members and researchers visiting the archive. There have been many new members and visitors including the Rainbow Project from Namibia who plan to set up a similar operation. The relocation has facilitated researchers' requirements to make use of the audio visual equipment available in the library in order to view archival video tapes.

The library houses appropriate reference material from the GALA collection as well as extensive collections of fiction, non-fiction and videos that may be borrowed. The library has approximately three and a half thousand book titles in its collection. Since January 2004 the library has obtained 291 new books (almost half of which are donations from Dutch (Dorelies Kraakman), U.S and local sources and most of which are non-fiction). In addition approximately 50 new video titles were obtained including the video suitcase from Out In Africa: Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Funding from Atlantic Philanthropies continued in 2004 and allowed for the employment of two part time librarians.

Library membership and usage continues to grow as a result of increased publicity. There were 34 new library members in 2004. In order to publicise the library, bookmarks and posters continued to be distributed at Pride and at libraries and bookstores. The library is also publicised via the webpage where the collections can also now be accessed: www.gala.wits.ac.za.

The library provides a much needed safe environment where gay men and lesbians can meet informally on a weekly basis and provide mutual support. The library hosted social events in 2004 including a drag show, 2 picnics, attending a play and an end of year breakfast for members.

3.2.5 Publishing projects

In accordance with the principles of GALA, it is important that the archival material is accessible to as wide an audience as possible. A number of activities have achieved this, and GALA plans to consolidate and extend these.

3.2.5.1 Youth Book: “Balancing Act: South African gay and lesbian youth speak out”

The book will be published together with a teachers guide in English and Xhosa and will be distributed in schools in 2005. The aim of the Youth Book Project is to provide relevant, positive reference points for young people. Joanne Bloch and Karin Martin have collected and edited a series of 25 audio taped interviews with a cross section of youth living in Gauteng, ranging in age from about thirteen to twenty-five. A wide range of LGBTI youth have been interviewed yielding a body of fascinating material for the archive. The book was submitted to New Africa Books in March 2004 and has now been translated into Afrikaans and Xhosa. It will be published in March 2005. Our aim is to promote a sense of entitlement and pride amongst gay and lesbian youth by providing reference points for making responsible and personally authentic life choices in the realms of gender roles and relationships, and sexuality. By producing a positive, life-affirming book, we also hope to promote openness on the issues, in the interests of reducing homophobic prejudice (see 3.3.3.1).

3.2.5.2 African Women's Life Story Book: “Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives: exploring female same sex practices in Africa”

This book is based on material from the African Women's Life Story Project: Exploring Same Sex Practices that was completed in 2003 in relation to the Sex and Secrecy Conference's Women's Same Sex Forum hosted by GALA. The book will be completed and published by Jacana in 2005 and is being co-written and co-edited by the GALA director and Saskia Wieringa, an anthropologist from the Netherlands internationally recognised for her work on female same sexuality. The book has several purposes. It demonstrates that there are traditional, institutionalized ways in which African women contracted same sex relations. Second it proclaims the right of African women engaged in same sex practices or relations to their identities as Africans. Third it gives a vivid portrait of the lives of African women engaged in same sex relations and practices, portraying the joys of having found love as well as the pains of betrayals and the hatred encountered in their communities, as well as the many shades of emotions in between.

Significant progress was made on the book in 2004. The GALA director worked with Saskia Wieringa in the Netherlands for a period of two weeks to finalise the initial drafting of nine of the eleven chapters. The women's three page presentations were expanded and elaborated by Morgan and Wieringa into fully developed papers which included a great deal of source material from the original transcriptions. After receiving feedback from the participants these chapters were revised and submitted to Jacana. Two of the chapters focus on South African material and have been researched and written by Busi Kheswa and Nkunzi Nkabinde from GALA. This project is being funded by HIVOS (Netherlands) through its Gender, Women and Development Desk.

3.2.5.3 Newsletters

GALA publishes and distributes a newsletter twice a year in order to make its holdings accessible to the public. The newsletters include information about both archival material, research and outreach projects. GALA published two newsletters in 2004, and the text component are also available on our

website. The first "Commemorating the Life of B. E. J. Garmeson" focused on the life of Joe Garmeson, a prominent LGBTI activist during the law reform movement of the late 60s who was a firm supporter and friend of GALA. It was distributed at the Out In Africa film festival in March. The second "'Celebrating Fifteen Years of Pride in SA" focused on the history of Pride marches in South Africa. It was distributed at the LGBTI cultural week at Constitution Hill preceding the Pride Parade in September. The newsletters were also distributed to gay and lesbian organisations locally, to individuals on GALA's mailing list and to Queer Tour participants.

3.2.6 Exhibitions

A number of exhibitions were held in 2004. Small exhibitions of archival material were held for the following events: the 'Conceptualizing the AIDS Museum' conference (history of LGBTI HIV and AIDS activism in SA); the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project press conference on same-sex marriage (65 Years of Gays and Lesbians in the Media); Orientation Week at the University of the Witwatersrand; and the play 'Two Men Talking' (Zanele Muholi's photographs exploring lesbian identity titled 'Visualize Sexuality' and archival material on HIV and AIDS in South Africa). On a bigger scale, GALA also exhibited archival material from our Pride Collections at Constitution Hill during the week preceding the Johannesburg Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade (Fifteen Years of Pride, Ten Years of Democracy). GALA also arranged for photographer Carl Collison's exhibition of photographs and personal narratives on HIV and AIDS to go on display for three months at the Adler Museum of Medical Science at the University of the Witwatersrand.

3.3 Research projects

In addition to the general research facility provided by GALA, it also conducts specific research projects. In 2004 our research focused on the Gay men in the apartheid military project as well as the different components of our oral history project: disability, youth, sangomas and HIV/AIDS (see 3.3.3 : oral history project).

3.3.1 GALA-SAHA collaboration, Freedom of Information Project: Gay men in the apartheid military

GALA is engaged in an active programme of recovering existing material in other archival repositories. In association with the South African History Archives' Freedom of Information Programme, GALA embarked in 2002 on a project to use the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) to obtain documents from the Military Archives and the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) on Dr Aubrey Levine. This project, funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, was an extension of the aVersion Project carried out by GALA in association with the Health and Human Rights Project of the Community Health Department at UCT in 1999.

In 2004 Laura Pollecutt was appointed again as a contract researcher to drive the project, with dedicated funding from Atlantic Philanthropies. The Gays in the Military project continued its attempts to unearth information and documentation on the treatment of gays in the SADF. The bulk of the work carried out so far has involved a thorough perusal of the Committee on South Africa War Resisters archive located in Cape Town and an ongoing search for records in the Military Archive.

COSAWR's *War Resister No 47* provided insight into No 1 Military Hospital, its psychiatry ward, Dr Levine, and what was seen as his project, Greefswald, a farm to which habitual drug offenders were sent. The hope of finding the primary source of this information, motivated the search of the COSAWR archive. Disappointingly, the original research was not located and it was subsequently established that it has probably been lost. A questionnaire for conscripts in exile uncovered in the search, required the resister to fill in homophobic treatment he may have experienced in the SADF. However, unfortunately, none of these completed questionnaires survived. The COSAWR archive is, nonetheless, rich in information on military conscription and resistance in South Africa.

Despite the co-operation researchers get from the Military Archive, accessing military records is still a painfully slow process. For example, after the initial request has been submitted for the records of the Surgeons General and Chaplains General, there is a wait for the declassification of the *lists* of records. Once these are available, time is spent identifying records that *may* contain information relating to the topic. A list of the records required for perusal is then submitted. Limited staff available to undertake the declassification of records requested, means long waits between the request and the release of the records. Although it is encouraging to know that researchers are making considerable use of POIA, it is also disheartening to be told that our requests are 24th in line and that it will take months for them to be released! These outstanding requests, further personal interviews and research on aversion therapy more generally, will be the focus of the Gays in the Military project in 2005.

3.3.3 Oral History Projects:

3.3.3.1 Youth life stories

Twenty five life story transcripts as well as photographs which were collected for the youth book project were placed in our collections. A wide range of LGBTI youth have been interviewed yielding a body of fascinating material for the archive (see 3.2.5.1 Youth Book)

3.3.3.2 HIV/AIDS

The HIV project has been problematic due to the high level of stigmatisation of HIV in the LGBTI community and the reluctance of individuals to provide interviews or attend a support group. However GALA undertook a number of innovative initiatives aimed at decreasing stigmatisation, public education and ultimately increasing our collections. During 2004 Reverend Paul Mokgethi who is an openly HIV positive gay reverend of the Hope and Unity Metropolitan Community Church (HUMCC) has been employed on a short term contract to work on this project and interview gay men in order to collect life stories for GALA. He was selected for the trust he has already established in the disadvantaged LGBTI community around Johannesburg. Despite his trusting relationship with individuals, people are still struggling to be formally interviewed on audiotape due to the continuing stigmatisation. He was thus only able to complete and transcribe three audiotaped interviews by December 2004. Ms Busi Kheswa, the GALA outreach co-ordinator continued to work on this project focusing on lesbians. She completed an additional three interviews, facing the same problems as Rev.Mokgethi. They have also both incorporated peer counselling into the project using the model of memory facilitation constructed by Philip Denis at the University of Natal at Pietermaritzburg. Through this interchange, GALA is continuing to build a reciprocal relationship with this living oral archive.

They were also able to make contact with at least five individuals through their interviews who are willing to attend a group.

HIV Outreach activities:

- A workshop was hosted by GALA in November 2004 to assess the needs of the LGBTI community in terms of HIV support. The programme included a needs assessment by Juan Nel, Director, Unisa Centre for Applied Psychology. Approximately 40 people attended the workshop, mainly disadvantaged LGBTI youth who attend the HUMCC in Fordsburg. A representative from PHRU/HIVSA was present. The outcomes of the workshop included the expression of need for a support group to be reinitiated, the need for ongoing HIV peer education and discussion groups and the need for a drop in centre for men. GALA will be working with OUT in 2005 to re-establish a support group for infected people from our community. We will be hosting monthly peer education and facilitated discussion groups as well as working with HIVSA to provide a gay men's day at one of the drop in centres that HIVSA will establish in Soweto in 2005.
- GALA facilitated a HIV awareness edu-tainment event in Soweto in November. The workshop was aimed at young black LGBTI HIV positive people in order to destigmatise HIV and encourage people to go for voluntary testing and counselling.
- In relation to lesbians and HIV, GALA assisted the Living Together Project in finding lesbians to participate in their project which used a social therapy performance and art work approach in their three month programme which finished in July. GALA co-hosted an exhibit of the results of this project on Heritage day at the Pride cultural event at Constitution Hill. Some of the body maps have been lodged in the archive.
- As part of its advocacy work to include LGBTI issues in current HIV discourse, GALA contributed to the debate around the HIV Museum/Archive project initiated by the Perinatal HIV research unit (PHRU) in conjunction with SAHA by providing information from our oral history project in discussions, seminars and a conference (see 3.3.4).
- GALA is also planning to develop a theatrical performance with *Two Men Talking* as part of its HIV outreach programme in 2005 (see 3.2.1).
- An article on GALA's HIV oral history project focusing on lesbians who are HIV positive as a result of hate crimes appeared in the Wits AIDS Research Institute newsletter which was distributed on World Aids Day.

3.3.3.3 Gays and Lesbians with Disabilities

Mr John Meletse, GALA's Deaf volunteer on the Deaf oral history project has made substantive if slow progress in this difficult area of research. Mr Meletse produced and directed a film "I have Two!" after being nominated by GALA to participate in the Out In Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival's "Just a Minute" workshop earlier in 2004. This three minute film was based on his own life story interview that has been lodged with GALA. The film was screened at the Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film

Festival this year. Mr Meletse presented a poster and screened his film at the International Conference on Deaf Education: Building Bridges to Access which was hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand in September 2004. At this conference he was interviewed by Deaf TV about his work at GALA. After the insert was screened on SABC, GALA was contacted by many more Deaf gays and lesbians throughout the country interested in our project. Mr Meletse was able to interview three Deaf gay men at GALA this year, one of whom travelled from Durban for the interview. These interviews were video-recorded and glossed into English. He needs to interview people throughout the provinces in 2005.

3.3.3.4 Same sex sangoma (traditional healers) project

In 2004 GALA continued its relationship with sangomas as a means of accessing the living oral archive and incorporating the material from this project into the historical tour of Queer Johannesburg (see 3.2.3). The lesbian sangoma Ms. Nkunzi Nkabinde who has a dominant male ancestor and who was first trained as a GALA tour guide had to withdraw from the tour in March 2004 after getting a full time job as a tour guide at Constitution Hill. If she is available she does the Constitution Hill part of the tour together with the GALA archivist. In 2004 our efforts focused on training another sangoma Ms. Phindile Khumalo who is also a prophet in the indigenous church as a GALA tour guide. The tour now incorporates a visit to her trainer's consulting room in Soweto. The sangoma/prophet visit on the tour has proven to be a highlight. Ms. Nkabinde co-presented a paper on this project together with the Director of GALA at the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERCC), University College, Dublin, Lesbian Lives XI Conference: Lesbian Lives, Studies and Activism since the Lesbian Postmodern held in Dublin in February 2004.

Due to Ms. Nkabinde being hired on a full time basis at Constitution Hill in March 2004 as a tour guide she has not been able to focus on writing her autobiographical book about her life as a lesbian sangoma. However, the fact that she has a full time job at Constitution Hill ensures that she continues educating the public about same sex sangomas on a daily basis. It is also a good example of GALA participating in capacity building as her initial tour guide experience occurred at GALA who recommended her for the six month intensive programme at Constitution Hill where she was trained, accredited and employed.

A masters student in Anthropology, Phineas Riba, under the co-supervision of the Ruth Morgan and Dr Rehana Ebr-Vally (Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand) has done the bulk of the work for this project in 2004. His work exploring the gender-identity of a male same-sex oriented sangoma emerged out of the sangoma oral history project. An eighteen month extension of the time frame for his Masters was negotiated as necessary due to the time consuming nature of the research that involves sangomas who operate in a spiritual realm. He now aims to complete his thesis at the end of 2005 and has made good progress, having worked on several chapters. No funds have been received for this project during 2004.

3.3.3.5 Older Lesbian Oral History Project

In 2004 GALA continued to search for older lesbians to interview, particularly from previously disadvantaged communities as this still constitutes a gap in our collections. This continues to be a difficult task as no-one seems to know of same sex identified women of colour over the age of 40. It seems that these women are not active in the lesbian community which is represented by women in

their 20s and 30s. Five audio taped interviews were conducted in isiZulu and translated into English. The interviews included two lesbian activists currently in their 30s, a reverend from the Durban Hope and Unity Metropolitan Church in her 40s, and a HIV positive lesbian activist from the 80s who is now in her 50s and currently living in Mpumalanga. In addition a videotaped discussion was conducted by the director of GALA with a group of older white lesbians in their 60s.

Oral History Project outputs

Outputs from all focus areas of our oral history project included audio-visual, audio and print material acquisitions for the archive. In terms of outreach the sangoma project featured in the Queer Tour of Johannesburg. The Deaf TV programme (DTV) featured the Disability oral history project resulting in increased visibility and people contacting GALA. Two international conference presentations were based on work on the sangoma and disability oral history projects respectively. The youth book, "Balancing Act: gay and lesbian youth speak out" was submitted to the publishers and will be published in early 2005. The HIV project included presentations at the PHRU/SAHA seminar and conference, an article in the Aids Research Unit publication on World Aids Day, re-establishing a support group for 2005, one-on-one counselling for HIV infected and affected gay men and lesbians, hosting a performance of the play "Two men talking", and hosting an edu-tainment event advocating voluntary counselling and testing and subsequent treatment which received local radio coverage, and a workshop focusing on the HIV related needs of the disadvantaged gay and lesbian community.

3.3.4 Conference Presentations and Attendance

In keeping with the previous GALA policy of being selective regarding international conference attendance, Ruth Morgan and Nkunzi Nkabinde (same sex sangoma working with GALA) represented GALA at the 2004 WERRC conference in Dublin for a co-presentation at the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERCC), University College, Dublin, Lesbian Lives XI Conference: Lesbian Lives, Studies and Activism since the Lesbian Post-modern, held in Dublin in February 2004. The paper and screening of the film Everything Must Come to Light were highly successful. Publicity included an article and photograph in DIVA (British publication).

A GALA presentation on record keeping, archiving and oral histories was conducted by Anthony Manion and Busi Kheswa at the All Africa LGBTI conference hosted by Behind the Mask and held in South Africa in February 2004 for LGBTI organisations throughout Africa.

GALA participated with SAHA in shaping debate around the formation of a museum/archive dedicated to HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with the Baragwanath Perinatal Unit and funded by the Carnegie Foundation and the Wits Institute on AIDS research. GALA ensured that same sex issues around HIV which are usually overlooked in HIV debates were included in this project. GALA Staff members gave presentations in the pre-conference seminar organised around the conceptualisation of the museum/archives, as well as during the Conference held in November. GALA staff also attended the other seminar dedicated to ethical issues related to documenting HIV and AIDS.

Mr Meletse presented a poster and screened his film on behalf of GALA at the International Conference on Deaf Education: Building Bridges to Access which was hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand in September 2004. As he was interviewed at the conference for DTV, his presentation

achieved national TV coverage thus increasing the visibility of the Deaf oral history project (see 3.3.3.3)

The GALA archivist, Mr Manion attended the South African Museum Association (SAMA) conference: Democratising Museums and Heritage Ten Years On. Although he didn't give a presentation it was an important opportunity for him to network. Important contacts were established with a range of people including museum curators, project managers and independent consultants. This was important in view of GALA laying the groundwork to disseminate material from its collections through travelling exhibitions to mainstream museums in the 2005-07 period.

3.4 Evaluation

The report of the independent evaluation of GALA *Without a past there can be no pride* was completed by Jon Campbell in May 2004 and was submitted to the Atlantic Philanthropies and Hivos at that time.