



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

The Mattachine Society of Washington
"Love in Action" Collection

NMAH.AC.1428

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Katarina Walthers

2018

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Smid, John J. Papers, 1983-2009, undated.....	4
Series 2: Love in Action (LIA), 1978-2013, undated.....	6
Series 3: New Hope and Exodus International Ministries, 1987-2001, undated.....	8
Series 4: Publications, 1983-2011, undated.....	9
Series 5: Audio-Visual, 1988-2005, undated.....	12

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	The Mattachine Society of Washington "Love in Action" Collection
Date:	1978-2013, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1428
Creator:	Mattachine Society of Washington (Donor)
Extent:	4.1 (13 boxes) Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers and publications collected by the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC relating to the gay to straight conversion therapy program known as Love in Action (LIA) and director of the Memphis, Tennessee LIA, John J. Smid and author Garrard Conley.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by The Mattachine Society of Washington, 2017.

Provenance

Donated to the Archives Center in 2017 by the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC. Portions of the collection had previously been donated to the Mattachine Society by Garrard Conley and John J. Smid.

Processing Information

Processed by Katarina Walthers, intern, 2018. Supervised by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archives specialist.

Preferred Citation

The Mattachine Society of Washington "Love in Action" Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Do not use original materials when available on reference video or audio tapes.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Love in Action was founded in 1973 in San Rafael, California. Their motto was, "Finding freedom in Jesus Christ from sexual and relational sin." The first two paragraphs of this history are taken directly from their archived website,

"Love in Action International (LIA) was founded by Frank Worthen in 1973. At age 43 Frank rededicated his life to Jesus after 20 years of pursuing homosexual behavior. With his testimony and a newspaper ad, Frank proclaimed a seldom-heard message: "There is a way out of homosexuality, and his name is Jesus Christ!"

"Love in Action is the oldest established member ministry of Exodus International, a nationwide referral network. We are a referral ministry of Focus on the Family and the American Family Association. Known around the world for our residential discipleship programs, we have had clients from all over the US and more than a dozen countries. In 1994 LIA moved from its original home of San Rafael, California to Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis has been a hospitable home, and its many vibrant churches play a crucial role in the ministry. In 2001 LIA started a groundbreaking residential discipleship program. Since then, hundreds of men and women have found freedom and significance in Christ through this uniquely powerful experience. We are privileged to be involved in serving the people of God by partnering with them in their journey out of bondage and into the freedom and power of obedience to Jesus Christ."

After the settlement of a lawsuit between LIA and the State of Tennessee and the departure and recanting of the program by director John Smid, Love in Action was repackaged into Restoration Path in 2012. Restoration Path is headed by David Jones and continues to exist in Tennessee.

Garrard Conley, the author of *Boy Erased*, is a survivor of the conversion therapy program that was based in Memphis and headed by John Smid. *Boy Erased* recounts Conley's experiences in the program. The book is the basis for the motion picture of the same name.

Website accessed 2018 July 10: <https://web.archive.org/web/20110803195310/http://www.loveinaction.org/aboutus>

Founded in 1961 by Franklin Kameny and Jack Nichols, the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC was the first gay civil rights organization in Washington, DC. The Society has actively worked to seek out and archive papers and collections directly related to LGBT history.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains papers, publications, pamphlets, and newsclipping relating to the gay to straight (known as ex-gay), conversion therapy program, Love in Action (LIA). This collection contains the papers of John Smid, former director of the Love in Action program in Memphis, Tennessee. There are also materials from other ex-gay programs New Hope Ministries and Exodus. Series 2 contains Garrard Conley's (author of *Boy Erased*) workbook and a folder of loose material from his time in the Love in Action program. Series 2 also contains the Love in Action class manual, *Love in Action Steps Out Program*. Series 4 and 5 contain a variety of publications, writings, and audio-visual materials from groups and programs dedicated to conversion therapy.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

Series 1: Smid, John J., 1983-2009, undated

Series 2: Love in Action, 1978-2013, undated

Series 3: New Hope and Exodus International Ministries, 1987-2001, undated

Series 4: Publications, 1983-2011, undated

Series 5: Audio-Visual, 1988-2005, undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Bisexuality
- Gays
- Health
- Homosexuality
- LGBT
- Lesbian and gay experience
- Mental health
- Psychology
- Sexual orientation

Types of Materials:

- Manuals
- Newsclippings
- Newsletters
- Pamphlets

Container Listing

Series 1: Smid, John J. Papers, 1983-2009, undated

Scope and Contents: John J. Smid joined Love in Action (LIA) eventually moved into the leadership of the organization. He is the former director of the Memphis, Tennessee program of LIA. He recanted and departed the organization in 2008. He and his husband, Larry McQueen, were married in November 2014. In 2012 he published his memoirs, *Ex'd Out: How I Fired the Shame Committee*.

Box 3, Folder 1	Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality, 1983
Box 3, Folder 2	Engaging Your Emotions, 1987
Box 3, Folder 3	What Can Lead to Homosexuality, 1989
Box 3, Folder 4	Five Love Languages, originals, 1995
Box 3, Folder 5	Church's Response, 2009
Box 3, Folder 6	Five Love Languages, test and copies, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Boundaries, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Deliverance: The Instant Cure, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Disciple the Nations, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Homosexuality: Is It Right or Wrong; Do I Have to Take a Stand?, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Ten Things God Cannot Do, undated
Box 3, Folder 12	Confronting in Love, undated
Box 3, Folder 13	Smid, news clippings, 1990
Box 12, Folder 4	Smid, news clippings, 1990
Box 3, Folder 14	Smid, news clippings, 1991
Box 12, Folder 5	Smid, news clippings, 1991
Box 3, Folder 15	Smid, news clippings, 1992
Box 12, Folder 6	Smid, news clippings, 1992
Box 3, Folder 16	Smid, news clippings, 1993

Box 3, Folder 17	Smid, news clippings, 1994
Box 3, Folder 18	Smid, news clippings: The Forum, 1994
Box 12, Folder 7	Smid, news clippings, 1994
Box 3, Folder 19	Smid, news clippings, 1995
Box 3, Folder 20	Papers, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Love in Action (LIA), 1978-2013, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Love in Action, newsletters, articles, other resources, 1978-2006
Box 1, Folder 2	Speaking outline: God's Intensely Personal Love, 1988-1998
Box 1, Folder 3	Women Only, 1992
Box 1, Folder 4	Teaching aids, 1998
Box 1, Folder 5	Genogram format, 2000
Box 1, Folder 6	The Source Program, applicaton, 2001
Box 1, Folder 7	Love in Action, fundraising, 2004-2005
Box 1, Folder 8	Honesty: Is It Really the Best Policy, 2005
Box 1, Folder 9	Feeling Words, handout, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Cartoons for copying, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Feelings: Tangled Ball of Emotions, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Before Confronting One Another, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Caught off Guard, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	The Life Development Process, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Do You Really See Jesus, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Sex Roles, Sexual Deviations, Survey of Sexual Knowledge, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Teachings, moral inventory, introduction template, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Program study manual, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Radical Living information book, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Radical Living: Our Role, Game Plan, about Nathan Bell, Overview, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Radical Living, program binder, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	The Source Residential Program, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Unnamed collection of chapels and teachings, undated

Box 1, Folder 24	Women's Ministry: The Source notebook, 2002
Box 1, Folder 25	The Source Discipleship Program, 2007-2008
Box 2, Folder 1	Paul Confronts the Galatians, 1975
Box 2, Folder 2	News clippings, 1990-2009
Box 2, Folder 3	Focus on the Family, 1999
Box 2, Folder 4	A Changed Life, Carlson, Gerald, 2002
Box 2, Folder 5	Family and Friends, 2005
Box 2, Folder 6	Time, 2005
Box 2, Folder 7	The Source, 2011
Box 2, Folder 8	Ex'd Out: How I Fired the Shame Committee, Smid, John J., 2012
Box 13	Love in Action International, The Source Residential Program, (Garrard Conley's workbook and folder of loose material), 1999-2013
Box 13, Folder 1	Love in Action International, Love in Action Steps Out Program Class Manual, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: New Hope and Exodus International Ministries, 1987-2001, undated

Scope and Contents: New Hope Ministries was founded by Frank and Anita Worthen. Frank was the founder of Love in Action as well as a founder of the Exodus program. All of these were conversion therapies. Their website carries the masthead, "Finding Freedom from Homosexuality," with the mission statement, "New Hope Ministry is a Christ-Centered ministry designed to help people struggling with homosexuality leave their past lifestyle and to fully embrace their true identify in Jesus Christ."

Website accessed 2018 July 17, <http://www.akegreen.org/Links/L31/L31.html>

Box 2, Folder 9	Emotional Dependency, Rentzel, Lori, 1987-1990
Box 2, Folder 10	Exodus Telephone Counseling Material, 1988
Box 2, Folder 11	Song of Hope, Jernigan, Dennis, 1997
Box 2, Folder 12	Exodus International North American Resource Booklets, 1998
Box 2, Folder 13	Helping People Step out of Homosexuality, 1995
Box 2, Folder 14	Establishing Group Meetings, 2001
Box 2, Folder 15	Leadership, 2001
Box 2, Folder 16	New Hope Ministries, booklets, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	New Hope Ministries, booklets, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Publications, 1983-2011, undated

Box 3, Folder 21	Addiction Workbook, undated
Box 3, Folder 22	Abused Boys, Hunter, Mic, 1990
Box 3, Folder 23	Breaking the Chains, Morlan, Jack, 2002
Box 3, Folder 24	Can Homophobia be Cured?, Hilton, Bruce, 1992
Box 3, Folder 25	Caring for Gay Loved Ones, Worthen, Frank and Anita, 2004
Box 3, Folder 26	The Church and the Homosexual Issue, Worthen, Frank and Anita, 1995
Box 4, Folder 1	Dark Obsession, Dailey, Timothy J., 2003
Box 4, Folder 2	Destiny Bridge, Worthen, Frank, 2010
Box 4, Folder 3	Faithful and True, Laaser, Mark, 1992
Box 4, Folder 4	Gay Rights or Wrongs, Mazzalongo, Michael, 1995
Box 4, Folder 5	What God Says about Sex, Elder, Eric, 2006
Box 4, Folder 6	God's Word Speaks to Homosexuality, Klein, Walter, 2007
Box 4, Folder 7	Growth into Manhood, Medinger, Alan, 2000
Box 4, Folder 8	The Healing Presence, Payne, Leanne, 1995
Box 5, Folder 1	The Homosexual Agenda, Sears, Alan and Craig Osten, 2003
Box 5, Folder 2	Homosexual No More, Consiglio, William, 1991
Box 5, Folder 3	Homosexuality in the Church, Siker, Jeffreys, 1994
Box 5, Folder 4	Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic, Moberly, Elizabeth R., 1983
Box 5, Folder 5	How Sexual Orientation, Same-Sex Marriage, and Hate Crime Laws will Impact Society, Christianity, and the Church, Williams, Alton R., 2009
Box 5, Folder 6	It's Natural to be Gay, Brown, David E., 1995
Box 5, Folder 7	The Journal of Human Sexuality, Rekers, George A., 1996
Box 5, Folder 8	Love Won Out, Paulk, John and Anne, 1999

Box 5, Folder 9	An Ounce of Prevention, Schmierer, Don, 1998
Box 6, Folder 1	Out of Egypt, Howard, Jeanette, 1994
Box 6, Folder 2	Pursuing Sexual Wholeness, Comiskey, Andrew, 1988
Box 6, Folder 3	Questions I'm Asked Most About Homosexuality, Rogers, Sy, 2006
Box 6, Folder 4	The Roots and Causes of Female Homosexuality, Focus on the Family, 2001
Box 6, Folder 5	The Roots and Causes of Male Homosexuality, Focus on the Family, 2001
Box 6, Folder 6	The Same Sex Controversy, White, James R. and Jeffrey D. Niell, 2002
Box 6, Folder 7	The Secret Sin, Laaser, Mark R., 1992
Box 7, Folder 1	Sexual Healing, Foster, David, 1995
Box 7, Folder 2	Sexual Identity, Yarhouse, Mark A. and Lori Burkett, 2003
Box 7, Folder 3	Sexual Idolatry, Gallagher, Steve, 1986
Box 7, Folder 4	Someone I Love is Gay, Worthen, Anita and Bob Davies, 1996
Box 7, Folder 5	Soul Virgins, Rosenau, Doug and Michael Todd Wilson, 2006
Box 7, Folder 6	Straight and Narrow?, Schmidt, Thomas E., 1995
Box 8, Folder 1	Striving for Gender Identity, Vonholdt, Christl R., 2004
Box 8, Folder 2	A Strong Delusion, Dallas, Joe, 1996
Box 8, Folder 3	The Truth about Same-Sex Marriage, Lutzer, Erwin W., 2004
Box 8, Folder 4	Unwanted Harvest, Riley, Mona and Brad Sargent, 1995
Box 8, Folder 5	When a Loved One Says, 'I'm Gay', Focus on the Family, 2002
Box 8, Folder 6	You Don't Have to be Gay, Konrad, Jeff, 1992
Box 9, Item 1	Coming Out Straight, Cohen, Richard, 2000
Box 9, Item 2	Counseling and Homosexuality, Wilson, Earl D., 1988
Box 9, Item 3	Healing Homosexuality, Nicolosi, Joseph, 1993
Box 9, Item 4	The Healing Presence, Payne, Leanne, 1989

Box 9, Item 5	Not Afraid to Change, Paulk, John, 1998
Box 9, Item 6	Restoring the Christian Soul Through Healing Prayer, Payne, Leanne, 1991
Box 9, Item 7	The Truth Comes Out, Heche, Nancy, 2006
Box 12, Folder 1	Pacific Sun, 1994
Box 12, Folder 2	Delivered: A Faith and Family Publication, 2010
Box 12, Folder 3	Memphis Flyer, 1995-2012
Box 12, Folder 8	News Clippings, 1990-2009
Box 12, Folder 9	San Francisco Chronicle, 1990
Box 12, Folder 10	Daily Campus, 1996
Box 12, Folder 12	Christian Banner, 1998-2000
Box 12, Folder 11	United Methodist Reporter, 1997
Box 12, Folder 13	The Commercial Appeal, 1997-2011
Box 12, Folder 14	Local News, 2008-2011

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Audio-Visual, 1988-2005, undated

Box 10	People Are Talking, 1988-05-09 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	Larry King Show, Bay Area People, 1990-03-10-1990-03-19 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	CNN News: Love in Action, 1993 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	The John Ankerberg Show: Series on the Issue of Homosexuality, 1993 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	Trinity Interdenominational Church Presents: Closets and Doors, 1995-03-11 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	It's Not Gay, 2000 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	Sad to be Gay, 2005-08-09 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	Closets and Doors, Undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 10	Praise the Lord, Undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 11	Slide Show, 1992 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Testimony of Frank Worthen, 1992-11-13 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Hope Makes the Heart Grow, Smid, John, 1993 1 Cassette tape Notes: Digital reference copy in the Smithsonian Institution Digital Asset Management System (DAMS). 1146.0T.000001 Side 1
Box 11	Non-Sexual Relationships that Prevent Progress (men only), Smid, John, 1994 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Frank Worthen Summary, 1994-10-03 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Dancing Around the Pink Elephant: The Games Families Play, Smid, John, 1999

	1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Love in Action at Crossville First Baptist, 1999-05-02 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	A Biblical Model for Recovery: A Study of 2 Peter Chapter 1, Smid, John, 2002 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Don't Say A Word: Same Sex Relations., Smid, John, 2002-07-20 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places, 2003-08-13 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Child Development #2, Undated 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Sexual Wholeness Seminar: Healthy Friendships, Smid, John, Undated 1 Cassette tape
Box 11	Sexual Wholeness Seminar: Purity in Relationships: Where Does Our Model, Smid, John, Undated 2 Cassette tapes
Box 2, Folder 18	"One Nation Under God" (PBS Broadcast), 1994 1 Electronic discs (DVD) Notes: Funded by Corporation for Public Broadcasting; Film by Teodoro Mamcian - (Dr. Jerry Davison/Stony Brook Clip)
Box 2, Folder 19	Love in Action (LIA) rally, 1988

[Return to Table of Contents](#)