



Forward

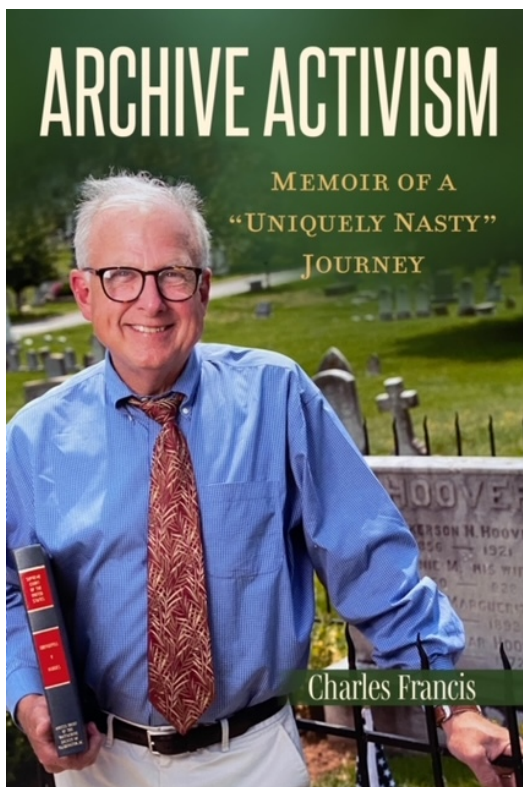
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Archive Activists Rescue Erased History



Archive Activism is a memoir of LGBTQ activism that begins in 1950s Dallas, rooted in a new way to converse with history--by rescuing it. Charles Francis tells how archive activists uncover documents that are "rattlesnake ugly" -- often classified, "gone missing" or sealed in Presidential Libraries in Austin or Dallas. His approach to LGBTQ advocacy and policy activism is based on citizen archivery and original archival research to make social change. The rescues of erased or deleted history range in time and place from Francis' first encounter with a raucous, near-violent religious demonstration in the Fort Worth Water Gardens to attics loaded with forgotten historic treasures of LGBTQ pioneers like Dr. Franklin E. Kameny who was attacked

by the "Father of Texas Homophobia", Waco's Congressman (1952-1967) John Dowdy. Francis is a proud Archive Activist. "We are not historians," he writes. "We are activist citizens with library cards--a tough combination to beat with uncensored, well-funded public libraries."

Read Lone Star Lit's Review of Archive Activism

PRIDE in Print. *Archive Activism: Memoir of a "Uniquely Nasty" Journey* (UNT Press, 2023) by Dallas native Charles Francis is being featured throughout the summer in a special PRIDE exhibit, PRIDE in Print, at Dallas Public Library. Organized by the library's Dallas History and Archives division in partnership with the Fort Worth LGBTQ History Project, "YesterQueer", the exhibit will also include titles, papers and materials collected by "YesterQueer" founder/director Todd Camp.

PRIDE IN PRINT

This exhibit celebrates LGBTQ+ history as well as Pride in years past through printed works ranging from books to periodicals, posters, pamphlets, memorabilia, and more.

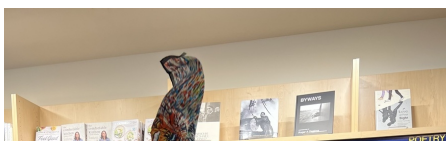
Many of the items curated in this exhibit are on loan from YesterQueer: The Tarrant County LGBTQ+ History Project. The organization's mission is to preserve the stories, memories, photographs, and ephemera of the LGBTQ+ community of Tarrant County.

Also displayed is the book *Archive Activism: Memoir of a "Uniquely Nasty" Journey*, by Dallas native Charles Francis. His "memoir of activism" was published by University of North Texas Press in 2023. Accompanying his book are items provided by the author that highlight historical points covered in his memoir.



Charles Francis and rattler in South Texas, finding the words and documents that are rattlesnake ugly

Praise for Archive Activism



"Francis writes about recovering gay history one document at a time in this debut memoir....Though Francis may not be who



The magic of discovering unseen documents at Interabang Bookstore in Dallas

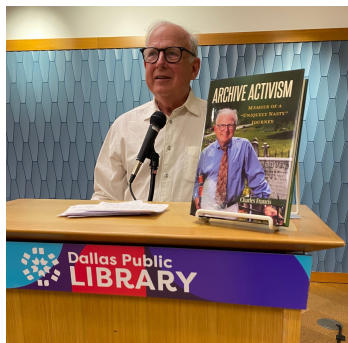
readers first think of when they think of an activist, his account is a fascinating and illuminating addition to the history of gay liberation."

Kirkus Reviews

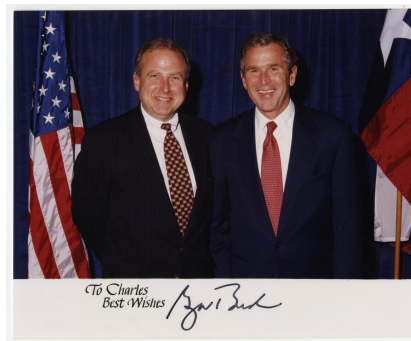
"Archive Activism is required reading for anyone fighting the erasure of a community's history....Without Charles Francis, my book and so many others like it, would not have been possible. Archive Activism is an urgent, inspiring text that belongs on every bookshelf." **Pulitzer Prize finalist Eric Cervini, author of The Deviant's War**

"I can't think of another book that better conveys the excitements and real-life results that can be obtained by the citizen-scholar." **Thomas Mallon, author of Fellow Travelers and Mrs. Paine's Garage**

Purchase Archive Activism



At the History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library



Then Governor George W. Bush, met with our gay and lesbian "Austin 12".....and soon turned his back with a Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution

About Charles Francis

Growing up gay in 1950s and 60s Dallas, Francis developed a passion for LGBTQ history, and how it gets erased and uncovered. In 2011 he co-founded a new Mattachine



In 2011, he co-founded a new Mattachine Society of Washington, DC, repurposed as an LGBTQ history society with the motto "Archive Activism". Francis is a retired public affairs consultant who lives with his family in Washington, DC, and Homer, Alaska.



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