



ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Title:** OutCentral Collection

**Dates:** 1988-2018

**Creator:** OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center

**Abstract:** This collection contains paper documents, publications, ephemera, photographs, and objects related to Middle Tennessee's LGBTQ+ history from the 1980s to the late 2000s. This material was created by or collected by the OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center (2008-2018) located in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Physical Description:**

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:** Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2632

**Restrictions on Access:** Currently, the SunTrust Deposits found in the Financial Documents series is restricted while the archivist removes personally identifiable information. The rest of the collection has no restrictions.

**Copyright:** It is presumed that corporate and individual copyrights in manuscripts, photographs, and other materials have been retained by the copyright owners. Copyright restrictions apply. Users of materials should seek necessary permissions from the copyright holders to comply with U.S. copyright laws.

**Preferred Citation:** (Box Number, Folder Number), OutCentral Collection, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Acquisition:** Joshua Rigsby, former Vice President of OutCentral and MTSU alum, donated the items they saved after the organization closed in 2018. The Gore Center physically acquired the materials in March 2019 from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, where the boxes had been stored.

**Processed by:** Sarah Calise, Archivist, 2022

**Historical Note:**

OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center opened in 2008 at 1709 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee. OutCentral was originally planned to be a complement to the popular LGBTQ+ bookstore called OutLoud!, located next door, but the store closed in 2011 due to competition from online retailers and failed expansion efforts.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, OutCentral lasted

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<sup>1</sup> Randy McClain, "Gay bookstore less fortunate than Davis-Kidd," *The Tennessean*, Jan. 2, 2011.

several years after OutLoud!’s closure with a mission to “Collaborate. Educate. Empower.,” and a vision:

“To create a cultural center—a hub, if you will—that welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and intersex individuals and their friends and families into a positive energy-filled environment where organizations can collaborate, where enduring relationships can be created, where there is integration rather than isolation, and where recreation and education flourish.”<sup>2</sup>

For its ten years in existence, OutCentral provided several services to the local queer community, including health services information, gay-friendly business information, a library, office space, meeting space for local organizations (like religious services, leather and bear clubs, Nashville Pride Committee, etc.), art and exhibit space, and public programming like book club, film screenings, yoga, video games and more. OutCentral also hosted a Gay 5K for multiple years. Similar to previous LGBTQ+ community centers in Nashville’s history, OutCentral suffered from poor leadership and financial management, so the institution closed its doors in 2018.

According to research conducted by [Nashville Queer History](#), OutCentral is the fourth LGBTQ+ community center in Nashville’s history; Compton House (1970s), the Center for Gay and Lesbian Community Services (1990s), and the Rainbow Community Center (2000s) came before OutCentral. OutCentral inherited some of the historical material produced by or kept by the Center for Gay and Lesbian Community Services, including hundreds of photographs and more than two years of the *Dare* newspaper.

## Scope and Content:

The OutCentral Collection contains information from multiple organizations based in Nashville, Tennessee that date back to the 1980s. The OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center collected and stored all the items within these papers until the Center’s closure in 2018. There are six series in this collection, and they are grouped by organization or material type. Subseries were created when appropriate. See the series and subseries description below for more detailed information.

**Series I–OutCentral:** This series contains mostly paper documents that entail charter applications and bylaws, building information, ephemeral material (pamphlets, brochures, etc.), agendas and minutes, and other material created by the OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center. This series contains eight subseries.

Subseries–Admin Files–Business Planning: Documents related to the strategic plan for OutCentral; working drafts and conference drafts included. This material also includes interior design and physical layout of the space.

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<sup>2</sup> “About Us,” *OutCentral*, [https://web.archive.org/web/20090103224122/http://www.outcentral.org/About\\_Us](https://web.archive.org/web/20090103224122/http://www.outcentral.org/About_Us). Accessed on July 12, 2022.

Subseries–Admin Files–General: This material includes building permits, 501(c)(3) charter information, tax documents, and building security information.

Subseries–Admin Files–Leases: Commercial lease agreements for OutCentral.

Subseries–Admin Files–Minutes: OutCentral board meeting agendas and minutes.

Subseries–External Organizations: Pamphlets and documents related to organizations unrelated to OutCentral, including Nashville Grizzlies financial statements from 2008–2013.

Subseries–Financial Documents: OutCentral financial statements, bank statements, donation information, and grant contracts.

Subseries–Marketing and Events: Fliers, pamphlets, and invitations for OutCentral general information and specific events held at the community center. This subseries also includes materials related to the Gay 5K marathon hosted by OutCentral.

Subseries–Membership: Mostly email and mailing address information for members of the OutCentral community center.

**Series II–Gay Cable Network:** This series contains documents related to television programming for Nashville’s local channel for the [Gay Cable Network \(GCN\)](#). The national organization was founded in 1982 by Lou Maletta in New York City. GCN/Nashville was founded by Krzysztof Krakoviak and Diane Easter in 1988.

**Series III–Publications:** This series contains documents related to *Dare v. D.A.R.E.* court case, original copies of LGBTQ+ publications from Nashville and other cities. See APPENDIX A for a full list of publications included in the OutCentral Collection.

Subseries—*Dare vs. D.A.R.E.*: Documents related to the trademark case against *Dare* made by the anti-drug organization known as D.A.R.E.

**Series IV–Photographs:** Hundreds of black/white and color photographs mostly capturing Nashville LGBTQ+ life, dating back to the 1980s. Subject matter includes Nashville Pride parades and picnics, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center once located at 703 Berry Road, and OutCentral’s Gay 5k (born digital files only).

Subseries—Jan Lynch Photographs: Jan Lynch was a prominent gay photographer in Knoxville, TN. There are a few of his photographic prints in this collection, mainly from Knoxville protests and the March on Washington in 1993.

**Series V–Books:** These books, featuring LGBTQ+ themes, are assumed to have been part of the OutCentral library. See APPENDIX B for a full list of the books housed in the OutCentral Collection.

**Series VI–Objects:** The objects housed in the collection include t-shirts, Gay 5K medals, buttons from *Dare*, and an OutCentral mouse pad. Oversized objects include posters, plaques, banners for the Gay 5K and logo banners for OutCentral.

**Arrangement:** Arranged by organization and/or material type. Original order was kept when possible. The documents related to the OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center are arranged by the functions of the office and then chronological. Publications are arranged alphabetically and then by date. Books arranged alphabetically by author last name.

**Related Collections at the Gore Center:**

Boro Pride Collection (unprocessed)  
James H. Williams Papers (unprocessed)  
John Bridges Papers (unprocessed)  
MT Lambda Papers (unprocessed)  
Middle Tennessee LGBTQ+ Collection (unprocessed)

**Subject Terms:**

**Organizations:**

*Dare*  
Gay and Lesbian Community Center  
Gay Cable Network--Nashville  
Nashville CARES  
Nashville Pride  
OutCentral Cultural Awareness Center  
OutLoud! Bookstore  
*Query*  
*Xenogeny*

**People:**

Bivin, Stuart  
Campbell, Penny  
Ellis, Jeffrey  
Lynch, Jan  
Medley, Kevin  
Paige, Bianca

**Places:**

[Tennessee--Knoxville](#)  
[Tennessee--Nashville](#)  
[Washington \(D.C.\)](#)

**Subjects:**

[Gay pride celebrations](#)  
[Gay pride parades](#)  
[LGBTQ+ community centers](#)

[LGBTQ+ newspapers](#)  
[LGBTQ+ people](#)  
[LGBTQ+ television](#)

## Collection Inventory

OS = Oversize

Box #	Series	Subseries	Folder Title	Dates
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	The Cultural Awareness Center – Brief Proposal	1991
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Business Plan - Cultural Awareness Center	c. 2006
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Business Plan - Cultural Awareness Center  (Removed from original binder)	12/9/2006
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Cultural Awareness Center, “The Art of Giving”	11/06/2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	OutCentral Business Plan (Working Draft)	4/07/2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	OutCentral Business Plan (Working Draft) – Copy #2	4/07/2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Business Plan (Donors Conference Draft)	4/18/2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Building Design Plans	c. 2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Business Plan	2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Interior Design Plans	c. 2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Commercial Rehab Application with Floor Plan	2007
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Business Plan and Cash Flow Statements	c. 2007- 2009
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Annual Report	2009
1	OutCentral	Admin Files - Business Planning	Proposal to Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce	2012
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - Court Documents	Dialysis Clinic vs. Kevin Medley	c. 2013
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - Court Documents	OutLoud! Inc. vs. OutCentral, Inc.	2014-2016

2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	GLBT Leadership Conference	6/19/2007
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Building Permits	2007
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Charter, Bylaws, and 501(c)(3) Application (1 of 2)	2007
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Charter, Bylaws, and 501(c)(3) Application (2 of 2)	2007
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Charter/Incorporation Docs	2007-2014
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Compact Discs (Emails, Admin Docs, Photos)	2004-2017
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	IRS/501(c)(3) Docs, Insurance Docs	2008
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tax Documents	2008-2009
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tax Return	2011
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tax Return	2012
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tax Return	2013
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tax Return	2014
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Police Reports	2014
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Tennessee Solicitation Permit	2014
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Building Security and Log	c. 2015
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Facility Code Agreements	2016-2018
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Security Signs	No Date
2	OutCentral	Admin Files - General	Volunteer Lists	No Date
3	OutCentral	Admin – Leases	OutCentral Commercial Lease	2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Leases	Lease Agreements	2012-2015
3	OutCentral	Admin – Leases	Rental Agreements – External Organizations	2015-2018

3	OutCentral	Admin – Leases	Tennessee Commercial Lease	2018
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Meeting Notes and Organization Contact Info	c. 2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Board Meeting Minutes with compact disc  (Removed from original binder)	2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Board Meeting Agendas and Notes  (1 of 2)	2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Board Meeting Agendas and Notes  (2 of 2)	2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Handwritten Notes	2007
3	OutCentral	Admin – Minutes	Board Agendas	2012-2015
3	OutCentral	External Organizations	GLBT Leadership Conference	6/19/2007
3	OutCentral	External Organizations	Nashville Grizzlies Finances	2008-2013
3	OutCentral	External Organizations	Business Cards	No Date
3	OutCentral	External Organizations	Pamphlets	No Date
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Completed Donation Cards	c. 2007
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Donations	2007-2008; 2012; 2014; 2016
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Bank Deposits and Donations	2007-2008
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Donation Campaigns	2014
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Donor Circles	No Date
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Finance Report	2008
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Grant Contracts – The Community Foundation	2008
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	SunTrust Deposits	2008

4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	SunTrust Deposits	2009
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Balance Sheet	2013
4	OutCentral	Financial Documents	Treasurer's Report	2014-2015
4	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Event Fliers and Invites	1995-2012
4	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Pamphlets and Logos	c. 2007
4	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Ron L. Zheng Poetography Exhibit	c. 2007
5	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Artist Release Form	2009-2010
	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Rainbow Run and Walk Registration Form	2010
5	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Gay 5K Documents	2012-2016
5	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Artist Gallery Contracts	2017-2018
5	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	October Event Planning	No Date
5	OutCentral	Marketing and Events	Programming Survey	No Date
5	OutCentral	Membership	Membership Info	c. 2007
5	OutCentral	Membership	Address Lists	No Date
5	OutCentral	Membership	Address Lists	No Date
5	OutCentral	Membership	Address Lists	No Date
5	Gay Cable Network		Newspaper Clippings  (most are photocopies)	1988
5	Gay Cable Network		GCN Guides Layouts	1989
5	Gay Cable Network		GCN Guides	1989-1990
5	Gay Cable Network		Correspondence	1988-1989
5	Gay Cable Network		Newspaper Clippings	1980s-1990s
5	Gay Cable Network		"Inside Out: Living with AIDS" Video Transcript	1990
5	Gay Cable Network		Video Projects	c. 1990
5	Gay Cable Network		"Coping and Surviving" Video Log	No Date
5	Gay Cable Network		Interview Transcript (Interviews with Dwight Dunway, Michael Bennett, and Dr. Stanley Bodner)	No Date

6	Publications	Dare vs. D.A.R.E.	Court Documents – D.A.R.E. vs. Pyramid Power and Light	1990
6	Publications	Dare vs. D.A.R.E.	D.A.R.E. Trademark and Licensing Cases	1990
6	Publications		<i>The Pink Pages</i>	1995
6	Publications		<i>Fusion Magazine 2004</i> <i>Nashville Pride Guide 2005</i>	2004-2005
6	Photographs		Photo #003-008	c. 1990s
6	Photographs		Nashville Pride - Photo #009-013	c. 1990s
6	Photographs	Jan Lynch Photos	Photos #335-361 – Knoxville Pride, 1993 March on Washington, Rugby, Headshots	c. 1990s
6	Photographs		Photos #362-388	c. 1990s
6	Photographs		Photos #389-402 – Gay Cable Network (Negatives)	c. 1988- 1990
6	Photographs		Photos #403-418	c. 1990s- 2000s
7	Photographs		Photos #014-334	c. 1990s
8	Publications		See Appendix A for a full list of the publications in this box.	1980s- 2000s
9	Publications			
10	Objects		See Appendix C for a full list of all the objects in this box.	
Shelf L11	Books		See Appendix B for a full list of all the books in this box.	
OS L25	Objects		Posters, plaque	2000s
OS L26	Objects		Banners (rolled up)	2000s

## APPENDIX A: Publications, Box 8 – Listed Alphabetically by publication title

### *Dare* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 8

- 1988, Vol 1., No. 1, 3–41
- 1989, Vol. 2, No. 1–52
- 1990, Vol. 3, No. 1–24, 26

### *Gay People's Chronicle* (Ohio) – Box 9

- 2007, Vol. 23, No. 21

### *Inside Out Nashville* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 9

- 2007, July 14
- 2008, June 30
- 2008, July 7
- 2008, July 21
- 2008, August 4

### *Out & About Newspaper* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 9

- 2008, Vol. 7, No. 7
- 2008, Vol. 7, No. 8

### *Out & About Nashville* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 9

- 2018, May

### *Pride Guide* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 8

- 2001, August

### *POZ: Health, Life & HIV* (New York, NY) – Box 9

- 2018, April/May

### *Some: Nashville's Onstage Monthly* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 9

- 1989, Holiday Issue
- 1990, March-June

### *Southern Voice* (Atlanta, Georgia) – Box 9

- 1996, March 21

### *Xenogeny* (Nashville, Tennessee) – Box 8

- 1996, March 19
- 1996, May 28
- 1996, July 8
- 1996, July 15

- 1996, August 19
- 1996, August 26
- 1996, October 14
- 1996, November 4
- 1996, December 9

## APPENDIX B: Books, Box 9 – Alphabetical by author last name

*Note: These books DO NOT circulate.*

Brown, Howard. <i>Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives: The Story of Homosexual Men in America Today</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976).
Constantine-Simms, Delroy. <i>The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities</i> (New York: Alyson Books, 2000).
Covina, Gina and Laurel Galana, eds. <i>The Lesbian Reader</i> (Oakland, CA: Amazon Press, 1975).
Curb, Rosemary and Nancy Manahan, eds. <i>Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence</i> (The Naiad Press Inc., 1985).
Doty, Alexander. <i>Making Things Perfectly Queer: Interpreting Mass Culture</i> (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1993).
Duberman, Martin. <i>About Time: Exploring the Gay Past</i> (New York: Meridian, 1991).
Gaede, Beth Ann, ed. <i>Congregations Talking about Homosexuality</i> (Alban Institute Inc., 1989).
Grimstad, Kirsten and Susan Rennie, eds. <i>The New Woman's Survival Catalog</i> (New York: Coward, McCann, and Geoghegan, 1973).
<i>Note: front cover is detached; inscription on front and back inside covers.</i>
Hamilton, Wallace. <i>Christopher and Gay: A Partisan's View of the Greenwich Village Homosexual Scene</i> (New York: Saturday Review Press, 1973).
Harry, Joseph. <i>Gay Couples</i> (Toronto: Praeger, 1984).
Herdt, Gilbert, ed. <i>Gay Culture in America: Essays from the Field</i> (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992).
Holmes, Urban T. <i>The Sexual Person: The Church's Role in Human Sexual Development</i> (New York: The Seabury Press, 1970).
Isensee, Rik. <i>Are You Ready? The Gay Man's Guide to Thriving at Midlife</i> (Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1999).
Kolodny, Debra R., ed. <i>Bless Bi Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith</i> (New York: Continuum, 2000).
Mackenzie, Compton. <i>Extraordinary Women: Theme and Variations</i> (New York: Macy-Masius Inc., 1928).
Masters, R.E.L. <i>The Homosexual Revolution</i> (New York: Belmont Books, 1964).
McCaffrey, Joseph A., ed. <i>The Homosexual Dialectic</i> (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.).
Moore, Gareth. <i>A Question of Truth: Christianity and Homosexuality</i> (New York: Continuum, 2003).
Myron, Nancy and Charlotte Bunch, eds. <i>Lesbianism and the Women's Movement</i> (Baltimore: Diana Press, 1975).
Price, Deb and Joyce Murdoch. <i>And Say Hi Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out</i> (New York: Doubleday, 1995).
Richardson, Ann and Dietmar Bolle, eds. <i>Wise Before Their Time: People with AIDS and HIV Talk About Their Lives</i> (London: Fount, 1992).

Scroggs, Robin. <i>The New Testament and Homosexuality: Contextual Background for Contemporary Debate</i> (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983).
Sears, James T. and Walter L. Williams, eds. <i>Overcoming Heterosexism and Homophobia: Strategies That Work</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997).
Sochen, June. <i>The New Woman: Feminism in Greenwich Village, 1910-1920</i> (New York: Quadrangle, 1972).
Stuart, Elizabeth and Andy Braunston, Malcolm Edwards, John McMahon, Tim Morrison. <i>Religion is a Queer Thing: A Guide to the Christian Faith for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered People</i> (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 1997).
Swidler, Arlene, ed. <i>Homosexuality and World Religions</i> (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1993).
Tanner, Donna M. <i>The Lesbian Couple</i> (Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1978).
Vassi, Marco. <i>The Stoned Apocalypse</i> (New York: Trident Press, 1972).
Winant, Fran. <i>Looking at Women</i> (New York: Violet Press, 1971).

## APPENDIX C: Objects, Box 10

- Buttons
  - Dare
  - Dare – Read All About It
  - Dare – I’m Sociable
  
- Gay 5K Medals
  - Rainbow ribbon – 2016 (2 copies)
  - Rainbow ribbon – 2017 (2 copies)
  - Purple ribbon – No Date (2 copies)
  - Green “Participant” Ribbon – No Date (2 copies)
  
- T-Shirts
  - Just Dare It
  - Gay 5K 2015 (2 copies)
  - Gay 5K 2016
  - Gay 5K 2017
  
- OutCentral mouse pad