



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Jamaica Gay Freedom Movement records**

1973-2003

Sc MG 902

Processed by the Brooklyn College Division of Archives and Special Collections and Nora Soto, 2015.

## Summary

**Creator:** Gay Freedom Movement (Jamaica)

**Title:** Jamaica Gay Freedom Movement records

**Date:** 1973-2003

**Size:** 1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of International Resource Network and the Gay Freedom Movement, March 2012.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** The Gay Freedom Movement (GFM) of Jamaica was founded by Laurence Chang, Michael Davis, Gary Muirhead, Father Joe Owens, Clive Wilson, and Winston Witter in 1977, as the first publicly gay organization in Jamaica and one of the first gay rights organizations in the Caribbean. Spanning from the 1970s to the 2000s, Chang's collection highlights the GFM's activity in Jamaica, largely through correspondence and publications.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers are required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Jamaica Gay Freedom Movement records, Sc MG 902, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by the Brooklyn College Division of Archives and Special Collections and Nora Soto, 2015.

### Related Materials:

In the Life Archive (ITLA) miscellaneous collections, Sc MG 736, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare

## Creator History

The Gay Freedom Movement (GFM) of Jamaica was founded by Laurence Chang, Michael Davis, Gary Muirhead, Father Joe Owens, Clive Wilson, and Winston Witter in 1977, as the first publicly gay organization in Jamaica and one of the first gay rights organizations in the Caribbean. The GFM was established to represent the Jamaican gay community with the aim of fighting homophobic prejudice and discrimination through public education. Other goals included raising gay consciousness and awareness in gay communities and the larger society, providing counseling and support, protesting against anti-gay oppression, calling for the repeal of anti-gay laws, raising funds for a gay community center, and providing necessary social services.

Chang was the General Secretary and organizer of the Gay Freedom Movement. Born in Jamaica to Hakka Chinese immigrant parents, Chang was the first openly gay Chinese-Jamaican man. From 1977 to 1981, he was the publisher and editor of the *Jamaica Gaily News* (JGN), a newsletter created to address the needs and issues of the local gay community in Jamaica and subscribers from around the world. Chang would later help establish the Jamaican Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG) in 1998, the oldest and most visible LGBT advocacy organization in Jamaica. In 2000, Chang immigrated to the United States, where he was granted political asylum in 2004.

## Scope and Content Note

Laurence Chang, the General Secretary of the Gay Freedom Movement, kept numerous records, correspondences, and ephemera pertaining to the organization, as well as other gay-related clippings and publications by international gay rights organizations. Spanning from the 1970s to the 2000s, Chang's collection highlights the GFM's activity in Jamaica, largely through correspondence and publications. The collection provides insight into the thoughts and feelings of gay and lesbians in Jamaica and abroad. The collection also reflects the GFM's impact within the context of the global gay liberation movement, documenting the collaborative activities and exchange of information between the GFM and international organizations in raising gay consciousness and combatting anti-gay prejudice and oppression. The material includes correspondence with international gay rights organizations and individuals from the Americas and Europe such as the Revolutionary Marxist League, the Caribbean Homosexuals Association, and Paz y Liberacion, as well as pamphlets, flyers, and publications advocating for gay liberation from around the world, including the *Spartacus International Gay Guide*, *Gay Community News*, *Gay News*, and *Christopher Street*.

**Arrangement:** Organized into two series: I. Gay Freedom Movement (GFM) and II. International material.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Bisexuals -- Jamaica

Gay activists

Gay authors -- Jamaica

Gay liberation movement -- Jamaica

Gay men -- Jamaica  
Gay men in literature  
Gay press publications -- Jamaica  
Gay rights  
Lesbians -- Jamaica

**Names**

Chang, Larry, 1949-  
Caribbean Homosexuals Association  
Christopher Street (Magazine)  
Gay community news  
Gay Freedom Movement (Jamaica)  
Gay news  
Jamaica gaily news  
Paz y liberación  
Revolutionary Marxist League (Jamaica)  
Spartacus international gay guide

## Container List

### Gay Freedom Movement (GFM) 1973-1986

The Gay Freedom Movement series contains organizational documents, publications, and ephemera of the GFM, as well as correspondence, the *Jamaica Gaily News* (JGN) newsletter and related documents, and handwritten notes by Laurence Chang documenting the activities of the GFM and the JGN.

Arranged into 4 subseries: (1) Organizational history; (2) Correspondence; (3) *Jamaica Gaily News*; and (4) Handwritten notes.

b. 1 f. 1      **Organizational history 1977-1986**

This subseries contains the 1980 constitution of the Gay Freedom Movement of Jamaica, as well as various GFM publications, fact sheets, organizational ephemera, and financial material such as GFM's bankbook and passbook. It also includes a basic outline of the GFM's history handwritten by Larry Chang.

**Correspondence 1973-1984**

This subseries includes personal and professional correspondence between the GFM and its members from Jamaica and abroad, as well as within the organization itself. Material includes submissions for the GFM's Gayfriend pen pal service and personal ads for the *Jamaica Gaily News*.

b. 1 f. 2      **undated**

b. 1 f. 3      **1973-1978**

b. 1 f. 4      **1979**

b. 1 f. 5      **1980**

b. 1 f. 6      **1981**

b. 1 f. 7      **1982-1984**

b. 1 f. 8-9      ***Jamaica Gaily News* 1979-1984**

b. 4 f. 1

This subseries contains one complete and several incomplete issues of the *Jamaica Gaily News* (JGN) newsletter, edited and published by Larry Chang. Material on publication policies includes editorial policies, formatting guidelines, instructions on how to process correspondence, and consent forms. The subseries also includes article drafts, reader-submitted personal ads, and financial documents such as invoices and tax forms.

b. 1 f. 10-11      **Handwritten notes 1979-1984**

This subseries consists of Laurence Chang's handwritten notes on loose paper documenting the activity of the GFM and the JGN, with a focus on the production of the JGN newsletters. Material also includes GFM publications, brochures, and press releases.

### International material 1976-2003

The International material series contains flyers; brochures; newsletters; publications by international gay rights organizations; newspaper clippings reporting on LGBT individuals, topics and issues; event materials, such as a program for the 30th edition of the Jewel Box Revue Program; conference proceedings; and miscellaneous material on Jamaica.

Arranged into six series: (1) Organizations; (2) Publications; (3) Clippings; (4) International Association for Gay Women and Men (IGA) Third Annual Conference; (5) Events; and (6) Miscellaneous.

#### **Organizations 1979-2004**

This subseries includes flyers, brochures, event programs, and advertisements by international gay rights organizations. Topics include rights advocacy; the prevention and treatment of STDs, HIV, and AIDS; gay literature; counseling and help hotlines; social events; and magazine subscriptions.

International material (cont.)  
Organizations (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 1 A-F
- b. 2 f. 2 G-R
- b. 2 f. 3 S-Z

Publications 1975-2001

This subseries contains various newsletters and magazines published by international gay rights organizations that focus on LGBT topics and issues. Publications include *Black Lines*, *Christopher Street*, *Dignity*, and *Poz*.

- b. 2 f. 4 General
- b. 2 f. 5 *Black Lines* 2000-2001
- b. 2 f. 6 *Christopher Street* 1979-1980
- b. 2 f. 7 *Dignity* ca. 1976-1979
- b. 2 f. 8 *Entendido!* 1980
- b. 2 f. 9 *Fab* 2001
- b. 2 f. 10 *Klick!* 1982
- b. 2 f. 11 *Poz* 1999

Clippings 1975-2001

This subseries consists of various newspaper clippings reporting on LGBT individuals, topics, and issues published in Jamaica and abroad. Publications include *The Daily Gleaner* and *The Jamaica Daily News* from Jamaica with articles by Jennifer Ffrench, as well as international newspapers such as the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Time*.

- b. 3 f. 1 General 1979-2003
- b. 3 f. 2 *Chicago Tribune* 1978
- b. 3 f. 3 *The Daily Gleaner* 1977-1984
- b. 4 f. 3
- b. 3 f. 4 *The Daily News* 1978-1979
- b. 4 f. 2
- b. 4 f. 4 *Gay Community News* 1975
- b. 3 f. 5 *Gay News* 1981
- b. 4 f. 5
- b. 4 f. 6 *The Jamaica Daily News* 1976-1978
- b. 4 f. 7 *Labour News*
- b. 3 f. 6 *Los Angeles Times* 1979
- b. 3 f. 7 *The Miami Herald* 1977-1978
- b. 4 f. 8
- b. 3 f. 8 *National Enquirer*
- b. 3 f. 9 *New York Post*
- b. 3 f. 10 *The New York Times* 1978-1979
- b. 4 f. 9
- b. 3 f. 11 *Parade: The Sunday Newspaper Magazine* 1978
- b. 4 f. 10 *Palm Beach Post-Times*
- b. 3 f. 12 *Time* 1979
- b. 3 f. 13 *The Star* 1978-1984
- b. 4 f. 11
- b. 3 f. 14 *The Sunday Gleaner* 1979-1984
- b. 4 f. 12
- b. 3 f. 15 *Sunday Punch* 1978

International material (cont.)  
Clippings (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 16      *Valley News* 1979
- b. 4 f. 13
- b. 4 f. 14      Articles by Jennifer Ffrench 1980-1982
- b. 4 f. 15      Untitled clippings 1979
- b. 3 f. 17-18    International Association for Gay Women and Men (IGA) Third Annual  
Conference 1979-1982

This subseries contains documents related to the Third Annual Conference in Turin, Italy, in April 1981, including the GFM's submitted position paper, "Gays in Jamaica"; reports by the IGA; conference proceedings; proposals; agendas; workshops; and correspondence.

**Events 1976-1979**

This subseries includes programs, press releases, posters, and flyers for international LGBT entertainment events and rights advocacy conferences. Of note is a 1967 program for the 30th Edition of the Jewel Box Revue Program and a poster for the Convegno Degli/Delle Omosessuali, a conference organized by the Collettivo Omosessuale Narciso and *Lambda* magazine and held on November 1-4, 1979, in Rome, Italy.

- b. 3 f. 19      The 30th Edition of the Jewel Box Revue 1967
- b. 4 f. 16      Convegno Degli/Delle Omosessuali 1979
- b. 3 f. 20      Miscellaneous 1980s

This subseries contains material about Jamaica in general.