



the
Lesbian,
Gay,
Bisexual and
Transgender

Religious Archives Network

A resource center and information clearinghouse
for the history of LGBT religious movements.

LGBT Religious Archives Network Annual Dinner

April 8, 2006 at the Riverside Church in New York City
co-sponsored by Riverside Church Archives

Sixty persons attended in LGBT-RAN's annual dinner on April 8th in New York--marking the fourth anniversary of LGBT-RAN's founding. During the evening participants heard and saw highlights of LGBT-RAN's historical preservation work on its web site from Mark Bowman, LGBT-RAN Coordinator. In addition:

- Archivist Doris Malkmus reviewed the progress of LGBT-RAN's Oral History Project;
- Aari Ludvigsen presented a preview of a new online exhibit being developed on the history of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City; and
- Shower of Stoles founder Martha Juillerat outlined a new collaborative documentation project with LGBT-RAN.

LGBT-RAN presented the first-ever LGBT Religious [History Award](#) to Dr. Michelle Sauer, associate professor of English and coordinator of the Gender Studies program at Minot State University for her paper, "[Representing the Negative: Positing the Lesbian Void in Medieval English Anchoritism.](#)" In receiving this honor and award, Dr. Sauer told stories of her rather solitary journey as a medieval historian exploring queer studies and reported her ongoing historical research in the intersections of spirituality, sexuality and eroticism.

The evening concluded with presentations by Dr. Rebecca Alpert, Religious Studies chair at Temple University, and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, on "LGBT Congregations: Past, Present and Future." Kleinbaum and Alpert addressed the historical roles that LGBT congregations have played in Jewish and other faith traditions and contrasted these with mainstream LGBT-affirming congregations as well as projected roles such congregations may continue to play for LGBT persons.

An [article about this gala](#) evening appeared in *The Columbia Spectator*.



LGBT-RAN friends enjoy dinner and conversation at Riverside Church on April 8th in New York City



Neil Gerdes (left), chair of LGBT-RAN Advisory Committee, and Mark Bowman (right), LGBT-RAN Coordinator, present LGBT Religious History Award to Dr. Michelle Sauer.



Dr. Rebecca Alpert (left) and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum in dialogue with audience following presentation on "LGBT Congregations: Past, Present and Future."