

# **Inventory of the Ronald H. Schmidt Papers**

**(#2005-03)**

***Note:** This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.*

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** Ronald H. Schmidt papers

**Collection Number:** 2005-03

**Physical Description:** 7 linear feet (5 cartons, 1 poster tube)

**Creator:** Ronald H. Schmidt

**Date (inclusive):** 1988-1999

**Language of Material:** English

**Abstract:** Ronald H. Schmidt taught middle school in the Morgan Hill Unified School District; he was the first openly gay teacher in the district and an activist for queer students and teachers. The bulk of the collection contains materials related to protecting queer students' rights and promoting an inclusive and diverse curriculum in the schools.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], Ronald H. Schmidt papers (#2005-03), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research. Some materials, including student evaluations in Carton 2, may be restricted; please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives for details.

**Publication Rights:**

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

**Acquisition Information:**

For this material's acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

**Processing Information:**

Inventory created by Isaac Fellman in 2020, based on a preliminary survey completed by Marjorie Bryer in 2011.

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

**Biographical/Organizational History Note:** Ronald H. Schmidt taught middle school in the Morgan Hill Unified School District; he was the first openly gay teacher in the district and an activist for queer students and teachers. He was an active member of many organizations, including the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE), the GLBT caucus of the California Teachers Association (CTA), and the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose. Schmidt was also a journalist for *Our Paper Your Paper*, an LGBT newspaper from Santa Clara County.

**Scope and Content:** The bulk of the collection contains materials related to protecting queer students' rights and promoting an inclusive and diverse curriculum in the schools. There are records pertaining to harassment of LGBT youth in Morgan Hill schools, including Schmidt's documentation of homophobic incidents, his notes on LGBT issues, hate mail, and materials related to school board controversies and to *Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District*, a lawsuit filed by six students who sued the district for failing to protect them from harassment. There are also subject files related to ending discrimination against LGBT youth in schools more generally, including correspondence, ephemera, lesson plans, news clippings, presentations, reports, workshop materials, and materials related to BANGLE and CTA. The collection also contains some of Schmidt's awards and certificates, videotapes, audiotapes and artifacts. Researchers interested in Schmidt's journalism can consult copies of *Our Paper Your Paper*, which can be found in the GLBTHS Periodical Collection.

**Indexing Terms:**

Gay men  
Education  
Law

**Container Listing****Carton 1:**

Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD)-related materials, including documentation of homophobic incidents, materials regarding Alana Flores case (see Carton 4 for more), 1999

General materials on safety and LGBT students (subject files with publications, articles, mass mailings, flyers, reports, materials related to conferences and curricula that deal with homophobia or discrimination or equality or youth safety)

BANGLE-related materials, 1988-1992

Schmidt's notes on legal notepads – these may be lessons—on equality in the classroom, meat being bad for you, teaching about LGBT people

Materials regarding harassment issues at Martin Murphy Middle School

Legal materials regarding Schmidt's deposition in the Flores case

"Advocacy" folder is also marked "BANGLE contacts" and has more legal notepads

The last third of the carton contains newspaper clippings and ephemera. Interspersed within those published materials are some meeting materials from the Santa Clara County Task Force on LGBT Youth and other materials related to Santa Clara County, 1995

### **Carton 2:**

Photograph display

Loose materials and materials in unlabeled folders, related to advocacy for LGBT youth and specific documents from MHUSD, such as correspondence and more of Schmidt's notes on legal pads. There are also his reactions to newspaper articles, e.g. letters explaining why he chose to come out as a teacher

MHUSD documents, including correspondence, presentations by Schmidt

Student evaluations (photocopies)

Materials related to incidents in the Morgan Hill schools, include hate mail and mass mailings to supporters regarding Schmidt's work and the general issues, circa 1993

Materials regarding California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility, including a certificate of appreciation for Schmidt, 1988

Subject file materials on safety in schools for LGBT students, Gay Straight Alliances, and so forth, e.g. reports and curricula, flyers, circa 1999-2000

Board policy controversy—Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers, circa 1993

Interspersed, in unlabeled folders, there are Schmidt's notebooks, and his accounts of homophobic incidents, as well as letters from students, circa 1993-1994

Materials related to California Teachers' Association (CTA) confrontation with MHUSD, circa 1985-1988, and other materials regarding CTA through 1993

There are several copies of the Education Code, some with annotations

More MHUSD materials throughout

Presentation materials (possibly from the Invisible Minority—LGBT Youth—not clear if this is Schmidt's presentation or a general one given via BANGLE or another organization)

### **Carton 3:**

Unsorted newspaper articles and clippings, mostly from *Our Paper Your Paper*

### **Carton 4:**

Awards for Schmidt, BANGLE

PFLAG banner

Report on/list of Queer People in History

Videotape from Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose Winter Showcase

Student papers on LGBT people/issues

Schmidt's notes

Clippings, publications, ephemera, newsletters from various organizations and conferences. People have sent him some of this material, so portions are accompanied by notes from the senders. Organizations represented included Arts Council of San Jose and PFLAG

Materials from MHUSD on homophobia and Schmidt's activism (in accordion file), circa 1983-1991. There is a separate envelope with materials on an MHUSD lawsuit: Alana Flores v.

MHUSD (she sued because she was being harassed for being presumed to be queer), 1999

Overhead projections (framed) for presentation on LGBT people, history

**Carton 5:**

Also includes handkerchiefs and a few photos from BANGLE and mugs, circa 1993-1994 (in folder)

The videotapes appear to be a mix of things Schmidt has taped from television and public events, and the audiotapes are from conferences and events, as well as commercial music

**Tube:**

Posters—National Coming Out Day, Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center, circa late 1980s