

fact or fiction



LEARN THE TRUTH
IN HONOR OF

WORLD
AIDS DAY

Read, Watch, Listen & Learn

World AIDS Day is December 1. In partnership with local libraries, Caracole is sharing the truth about HIV by debunking myths and misinformation.

From December 1-7, visit participating libraries to explore HIV-related resources—novels, memoirs, documentaries and more.

Let's break down barriers and create a world free from HIV stigma and discrimination.



FIND A PARTICIPATING LIBRARY NEAR YOU
AND ENTER OUR RAFFLE FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN A BOOK OR GIFT CARD:

caracole.org/worldAIDSday

Special Thanks to Our
Community Conversation Partners



LGBTQIA+ Legacy: Engaging Communities with Queer History



Saturday, November 23, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Caracole, 4138 Hamilton Avenue



Introduction



Darryn Edwards (he/him) grew up in Orrville, OH, a teensy little town on the outskirts of the Akron/Canton metropolitan area. He holds a Master's degree in English, Literature from Miami University where he studied Postcolonial and Queer Theory from 2018-2020. Ironically, these studies propelled Darryn out of

academia to seek out opportunities where he could work with the public more directly on issues related to equity, access, and fostering community.

He has been employed by the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library since May of 2021 and has worked as a member of the LGBTQ+ Work Group to connect queer Cincinnatians to information about local resources, community partners, and every single opportunity for delight.

Moderator/Panelist



Kareem Simpson (he/him) is an author whose work challenges the notion of societal norms. His work has been published and exhibited across the USA and throughout the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region. Simpson's works include the play *Bro'Kin River* (2021) and the fictional story collection *Chronicles of a Boy Misunderstood* (2013)

Kareem is also the founder and chief imagination officer of SparkLight Creative Group, a small personal and professional development agency that inspires artists and creative entrepreneurs to build better businesses.

Kareem's work has been placed in timeless collections like the Northern Kentucky Encyclopedia and been exhibited at Railvolution's 2012 National Conference in Los Angeles and Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education 2006 Annual Conference. More recently, Simpson's work can be found in local Greater Cincinnati online publications like SoapBox Cincinnati, NKY Thrives and the River City News.

Kareem currently serves as the Duncanson Program Manager at the Taft Museum of Art. In 2023, Simpson was the Kenton County Public Library's Writer-In-Residence. Simpson has also been named finalist for the 2022 NKY PRIDE Community Award and received the 2020 President's Award, presented by the Northern Kentucky NAACP for "his tireless effort to elevate the region's Black community through personal and professional development and bringing their marginalized stories to life." In addition, Simpson received the 2020 "Heart of the Community Award," presented by the Center for Great Neighborhoods for "giving tirelessly of his time and talents to organizations committed to bettering Covington and the lives of its people."

Panelists



Clarity Amrein (she/her) is an Ohio native and passionate Cincinnati. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Technical Writing from the University of Cincinnati in 2018 before beginning her library career in 2019. She earned her Master's in Library and Information Sciences in 2021, and later her Masters of Science in

User Experience Design in 2023, both from Kent State University. Clarity is the Community Content Coordinator for the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, a librarian position that blends traditional local history reference, oral history collection, archival preservation, multimedia content creation, and coordinating digitization projects. She is also an archivist and board member of the Cincinnati-based Ohio Lesbian Archives, one of only a handful of LGBTQIA+ community archives in the country. Clarity is passionate about the intersections of library and archival sciences and technology, particularly access, usability, and user interaction as it pertains to digital preservation and digital collections. Outside of her work, Clarity is a poet, performer, musician, cat lover, and mom to her baby boy, Tristan.



Phebe Beiser (she/her) is co-founder of The Ohio Lesbian Archives. Now in its 35th year, this collection is the only LGBTQ library in the region. It began in 1989 in a space above the former Crazy Ladies Bookstore, spent 17 years in a room at Clifton United Methodist Church, and is now in an historic building in OTR.

Phebe has a Masters in Library & Information Science and spent her last 13 years at the Library as the Assistant Manager of the History & Genealogy Department. She then taught writing classes with Women Writing for (a) Change in retirement. Since 2020, her time is devoted to the Archives.

In June 2022, Phebe was honored by WCPO with its Points of Pride Award for her work with the Ohio Lesbian Archives. She was a Marshall in the Cincinnati area Pride Parade in 2008 and 2013, along with Victoria Ramstetter, the other co-founder. She is co-author of *The Buddha & the Bitch: 2 women, 2 world one practice* (2018). She is also a poet, published in several anthologies.



Michael Chanak Jr. (he/him) is a Cincinnati-area community activist and volunteer. He first came to the area in the spring of 1978 and has been a volunteer and board member of over twenty LGBTQ+ groups. From media, radio/TV, newspapers, activist organizations, Cincinnati Pride, church groups, part of the World AIDS Service and Multifaith Service committee—he's seen some history.

Procter & Gamble, where he worked for over 18 years, lauded his effort toward the inclusion of sexual orientation in their EEO policy on September 15, 1992. His journey was documented by a series of award-winning CNN videos covering the diversity work at Procter. Most notably "The Words Matter—One Voice Can Make a Difference," released in 2018. He was diversity facilitator with Consulting Pairs. Michael turned 75 years old in October.



Jacob Hogue (he/him) is a Public Historian and author with a specialization in LGBTQ+ History. His debut book *Cincinnati Before Stonewall: The Untold Queer History of the Queen City* is set to be released by the Ohio History Press next year. Jacob works as a lecturer, exhibit creator, and historian for Urbanist Media's Queens of Queen City program, is a member of the Gay Ohio History Initiative, and currently serves as the History and Legacies Chair at Cincinnati Pride.