

GAL0121 SALLY GROSS

Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA)

Dates: extant dates: 1955-2014, bulk dates: 1993-2013.

Size: the collection is contained in 36 folders contained in 9 archival boxes and one box of memorabilia.

Restrictions: the following files are restricted A3, A8. Researchers are requested to fill in a confidentiality agreement with GALA for access to these files.

Source: gift of Sally Gross's brother, Ray Schmidt-Gross, March 2014, and Jennifer Williams, May 2014.

Summary: This collection consists of documents from the personal belongings of Sally Gross donated to GALA on her death in 2014 by her brother.

Biographical notes: Sally Gross was born intersexed on 22nd August 1953 and raised as a boy, Selwyn. In 1976 Gross converted to Catholicism and in 1977 moved to Israel, in political exile for work done against the Apartheid regime. Selwyn was ordained a priest in 1987, having studied Philosophy and Theology at Oxford University. In 1994, after undergoing medical tests to confirm Gross' intersex status, she made the decision to change her name to Sally and live as a woman. Subsequently Rome excused from her vows since it was impossible for a woman to be an ordained priest. She returned to South Africa where she worked for the Department of Land Affairs, and for the Department of Human Rights. She started an organization called Intersex South Africa which aimed at supporting other intersex people, and was an advocate for the rights of intersex people. She made the documentary "The Third Sex".

The collection reflects her transition from living as a man to living as a woman, her work with the South African government in the Human Rights Commission and the Land Reform Commission and her crisis of faith and subsequent interest in Buddhism and Quakerism. Some of her academic writing is also included. Sally died in Cape Town on the 14th February 2014.

Summary from Journeys of Faith:

Sally Gross was born intersex, with a sexual anatomy that didn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Born to Jewish parents and raised as a boy (Selwyn) who later converted to Catholicism and was ordained as a Dominican Friar. Through this Gross lived with the inner conflict that she identified as female and eventually underwent medical tests confirming her intersex status and changed her name to Sally.

A lengthy and painful battle with the Catholic Church followed – as a woman, Gross could no longer serve as a priest. Fundamentally, the Church rejected all avenues she proposed for her continued involvement. Despite engaging with other religions, nearing her death, Gross professed to have lost all faith and considered herself an atheist.

Archival notes: Sorted by Carol Preston April 2014. The collection was received in two cardboard boxes with no indication of method of arrangement. Therefore the collection has been arranged according to category.

See also GAL0131 – Journeys of Faith collection; GAL0019 - Estian Smit Collection

Series Description:

The collection is organized into six series. (A) consists of personal documents, (B) work related documents, (C) academic papers, (D) Pamphlets, newsletters and flyers, (E) Photographs, (F) digital material and (G) memorabilia.

(A) Personal documents

- A1 Medical
- A2 Declaration of change of name
- A3 Communication between Sally and the Catholic Church
- A4 Notes on spirituality, retreats, meditation and mindfulness
- A5 Official documents
- A6 Horoscope
- A7 Miscellaneous letters and cards
- A8 Correspondence and supporting documents around a complaint laid by Sally to The People's Paper
- A9 Job application 2007 – includes copies of degrees, ID, CV etc.
- A10 Other miscellaneous documents

(B) Work related documents

- B1 Conferences and meeting
- B2 Harassment
- B3 Department of Land Affairs
- B4 Farm killings press clippings
- B5 Rural safety
- B6 South African Law Commission

(C) Academic papers

- C1 Trans and intersex papers
 - C1.1 Milton Diamond articles and related emails
 - C1.2 Sally Gross essays
 - C1.3 AIS Support Group
 - C1.4 Miscellaneous articles
 - C1.5 Note, press clipping and posters
- C2 Philosophy
- C3 Politics
- C4 Religion
- C5 Sally Gross thesis
- C6 History of Philosophy/ Philosophical Logic

(D) Pamphlets, newsletters, flyers and books

(E) Photographs

(F) Digital material

- F1. DVDs
- F2 VHS tapes
- F3 CDs
- F4 Flash sticks and hard drives

- (G) Memorabilia (IN OFFICE) – includes crucifix and Buddhist banner
G1 Memorial documents
G2 Personal belongings

(A) PERSONAL DOCUMENTS 1993-1997 12 folders (A3 and A8 are restricted)

A1: one folder containing doctor's letters and testimonials regarding her sex and a doctor's report, letter from Dr KE Leeson, two doctors letters from Dr Hilton Kaplan regarding her medical condition and medication prior to travelling, two envelopes of X-rays.

A2: Two folders containing documentation on the name change from Shlomo (Selwyn) Gross to Sally Gross (30th July 1993), a certificate of naturalization as a British citizen as at birth, a letter from the South African Director-General assuring Selwyn Gross that dual citizenship was not jeopardized by being granted a British passport (21st October 1991), a copy of Sally Gross' South African passport and four original certificates from the University of Oxford. These are for a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theology (21st May 1988) and Master of Arts (13th July 1991). These certificates were reissued to reflect the name Sally Gross in June 1995. Certificate of naturalization 22 August 1953, copy of Oath of Allegiance to Queen Elizabeth 1st August 1988 and supporting documentation, application for British passport, South African passport application, hand written notes on British Consular information, abridged South African birth certificate, various testimonials.

A3: One folder containing correspondence between Fr Timothy Radcliffe and Sally Gross. Fr Timothy was the Master of the Order of Dominicans in the Catholic Church at the time. He was senior to Sally, and she did not report directly to him, but they had a close personal friendship that transcended Sally's decision to live as a woman and lasted beyond Sally leaving the church. The letters form a rich and intimate documentation of the personal trials that Sally endured, her coming to terms with the decision not only to live as a woman but the understanding that she would not be permitted to work as a priest because of this decision.

29 Feb 1993 letter to Timothy discussing Judaism, her struggles with her identity and details on the advice and counselling she was seeking.

9th March 1993 letter from Timothy in response.

26th April 1993 letter to Timothy thanking him for his letter and giving him an update of conversations she had had with various counsellors and clergy.

3rd December 1993 letter to Timothy telling him of her termination of employment by Lynda, in Jerusalem, requesting advice on employment and her decision to live as 'Sally'.

17th March 1994 letter from Timothy telling her about a questionnaire that she would be taking. Attached is a copy of the instructions from John Mills to the other superiors in the clergy as to how to deal with the press.

21st March 1994 Letter from Malcolm clearing up misunderstandings.

17th April 1994 letter to Timothy outlining her biological status and letting him know that she would not be returning to life at the priory as a man.

24th April 1994 Letter to Timothy discussing the dispensation, her willingness but inability to return to the order and other options open to her.

4th May 1994 Letter from Timothy giving advice on the options.

25th July 1994 Letter from Timothy on self-acceptance.

12th August 1994 Letter to Timothy outlining the events and correspondence around her dismissal from the order.

5th September 1994 Letter to Sally assuring her that the dispensation was above board and was not a request to renounce vows of celibacy, with a copy of the dispensation attached.

13th October 1994 Letter to Timothy dealing with her reaction to the dispensation, Timothy's letter, hostile process of dismissal and recent developments.

10th November 1994 Letter to Timothy a follow up on the previous letter, which was written to him officially as the Master of the Order. This letter was written as Timothy's friend also on the dismissal and Sally's personal struggles.

11th November 1994 Letter to Sally responding to her letter and discussing the dismissal.

19th February 1995 Letter to Timothy outlining her distress and the break from the church, her financial difficulties and her consideration of suicide.

26th July 1995 Letter to Timothy outlining her erosion of faith.

28th August 1995 Letter to Timothy continuing on the erosion of her faith and stating that she was enclosing an outline of her faith in Jesus. This outline is missing.

8th September, The Feast of the Birth of Our Lady, letter from Timothy assuring Sally that those who doubt the validity of her baptism are incorrect.

10th September 1995 Letter from Timothy thanking her for the Celtic cross that she sent him.

24th February 1996 Letter to Timothy discussing the options open to her, her feelings towards Christianity and urgently asking for help.

Easter Monday letter from Timothy discussing options open to her

6th May 1996 Letter to Timothy telling him about her return to Blackfriars and her interest in the Quakers.

19th June 1996 Letter to Timothy outlining possibilities for his silence and thanking him for his humanity and friendship.

29th June 1996 Letter from Timothy outlining letters he had written seeking assistance for Sally.

18th July 1996 Letter to Timothy letting him know that her depression was lifting and discussing options for her.

19th August 1996 Letter to Timothy telling him about the tabloids tricking her into giving them information which they published, and how she had warned the church of possibly repercussions.

1st September 1996 Letter to Timothy continuing with events and her feelings of betrayal and distress after the tabloid incident.

31st October 1996 Letter from Timothy responding to the letters on the tabloid incident.

20th January 1997 Letter to Timothy telling him about her time in Holland.

7th February 1997 Letter from Timothy responding to her previous letter.

A4: one folder containing postcards on Buddhism, personal notes on self-help, meditation, notes and workshop questionnaires taken while on retreats, and lists of terminology from various websites on spirituality.

A5: one folder of official personal documents: five South African passports, four Israeli passports, one Israeli unidentified document, originals and copies of her father and mothers' birth certificates plus their wills, American Go Association membership card, one South African Identity Document, one brown zipped folder containing what may be Israeli Identity Documents but could be Israeli medical documentation and diplomas and certificates of various courses attended; communication re. returning to South Africa (1994 and 1998 – with Frene Ginwala).

A6: One folder of Sally's natal chart and psychological horoscope

A7: Miscellaneous letters and cards, including library card, bookmarks, an address book and a hand written letter wrapped in a paper binding marked "Sally" and sealed.

A8: Three folders that came in one lever arch file. The order in which documents were found has been retained, and have been numbered accordingly from the front of the file to the back (1-83). These documents contain newspaper clippings and correspondence regarding a complaint that Sally laid against a newspaper that exposed her as a priest that was living as a man and now as a woman.

"Priest in Sex Swap" letter from Fr John Orme Mills OP 2 Sept 1996, letter to John from Sally 4 Sept 1996, letter to the Press Complaints Commission from Sally 30 August 1996, letter to the Editor of The People 22 August 1996, Breaches of specific clauses of the PCC's code of practice (2 copies), Commentary on the story – undated, "Sex swap for Priest" clipping, copy of passport, Appendix D: extract from population register ministry of the interior Israel, Appendix E: translation of appendix D, Appendix F: document produced at the request of order describing the regime of treatment and physiological anomalies, Letters to nature: appendix G, letter to Sally from Sandra Denis 4 Sept 1996, Press complaints commission: how to complain, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 5 Sept 1996, letter to the Complaints Director Sue Roberts from Mike Jempson 5 Sept 1996, incomplete letter to Mike 6 Sept 1996, letter to Ms Denis from Sally 6 Sept 1996, letter to Ms Low from Sally 9 Sept 1996, letter from Joanne Low 23 Sept 1996, letter from Suesan Roberts 26 Sept 1996, letter to Susan Roberts 29 Sept 1996, letter to Sally from Susan Roberts 11 October 1996, letter to Susan Roberts 15 Oct 1996, letter to Mike 2 Nov 1996, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 29 Nov 1996, letter to Joanna Low from Len Gould the Editor of The People 15 Nov 1996, letter from Joanna Low 19 Dec 1996, letter to Joanna Low 21 Dec 1996, letter to Sally from Fr John Orme Mills OP 2 Sep 1996, The Tablet 10 August 1996, index of those ordained into the priesthood 27th July 1987, Congregatio de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, granting of priestly duties to Selwyn Gross 18th Nov 1981, The Geography of the Encounter with Mr Qualtrough, letter from Joanna Low 23 Dec 1996, letter to Joanna Low from Mike Jempson 23 Dec 1996, letter from Joanna Low 3 Jan 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Sally 4 Jan 1997, letter to Mike from Sally 4 Jan 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Sally 20 Jan 1997, letter from Susan Roberts to Mike Jempson 24 Jan 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Sally 20 Jan 1997, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 28 Jan 1997, letter to Joanna Low 29 Jan 1997, letter to Joanna Low 17 March 1997, letter to Mike from Sally 17 March 1997, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 18 March 1997, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 24 March 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Len Gould 14 March 1997, letter to Mike Jempson from Joanna Low 27 March 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Sally 29 March 1997, doctors

letter from Dr KE Leeson 4 March 1997, letter to John from Sally 7 March 1997, letter to 'all' from Sally – undated, Max writes, incomplete correspondence addressees unknow March 1997?, 20 April 1996 incomplete letter, 16 March 1997 incomplete letter, letter to Mike from Sally 1 April 1997, Letter to Sally from Joanna Low 9 April 1997, letter to Joanna Low from Sally 11 April 1997, letter to Mike from Sally 11 April 1997, Letter to Sue from Mike Jempson 19 April 1997, letter to Mike Jempson from Joanna Low 30 April 1997, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 8 May 1997, letter to Mike from Sally 11 May 1997, letter to Sue from Mike 13 May 1997, letter to Mike from Sue 22 May 1997, Letter to Susan Roberts from Sally 29 May 1997, letter to Sally from Susan Roberts 2 June 1997, letter to Susan Roberts from Sally 12 July 1997, DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria for Gender Identity Disorder, Letter to Sally from Fr John Orme Mills OP 9 July 1997, letter to Dr Parvis from Richard Hughes 18 March 1996, letter to Mike from Louis Charalambous 14 July 1997, letter to Sally from Sue 16 July 1997, letter to Mike from Sue 5 August 1997, letter to Mike Sally 14 August 1997, letter to Mrs Roberts from Sally 20 August 1997, letter to Sally from Joanna Low 27 August 1997, Letter to Len Gould from Sally 29 Aug 1997.

A9: Other miscellaneous documents: recipes, notes on family tree, sundry notes written on scrap paper, a printed list of telephone numbers and a list of activities on 'Monday'.

(B). WORK RELATED DOCUMENTS 9 folders

B1: Conferences and meetings: two folders on conferences and meetings attended. Folder 1 contains minutes and agendas while folder 2 contains hand written notes taken at conferences and meetings.

B2: one folder containing a testimonial by Lauren Waring, open statement by Sally and a rough chronology of the harassment and responses by Sally, all concerning harassment in the workplace.

B3: one folder containing documents from Sally's work with the Department of Home Affairs. This includes CV s, letter of application, letters of motivation and letters from Home Affairs. ANC meeting notes are included. Included is a letter of recommendation from Jennifer Williams supporting Sally's nomination for the position of Human Rights Commissioner.

B4: one folder of copies of press clippings on farm killings.

B5: three folders containing articles on attacks in rural areas: 'Report by the Crime Information Analysis Centre no 2 of 1998', 'Attacks of Farms and Smallholdings' 1999, 'An Investigation Into Farm Attacks in South Africa', 'First Report: Summit for Rural Safety and Security 10 October 1998', 'Progress Report' undated, 'Summit for Rural Safety and Security – first report 18 November 1998'.

B6: on folder containing the 'Report on the Investigation into the Legal Consequences of Sexual Realignment and Related Matters 1997' by the South African Law Commission.

(C). ACADEMIC PAPERS 13 folders

C1: Trans and intersex papers

C1.1: one folder containing Milton Diamond articles and related emails: one folder containing email correspondence between Sally, Milton and others regarding

publications by Milton Diamond. Two copies of publications by Milton Diamond: 'Self-testing: A Check on Sexual Identity and Other Levels of Sexuality', 'A Critical Evaluation of the Ontology of Human Sexual Behaviour' and 'The Journey from Selwyn to Sally' by Stephen Coan (3 part series of articles of the *Natal Witness*, 2000).

C1.2: One folder containing Essays written by Sally on intersex: 'Explaining Intersex, Part 1', 'Intersex, Status and Law in South Africa in General', "The Chronicle of an Intersexed Activist's Journey".

C1.3: One folder containing AIS Support Group: newsletters and pamphlets from the AIS Support Group.

C1.4: Miscellaneous articles: two folders containing various articles: 'Management of Intersexuality', 'Intersex: a Simplified Perspective', 'Recommendations for Treatment Intersex Infants and Children', 'Frequently Asked Questions We Have Received from non-intersexed People', 'A Researchers Intersexuality Biography', 'The Case of John/Joan', 'Sex Reassignment at Birth', 'From Fertilization to Adult Sexual Behaviour', 'Hermaphrodites with Attitude', various case studies from SA Medical Journal, 'Check for Mutilation on Return', 'Blurred Biology', three articles from Intersexed People, 'The Five Sexes', articles from Chrysalis – Journal of Transgender Identities, 'Ways of being Intersexed' – documentary series proposal, programme and abstracts on 'African Same-sex Sexualities and Gender Diversity', two miscellaneous internet print outs.

C1.5: One hand written note on the practice of infanticide, press clipping on military mutilation and two posters.

C2: Philosophy: one folder containing a notebook with notes on publications on philosophy, A4 hand written notes, Oxford Philosophy 2013 publication, 'Towards a Theology of Mankind' by Selwyn Gross 1982 – original and copy.

C3: Politics: one folder containing political publications. One chapter on '11 reasons why South Africa needs a fully funded national campaign to end gender-based violence', 'African nationalism as an intellectual tradition', 'Second nature: native affairs with positivism, to 1948', 'Pan Africanism in South African Intellectual Thought: Origin, Impact and Significance', 'Afrikaner Intellectual history: An Interpretation', 'The Intellectual Foundations of the Black Consciousness Movement', 'Less a theory of society, more a state of mind?'

C4: Religion: one folder containing religious publications. 'The making of the South African Muslim intellectual tradition: from immigration to home grown voices', 'Les trahisons des clercs? Christianity as an intellectual tradition in South Africa', 'Gandhian ways: the South African experience and its legacy', 'The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash', 'Rav Kook's Letters', 'Lecture 1a: the fear of God in our time', ' Buddhism and the God-idea', 'Not in God's image', 'Reformers, Swamis and Devotees: Hindu intellectual traditions in South Africa', two miscellaneous articles and a press clipping on 'Jesus was no Christian'.

C5: three folders containing Sally Gross's thesis D. Phil Thesis Draft, Part 1: Theology, Part 2: Philosophy 1 and Part 3: Identity.

C6: One folder containing the hand written and typed notes that appear to have been from a course that Sally took.

(D). PAMPHLETS, NEWSLETTERS, FLYERS AND BOOKS 2 folders

Two folders containing various publications on gender issues, support flyers, gender violence, AIDS Foundation (AFSA) and GapTalk newsletters, Behind the Mask report 2007. Six books: 'Latvia', 'Organize or Starve', 'Unity', 'Holy Bible', 'Hebrew Bible', 'Hebrew Manuscript Writing' and 'Jewish Feminists Respond'.

(E). PHOTOGRAPHS

One photo of Selwyn Gross as a child, three albums of photos of Sally when she was with the church and when she was with the Department of Land Affairs and family and friends. Photos and annotations are available digitally.

Three brown envelopes of photographs that are unscanned – various unknown functions, family, Quaker Centre and Cicely, August 1971.

One CD with photographs.

(F). DIGITAL VIDEO MATERIAL

F1: DVD: BBC documentary of two DVDs on 'The Human Body, the incredible journey from birth to death', 'Gohatto', 'The Go Master', 'Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy', 'My Reincarnation', 'Mandarava', Israeli DVD, 'The Crying Game', 'Little Buddha', 'Our Life Is Like Our Breath', 'Milarepa'.

F2: VHS tapes: 'Felicia Show August 2001', 'The Third Sex part 1 and 2', 'A sexual Dilemma November 1997', 'It's time: intersex society of New Zealand', 'Hermaphrodites speak'.

F3: CDs: three CDs from the 12th Encounters Documentary Festival 2010- 'Earthchild', 'Sathima's Wedding' and 'Unmistaken Child'. 'Angel', 'Taboo Africa: born identity?' 'Manufacturing consent', 'Intersexed video references', 'Retreat Webcasts', 'XXY Out in Africa', 'Employment equity information', '3rd Sex' x2 copies, LGBTI Orientation Workshop, Johannesburg Central's Communist University 2004 draft programme, Marxists CD archive – CD1-4, The Torah CD-ROM Library with backup, Hava Nagila Medley.

F4: three hard drives and two flash sticks: two of the hard drives have not been opened. Information on the third hard drive is currently being examined. This contains back up of correspondence, possible emails from Intersex South Africa etc.

Some of the information on the flash sticks requires passwords, files and information on the various flashsticks have been consolidated into two - they contain CV, work files, intersex articles, Buddhist files etc.

(G). MEMORABILIA (in office)

G1: Memorial: mini-video tape, programme and flyer of the memorial held at Wits Art Museum on the 22nd February 201, speech made by Ray Gross at the memorial held in Cape Town on the 26th February 2014.

G2: Personal belongings: Walking stick, dress, shoulder purse, identity tag from the United Nations African meeting in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, Cape Town 29 June to 1 July 2004, a leather calling card holder with calling cards, a shoulder bag from the African same-sex sexualities conference and a green semi-precious stone pendant on a leather cord. Bag, walking stick, calling cards and a dress, small embroidered draw string bag with a string of blue and brown beads on a string; small wooden box, hinged with "Sally Gross" inscription with a wooden pen inside also inscribed; rose quartz stone; red scarf; blue scarf; small fabric banner on wooden dowel stick with embroidered image of Buddha; cream shawl with tassels and Hebrew inscription; white Parliament of South Africa shirt – 10 Years of Democracy Civil Guard of Honour; dark blue cap with "Commission on Restitution of Land Rights" logo; two small painted Buddhist masks – both damaged and repaired presumably by Sally; metal spiked candle holder with candle; coffee cup with "Sally" inscription; brass bell and matching brass ornament; wooden crucifix (this was especially beloved by Sally since the carving of Christ appeared to her to be intersex – information from Jennifer Williams and appears in one of Sally's letters).