

**Network of Religious Communities Archiving Project**  
**Annual Report**  
**February 2017**

Report prepared by Robin Raphael, project coordinator

A small group of dedicated volunteers (Yvonne Stocker, Jonathan Lawrence, Mary Lou Thompson) has continued to meet weekly for the past year to further comb through the attic of 1272 Delaware Avenue (Network of Religious Communities (NRC) Offices) in order to finish inventorying the NRC files and its predecessor organizations (Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries (BAMM) and Council of Churches (COC)).

The long term goal of this process is to make these valuable historical records accessible to researchers and interested parties.

At this point in time, the group has reviewed the records of such groups and committees as: Scouting and Camping Ministries, Project Equality, Hunger Task Force, Food Pantry, Radio and TV Ministry, Marriage Roundtable, Anti Casino Movement, Love Canal Ecumenical Task Force, Church Women's Fellowship, and Church Women United, to name just a few. In this process we have: cleaned out duplicates, removed paper clips, thrown away moldy or illegible papers and organized them by placing them in banker's boxes organized by year, subject, or whatever mixed bag of items that was on the floor.

The historical records of such groups as the Sunday School Association, Church Women's Federation and Church Women's United date back to the early 1900's. We also have the records used by Harlan Frost as he wrote An Ecumenical Wind.

We currently have over 180 boxes of correspondence, minutes, announcements, flyers, and publicity that range in date from the 1900's up through current time. We also have over 100 record albums that were sent to the Council of Churches or BAMM for use in Educational Ministries. To a lesser extent, we have some photos and newspaper clippings. There is also a substantial collection of VHS tapes, CDs, Beta tapes and radio broadcasts produced locally. We have successfully digitized over 140 Beta SP tapes via a grant obtained from the Riefler Foundation.

We anticipate being finished inventorying the boxes and papers in the attic by the Spring, 2017 (which is a full year later than expected). However, in the past year, we have determined that those parts of the collection that will be digitized will be uploaded to New York Heritage, (<https://www.nyheritage.org>). Although we were unsuccessful last year in our attempt to receive a Hidden Collections Grant, we plan to once again apply for this competitive national grant that will allow for the scanning and electronic storage of the most important historical records. We are still seeking a permanent home for the archives.

Additional agencies and personnel that have been helpful to the project include:

- \*Dr. Chana Kotzin, Director, Jewish Buffalo Archives Project
- \*Mrs. Heidi Bamford, Regional Archivist, Western New York Library Resources Council
- \*BIELS Document Management Company