Joyce LeeAnn Joseph photographed by Curtis Bryant, 2015
Hello Everyone,

I’m thrilled to reach out with exciting updates and a few invitations to events that promise not just to enlighten but also to energize our community!

First, let’s talk about our new look. We’ve introduced a vibrant new logo and made some updates to our website. I encourage you to visit — we hope it enhances your experience and keeps you coming back for more!

**Upcoming Conference - "Archival Bodies"**

Our annual conference is right around the corner, and it’s shaping up to be one of the most thought-provoking gatherings we’ve ever organized. Themed "Archival Bodies," this event will delve into the intricate relationship between archival work and various forms of embodiment. We are honored to host keynote speaker Dr. Jamie A. Lee, whose groundbreaking work explores archival power dynamics and their impacts. Joyce LeeAnn Joseph will lead an interactive session on innovative archival methods, and Tara Rynders will close with a moving talk on resilience and self-care in our field.

This conference is not just a learning opportunity—it’s a chance to engage deeply with the themes that shape our work and lives as archivists. We invite you to immerse yourself in these discussions, which are more relevant than ever. Register today and secure your spot for a day full of learning, networking, and inspiration. Details and registration can be found on our newly designed website.

**Supporting Our Future - Silent Auction**

During the conference, we will host a silent auction, with all proceeds supporting the Archives Fellowship. This initiative is crucial for bringing diverse voices and talents into our field, and your participation in the auction is a direct investment in this future. Bid on a variety of items and know that each contribution helps us continue to offer these valuable opportunities.

**Workshop on Trauma Informed Care (TIC)**

Don’t miss our upcoming workshop on Trauma Informed Care, an essential approach for creating supportive environments. This four-hour session will explore practical ways to incorporate TIC into our practices, helping us serve our communities more effectively while caring for our own well-being. The workshop promises not only to inform but also to provide tools for personal and professional resilience. Spaces are limited, so please register soon to secure your participation.

**Join Us**

We are counting on your enthusiastic participation to make these events successful. Whether by learning at our conference, bidding at our auction, or growing through our workshop, your involvement is what drives our community forward. Let’s come together to support each other, our profession, and the archival bodies we steward.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our field. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and experiencing the powerful discussions and developments that will unfold.

Warmest regards,
Jessie de la Cruz
Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists
Board President
An Interview with SRMA (Un)conference Keynote Speaker Dr. Jamie A. Lee

Jamie A. Lee is an archivist, activist, filmmaker, community storyteller, co-parent, and now grandparent. They are also Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Associate Professor of Digital Culture, Information, and Society in the School of Information at the University of Arizona, where they co-founded and direct the Critical Archives & Curation Collaborative, co/lab; the Arizona Queer Archives (www.arizonaqueerarchives.com); and the Digital Storytelling & Oral History Lab, which communicates multimodal productions research to a broader public as engaged research and, importantly, as a vehicle for social justice.

Lee is an award-winning social justice documentary filmmaker, archivist, and scholar committed to queer/ed and decolonizing methodologies as well as asset-driven and participatory approaches to projects produced with communities. They were awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Early Career Grant to inquire into the politics of description in community-based archives and also the prestigious Agnese Nelms Haury Program for Environment and Social Justice Faculty Fellowship to develop their Digital Humanities project, secrets of the agave | a Climate Justice Storytelling Project [www.secretsoftheagave.com].

Q: Your book Producing the Archival Body looks at archives as bodies of work, but also looks at the bodies working in archives. Can you share a little bit more about how these two forms intersect in this space?

Dr. Lee: “My book might merely lay a new foundation for thinking about archives as significantly not neutral and a space where the archivist comes into contact with bodies, histories, and bodies of knowledges. I believe that the archives and bodies mutually shape each other. My work is interested in relationships, relationality, and engagement. Once we’re engaged, we are no longer the same person as we entered. Consider movement and unsettling and unsettled-ness, we are called to question the fixed sorts of archival theories and practices and pay more careful attention to the theories emerging from lived and living histories as integral to archival ways of knowing and thinking. It’s an exciting time to be and work in and with archives.”

Q: Visibility as an archivist making decisions in an archive is a fundamental concept when challenging the status-quo and coming to terms with the profession's idea of neutrality. How do you see archivists’ as people who work to preserve stories?

Dr. Lee: “In early archival studies scholarship, the archivist was often not identified as a person but a process or practice of making records and collections archival. The archivist had been invisibilized as merely carrying out the functions of the archives. I think that shifting concepts in archival studies and especially the introduction of critical archival studies as a sub-field in 2017 have helped to visibilize and further embody the work – through the mind, body, hands, gut, and heart – that the archivist (broadly defined) does in the archives. We cannot divorce our bodies from our work. It’s about living and working with integrity – being attentive to all of our parts.”
Dr. Lee: “In the introduction of my book, I offer stories of how I got to this place and into the archives. I would love for attendees to think about crafting their histories to share in our time and space together in Denver. I’d like to hear and know each other in these ways.”

Dr. Lee’s Keynote address as part of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists 2024 (Un)Conference: Archival Bodies begins at 10:30 am on Friday, May 17th.

An Interview with SRMA (Un)conference Speaker Joyce LeeAnn Joseph

Wherever i am is the show /girl outchea transmuting archival processing into performance art /collections be an archive of everything i am overcoming and done already got a grip on /these hands lookin like i ain't ever worked a day in my life; glamour be da magical touch /me worthy of research.

Q: Your company Archival Alchemy® invokes the presence of magic when looking back at personal histories. How do you see archival and memory work as holding power in someone’s life?

Joyce: “Archival Alchemy® is rooted in self-preservation, self-mastery, and self-empowerment in order to transform ourselves and find fulfillment in our purposes. Keywords: self, selves (inner child, person reading this, etc.), aka as YOU!

As a Black woman, self-preservation has been my pillar since I was a little girl. The personified archive has been my confidant and friend. Our long-term relationship has continuously healed and transformed my life.”
Q: One of your course offerings is Groundwork: archival mapping for self-transformation™. Could you tell us a little more about how archival mapping would change the person going through the process?

Joyce: “Based on the beta participants’ (myself included) explorations with this developing course thus far, grounding into REMEMBERANCE has become our ROUTE regardless what roads we each take; we look back to fuel forward.

I’ve practiced archival mapmaking for every aspect of my life such as overcoming the grief of losing loved ones, establishing boundaries with family, and navigating bureaucracy at work. This process is how I remember who tf i am while creating/living my charmed life on my own terms. And I have always felt called to help others to do the same! This is my legacy – I inspire you to remember your essence; leading by example while riding alongside you.

Our dreams don’t come from nowhere; they grow from our past experiences, feelings, desires, and from the issues we have already solved. Remembering helps you sift through the trauma, self-doubt, and overthinking. You remember to return to your selves, to recall who you truly are, and to redefine your way forward. Not reforming the symptoms, fully releasing who/what no longer serves you in order to transmute the root of the problems. Remembering helps you to recalibrate when necessary, and to access renewed routes. Your life is iterative; you’ve already been in motion, just keep going!

Lastly, archival mapmaking isn’t necessarily a plan of action, firm rules, or even the strict sequencing of steps, it is meant to become a finding aid that guides you when you get lost / need to find your way back to yourself, the archival map is a creative experience to explore, edit, or even build it as you are enroute.”

Q: What is something attendees could be thinking about in preparation for or anticipation of your presentation?

Joyce: “Keeping in mind our need for systems of care, I encourage attendees to prepare by reflecting on a few questions. What is YOUR archival origin story, and do you embody it? How have archives informed your journey, both personal and professional? Do you remember your “why” that guided you towards your present self?

ALSO, attendees are invited to email me* for pay-what-you-can (free.99 is very much welcomed!) access to now-before-then: an archival mapmaking ritual to remember the way YOU move. I’m really excited to share this document (an introductory offering for the groundwork course) with more individuals, which crystallizes an evolving idea I’ve had into a fully realized self-guided experience that you could return to again and again as needed!

*There’s a link to do so on my website. This invitation will remain open to attendees before AND after the SRMA conference!”
Joyce LeeAnn Joseph is a certified archivist, an interdisciplinary artist, and the founder of Archival Alchemy®. She has worked for a community archive, a corporate archive, a large public library, and a prestigious museum. However, her archival praxis began as a young Black girl, and as an act of decolonization she centers her innate methods. In 2011, Joyce LeeAnn self-published her archival text, somethymes grief goes for a walk. In 2013, she co-curated The Finding Aid: Black Women at the Intersection of Art and Archiving at the Schomburg Center. She has been a Create Change fellow with The Laundromat Project, a member of the EMERGENYC incubator, as well as a MoCADA creator in residence. She has performed at the RUTAS Festival, the Laurie Beechman Theatre, House of Yes, Brooklyn Museum, The Noire Pageant, Shades of Burlesque and Jeezy’s Juke Joint revues, Coney Island USA, Underground Cabaret, Bijou Theater, as well as with Dandy Wellington and his band. In 2017, Joyce LeeAnn emancipated her labor by cultivating Archival Alchemy®, a small business that supports creatives and cultural institutions to transform archives through coaching, consultations, creative work, and collaborations. To learn more about her artistic work, please connect via @archivistafterhours on Instagram and/or visit joyceleeann.com; to learn more about her services, please visit archivalalchemy.com.
Rynders, an Advanced Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, keynote speaker, and provides workshops and research around burnout and secondary traumatic stress. Rynders is extremely honored to have been named, A Blade of Grass Fellow, a three time Arts in Society grantee, a 2019 Colorado Nightingale Luminary, the recipient of Rose Medical Center’s Excellence in Nursing Award in Compassionate Care, a Hamilton Awardee in Arts & Resiliency from the National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH), the 2022 EY Next Wave Leader Award from the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts and a Fulbright Specialist where she recently returned from Amsterdam finishing up her research in arts, health, and resiliency. She has recently been published in the AMA Journal of Ethics (2022) and American Journal of Medical Quality (2022). Fun fact: Tara is a mother to 8 year twins who keep her heart soft and curiosity wild.

Q: One of your approaches to performing and using your body to tell a story focuses on looking backwards and working through a moment in history. Could you tell us a little more about how the past influences your expression and art?

Tara: “During COVID I was acutely aware of the impact COVID was having on the nursing profession. I have come to understand so many other professions were severely impacted as well including librarians, archivists, and historians. In the moment we can have difficult situations happen and the hope is ideally we would have support given to us in the moment or shortly after. Since many of us were in a place of survival mode during COVID if felt impossible to support one another AND as healthcare providers we also had the added pressure to isolate ourselves from our support in order to save their lives. So we experienced trauma with little to no support and then we tried to get back to normal as quickly as possible leaving the past embedded or stuck in our bodies as our minds desired so badly for a sense of normalcy, calm, and predictability. As we slowly began to experience this many of us desired to just move forward and to stop talking about COVID and not revisit the horror that many of us faced.
Now in the instance of your work as archivists it has an added layer because as you archive and preserve our history you are being thrust back into the trauma, the loss, the collective toll and are doing it in most cases alone. So as part of my artistic expression I enjoy releasing these experiences through storytelling and dance because it helps it leave my body or the body of the storyteller in order to make space for something else, possibly joy. Art and dance and performance are all opportunities to heal, for the performer to heal and for the audience to find healing. I like to never forget that – that healing is always happening all around us and it is part of my work to harness that, name it, and share it.”

Q: Your organization, The Clinic, uses art and expression to understand and heal what the body holds onto as memory. How do you see the body as a memory tool?

Tara: “Our bodies are living archives of every experience we have held. We hold memories, both beautiful and traumatic in our bodies and these memories can influence the way we perceive and feel perceived in the world. We know that we are impacted daily by these memories and yet many times it is our subconscious brain that these memories get played out and we are not always able to connect the dots from past memories and current actions. I have found it extremely helpful to use movement to reveal what may be archived in our bodies that our minds have not had access to, consciously anyways. So I do a lot of movement storytelling and play without purpose to help us return to the wisdom of our bodies to learn more about our humanity and navigate our humanity - our own and our fellow human's humanity, together with care.”

Q: What is something attendees could be thinking about in preparation for or anticipation of your presentation and the workshop with your organization The Clinic?

Tara: “Just come as you are in all your incredible humanity. Dress in comfortable shoes and layers as you may get hot at some points and then may want a cozy sweater. My first two answers were pretty heavy and it is the heavy lifting that I do as the facilitator however the workshop is really really fun.
One of my favorite quotes from a past participant was, ‘We laughed today, we cried today, we celebrated and we got silly, and in the end we found joy in each other.’ ‘In the end we found joy in each other’ – this is the thesis statement.😊 This is really how we all leave, feeling lighter and more joyful, more connected, and more hopeful of navigating this world together as humans. It is like we empty our pockets of the things that are making us feel heavy, unworthy, and we fill our pockets with newfound joy and appreciation for ourselves and each other.”

Please [click this link](https://example.com) to a 3-minute video that shares some experiences from Tara’s 8-hour workshops.
Colorado Mesa University Special Collections and Archives in Grand Junction, Colorado primarily holds the records of the institution, but over the years a small number of local historical collections have accumulated. The Loyd Files Research Library at the Museum of the West in downtown Grand Junction has traditionally acquired archival collections related to local history, so the number that have made their way to the university over the years has been limited. The first seed of what has become a broader collecting scope arrived prior to my accepting the position of Special Collections and Archives Librarian at CMU in 2018. Just before he retired, my predecessor accepted a donation of materials belonging to the former Common Decency Coalition, later Western Equality, rescued from the dumpster by members of the local LGBTQ+ community. The material made its way to CMU thanks to former history professor Dr. Sarah Swedberg.

The Common Decency Coalition formed in November 1992 in response to Colorado's Amendment 2. Later the organization became Western Equality. Unfortunately, in the early 2010s Western Equality began to decline and then died out. The people still involved with the organization simply threw everything away as they cleaned out the former offices. If it weren’t for active members of the local LGBTQ+ community, everything might have been lost. As it is, the collection represents only a small fraction of the organization’s records but does contain a wealth of information on and publications related to local and Colorado LGBTQ+ activism. For that reason, the collection has been renamed the Colorado LGBTQ+ Activism collection.

The second seed walked through my door just after the first rush of the COVID-19 pandemic. A professor new to CMU approached me to ask about digitizing the papers of her late great grandmother. The family had discovered them after her grandmother’s death and learned her great grandmother’s secret: she had been in love with another woman in Gunnison, Colorado in the late 1940s and early 1950s. I negotiated to have the family donate the digital copies of the collection in exchange for doing the digitization to professional standards here at CMU as the family wasn’t ready to part with the originals. Since then, I’ve been steadily working to digitize the collection as I have time. The Arla Walker and Florence Wilson papers, as I’ve decided to title the collection, holds a wealth of information on their day-to-day lives and the tensions of a secret relationship between two married, religious women. The somewhat unusual title for the collection reflects that the collection represents both sides of the relationship. While the letters and cards are exclusively from Florence to Arla, Arla and Florence also exchanged journals in which they took turns sharing their daily lives with each other before swapping to let the other read, comment, and add her own entries.
His research involves connecting with individuals from or who support marginalized communities and often yields archival material that he donates to CMU Special Collections and Archives on their behalf.

These are the seeds of an LGBTQ+ archive for the Western Slope, but I hope to grow it further as the collections are processed and made more accessible to students and a wider audience. Beyond my efforts to digitize the Arla Walker and Florence Wilson papers, I have a student intern processing the Colorado LGBTQ+ Activism collection and hope to have another student intern work on the Brenda Deines papers in the future.

The final and smallest seed is the papers of a local mother who lost her son to AIDS and participated in the Names Project AIDS Quilt. This small collection of letters, newsletters, and the book she wrote related to her activism following her son’s death came to me through an alumnus who is also an active local history researcher who focuses on marginalized communities.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SRMA Board Elections
It is time to vote for our new board leadership! There are four positions currently on the ballot: Vice-President, Secretary, Continuing Education Coordinator, and Member-at-Large. Here are brief statements from each of the candidates.

SRMA Vice-President/President Past-President
The Vice President shall serve a term of one (1) year, after which they shall automatically serve as President for a term of one (1) year. Then they become the Past President during the third year. The Vice President shall: (i) be the President-Elect and shall assist the President and perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board; (ii) in the President’s absence, perform the duties of the President.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Cindy Brown
After receiving my BA in History from Carroll College, I returned home to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and began working for the Wyoming State Archives in 1985. I have been here ever since, transitioning from reference staff with some records processing work to my current role as the Digital Archivist. I’ve spent the last decade or more as an administrator of the Wyoming Digital Archives, a state agency enterprise solution established to manage, secure, and preserve state and local government records for permanent and non-permanent files. To help with this work, I completed professional training offered by the Society of Archivists and earned a Digital Archives Specialist certificate in 2020.

I am a long-time member of SRMA and see great value in having a regional group to share support and knowledge. SRMA supports professional development in our community, and I am grateful for the funding I received from SRMA to attend a Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) online course on the fundamentals of audio preservation. It had been decades since I had any audio preservation training, so learning the most up-to-date strategies for this medium was beneficial.

I have also been involved with the Wyoming State Historical Society for years, serving as a member or chair of their Awards Committee, Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, and Oral History Committee. I am currently the Wyoming State Historical Society President, but I will be stepping down from the Executive Committee in the fall as I fulfill the term limit. This will open me up to help SRMA as needed.

SRMA Secretary
The Secretary serves for a term of two (2) years. They shall record the official minutes of the proceedings of the membership and of the Board, and keep all current records such as, but not limited to, official minutes of the meetings, log of Board correspondence, official books and records not specifically assigned to other officers; submit the official minutes of previous business meetings at the SRMA annual business meeting; and serve as the archivist for the organization.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(continued on page 14)
Keli Schmid
For over nine years, Keli Schmid has been the archivist for the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center at Denver Public Library. She primarily oversees the 10th Mountain Division collections, but gets to dabble in Western History and Conservation collections as well. In addition to her role as archivist, Keli has participated on many committees (as secretary and in other capacities) including the Caroline Bancroft Western History Book Award, the DPL Staff Day Committee, and the DPL Staff Recognition Committee. In her time away from the library, Keli has served as secretary for events such as Denver DeComp as well as for her current and former HOAs. Having been a member of SRMA for many many years, she now feels a desire to be more active within the organization.

Continuing Education Coordinator
The Continuing Education Coordinator serves for a term of two (2) years. The Continuing Education Coordinator is responsible for developing, coordinating, and publicizing all professional development workshops or classes for members, outside of the annual conference.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Sara Davis
Sara Davis has served as the State Archivist for Wyoming since 2021. Before her current appointment, she served as the university archivist for the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center for four years and as digital archivist/project manager for the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site/National Association of Olmsted Parks for two years. Sara received her Master of Science in Library Science with an emphasis in Archives Management from Simmons University in January 2016. Being a native Wyomingite with an understanding of limited resources in rural areas, Sara is keen to learn as much as possible about all aspects of the preservation and conservation of collections and make these resources as accessible as possible. This drive for equitable access to information and staying abreast of new technologies has steered her research and professional development into digital archives. She earned her Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certificate from the SAA in August 2017.

Wanting to help her community and the profession, Sara served on the DAS Subcommittee from 2019-2023, including leadership roles of vice-chair, chair, and past chair 2020-2023. This committee work provided Sara with experience in evaluating courses, writing examination questions, and working as a team and leader. She uses these skills regularly in her current position as State Archivist and the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) chair to schedule workshops, events, and trainings for state agencies, local governments, municipalities, organizations, and the general public. She is also working as a supervisor to Wyoming’s new roving archivist, who will continue efforts to preserve history through education and institutional site visits with follow-up reports to aid these institutions in moving forward with their goals. She is excited to become more hands-on with the region’s professionals and collaborate to create professional development opportunities to learn best practices and explore innovations in the profession.

(continued on page 15)
Member-At-Large
One (1) Member-at-Large shall be elected each year for a term of two (2) years. In the second year of their term, they shall automatically become the Program Director. The Member-at-Large serves on the Programming Committee.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Holly Geist
Holly Geist works for Denver Water in the Information Governance department. About a million years ago, Holly got her master’s at Colorado State University when they still had an archives program in the History Department. She has been Member-at-large a few times (and Secretary, too) on the SRMA Board, so she comes with previous experience in conference planning.

Please vote by completing this online form. You may only vote once.

According to the bylaws, elections must be open for 15 days. This ballot will close on May 15. Election results will be announced during the SRMA Business Meeting on May 17th.

Please reach out to Jay Trask, Past President, for questions (jay.trask@unco.edu).

SAA Scholarships!

SRMA is funding up to two scholarships of $1,500 to attend the Society of American Archivists annual conference in Chicago.

The application is due May 24th at 11:59 p.m. Recipient(s) will be notified by Wednesday, June 1st.

Who is eligible?
All SRMA members in good standing are eligible to apply (this includes people employed by member institutions). Students are especially encouraged to apply! Members will not be eligible to receive more than one scholarship per 24 months from the conference date. Board members and members of the Selection Committee are not eligible.

Criteria
• Demonstrated need
• Involvement in SRMA and other relevant organizations
• Expected benefit
• Geographic and institutional diversity

How do members apply?
Applicants must submit a brief statement discussing the need for the funds and the expected benefit from attending the conference. No more than a single page of narrative! Please send your statement to Jay Trask at jay.trask@unco.edu by May 24th.

Selection Committee
The selection committee is comprised of:
• SRMA Past President (committee chair) – Jay Trask
• SRMA President – Cecily North-Rudow
• SRMA Treasurer – Clarissa Trapp

Recipient responsibilities
Recipient will provide SRMA Treasurer with proof of registration. If unable to attend the conference, recipient will notify the committee as soon as possible so the scholarship can be awarded to another member. Recipient will return all funds to the SRMA Treasurer. Recipient is responsible for any cancellation fees that might be incurred. Recipient may be asked to serve on the Selection Committee for a future scholarship. Recipient will submit a short article (500-700 words) on a topic of their choosing related to the conference for publication in the SRMA newsletter immediately following attendance at the conference.
Goverance

President: Jessie de la Cruz
Archival Consultant for the Arts
Denver Public Library

Vice President: Cecily North-Rudow
Archivist
Douglas County Libraries - Archives and Local History

Past President: Jay Trask
Head of Archives and Special Collections
University of Northern Colorado

Secretary: Jamie Seemiller
Acquisitions Archivist
Denver Public Library

Treasurer: Clarissa Trapp
Digital Archives Specialist
Colorado State University Libraries

Program Director and Outreach Coordinator:
Dot Donovan
Special and Digital Collections
Program Lead Librarian
Auraria Library

Member-at-Large: Lauren Conrad
Assistant Archivist
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Preservation Chair: Hannah Bowden
Archivist
Douglas County Libraries - Archives and Local History

Newsletter Editor: Kimberlee Roberts
Academy Archivist
United States Air Force Academy

Website and Social Media Coordinator:
Euginia Liapich
Database Coordinator
Colorado Alliance of College and Research Libraries

Diversity and Inclusion Director: Aaron Ramirez
Manager of Local History & Genealogy
Pueblo City-County Library District

Member-at-Large: Lauren Conrad
Assistant Archivist
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Membership Coordinator: David Fasman
Beck Archives
University of Denver

Need to review your membership?
Contact David Fasman
david.fasman@du.edu