

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER

Information Contacts:

Dr. Eric Gonzaba  
812.736.1836  
egonzaba@Fullerton.edu

Eric Gollanek  
302.528.0361  
efgollan@gmail.com

John Peters  
269.857.2967  
jppubrel@gmail.com

“MICHIGAN & THE GAY GUIDES” HIGHLIGHTS  
SDHC’S JULY 14 PUBLIC ZOOM PROGRAM

JULY 2, 2021 -- *Michigan & the Gay Guides: Understanding LGBTQ Spaces in Pre- & Post-Stonewall America* will highlight SDHC’s next free public monthly program on Wednesday, July 14, starting at 7 p.m. As planned before Michigan’s earlier Coronavirus protective measures were recently relaxed, this program will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Interested participants will need to register in advance online at <https://tinyurl.com/SDHC-7-14> in order to receive instructions for joining the Zoom program. Questions regarding online registration procedures may be e-mailed to [info@sdhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@sdhistoricalsociety.org).

Dr. Eric Gonzaba, Assistant Professor of American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, will discuss his digital project *Mapping the Gay Guides*, which is aimed at understanding the often-ignored queer geographies through an interactive web application and digital public history.

Drawing upon and making accessible the *Damron Address Books* -- an early but longstanding travel guide used by gay men since the early 1960s -- this online mapping project explores different dimensions of American gay life, from bars and nightlife to bookstores, cinemas, and churches. Utilizing digitized data and visualizations from the site, “Mapping the Gay Guides” presents a historical analysis of the changing ways that gay spaces were defined.

“Gay spaces are fleeting”, says Dr. Gonzaba, “and what the Mapping the Gay Guides team tries to do is really understand how gays understood their world, in their own time. This project really wants the public today to imagine a broader, more robust queer historical world than is often perceived.”

At CSU, Dr. Gonzaba teaches courses on the history of race and sexuality in America. A Midwesterner with early childhood years in Dearborn, MI, he received his BA degree at Indiana University in 2012 and a PhD in American history at George Mason University in 2019. His work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Point Foundation, and the Elton John AIDS Foundation. He currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Committee on LGBT History, an affiliated society of the American Historical Association.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center’s free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month’s program is sponsored by West Shore AWARE.

SDHC is supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about SDHC, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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TWO PHOTOS ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg “DamronBookCovers” & png “BobDamron”)

Caption (combined):

Historical photos recall issue covers for Damron Address Books and their creator Bob Damron, both the focus of SDHC’s July 14 “Tuesday Talk”

bob damron's

'69

\$3.50

ad-  
dress  
book

bob damron's '70  
ADDRESS BOOK

bob damron's

address  
book

'71

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BOB DAMRON'S

ADDRESS BOOK

'73

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