

# A Collection Created from Community, Crisis, and Trauma:

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PROCESSING THE “UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY COLLECTION  
ON THE EVENTS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA, AUGUST 11-13, 2017”

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# In this Presentation

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“University of Virginia Library Collection of the Events in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-13, 2017”

- Modern web-based technologies
- Participatory archival practices
- Mediated participatory collection
- Democratization of archival power



# Collection Contents

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## Physical/Analog (series 1)

- Chronological arrangement, first
- Then by type/format: correspondence, printed ephemera, artifacts, posters, etc.
  - Community gatherings
  - Viewpoints (political, social, or otherwise)
  - Educational purposes
  - Condolence and solidarity with victims and their community
  - Sympathy with ralliers, white supremacist ideals

# Collection Contents

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## Born-Digital (series 2)

- Arranged by format, then further by type where appropriate:
  - Stories (typed narratives) and audio-visual materials (photos and videos) submitted via online collection site
  - Archived webpages:
    - Archive-It crawled webpages
    - ReplayWeb/Conifer/Webrecorder crawled webpages
  - Audio files (“Together”)
  - Archived Tweets/Twitter datasets: access TBD

# Community Identities:

## Expressed and Inferred

### Ralliers

- July 8 KKK rally
- Aug 11 torch rally
- Aug 12 “Unite the Right”: pamphlets and flyers

### Counter protesters

- Aug 11 UVA campus
- Aug 12 v. “Unite the Right”: posters, flyers, and zines

### Charlottesville residents

- Community events
- Responses on social media
- Memorials (installations)
- Digital submissions to Archive

### Solidarity w/Cville

- Condolence letters & artifacts
- Responses on social media
- Captured websites

### Solidarity w/Ralliers

- Letters written to City Hall
- Responses on social media
- Captured websites



# Mediated Participatory Collection

# Participatory Archiving Practices

- Caswell & Mallick: 3 functions
  - Generate new records that represent perspectives not commonly found in archives
  - Convey a sense of emotion and effect
  - Solicit community participation in the archival endeavor

# Participatory Archiving Definitions

- Caswell & Mallick definition (South Asian American Digital Archive):
  - Use internet-based & interactive digital technologies
  - Facilitate creation of new records directly by users themselves
  - Records must document past or ongoing event(s)
  - Records must be included in archives where they are subject to archival interventions
- Thomson Definition:
  - History about a particular community, however defined, created in partnership with members of that community, and for the benefit of that community.

# Participatory Archiving Categories

- Benoit and Roeschley – participatory archives in the context of “demarcated boundaries”:
- Mediated projects:
  - institutional body mediates some or most archival work with community participation
- Less- and non- mediated spaces:
  - the role of the archivist is diminished
  - projects may begin and exist completely outside the influence of archives
  - often transition into, and engage in a symbiotic relationship with a mediated space



# Democratization of Archival Power

# Appraisal Power

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- Primary goals:
  - Allow archival endeavors to be conducted on the communities' and activists' own terms
  - Offer a multiplicity of voices and formats
  - Make archival heritage more inclusive, and “more representative of the diversity of our whole society
  - Transparency through participation

# Appraisal Power

- Platforms for previously marginalized voices to engage in a form of political protest motivated by political activism, community empowerment, and social change (Caswell)
- Constructed spaces in a digital environment
  - proven to help empower community members, and to create channels of interactivity that may not have been conceivable otherwise.
- Aug 11-13 collection features voices (marginalized and dominant) via:
  - OMEKA platform web archives, Twitter datasets, digital audio archive

# The University of Virginia Collection on the Events of August 11-13, 2017 in Charlottesville, VA

[Browse Items](#)[Browse by Location](#)[Search Items](#)[Contribute an Item](#)[About the Archive](#)

## Contribute Materials

The form below is for submission of **your personal digital documentation** related to the events around August 11 & 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, VA.

**Before contributing materials, please read the full [Terms and Conditions](#).**

### NOTES:

- Individual file size limit is 250Mb.
- If your file is too large to upload, or if you have a large number of items to contribute, please select the "Link" type in the below Collection Form to provide us with a URL for an album or file location (i.e. Dropbox folder, Flickr album, etc.).
- We will make our best effort to capture media linked in submitted URLs but, due to high volume, we cannot commit to fully capturing all materials received in this way.  
**The best way to submit materials is through the Collections Form below.**

- For questions about using or donating to the collection, [please contact us](#).
- If you wish to donate physical materials or media, please [contact Special Collections](#) directly.
- To nominate other people's online work for capture, [please use our URL capture form](#).

## Collection Form

What type of item do you want to contribute?

## Contribute a Photograph or Image

### Upload a file

250Mb size limit.

No files selected.

### Title (Required)

For example, "Police in downtown Charlottesville" or "What I witnessed from the Rotunda."

### Description

Please include as much information as you can. For example: What was happening at this moment? Who is involved? What else do we need to know about this moment in time?

### Date

When did this occur?

### Location

Where did this occur?

### Your name (Required)

### Email (Required)

☐

I'm not a robot



☒ You may share my contribution publicly. Uncheck to share only with Library-approved researchers.

☐ Do not display my name publicly. Note: If you provide your name, we are able to hide it from any resulting public exhibitions. However, we are not able to guarantee full anonymity.

In order to contribute, you must read and agree to the [Terms and Conditions](#).

☐ I agree to the Terms and Conditions.

# Mural on freedom of speech wall

## Dublin Core

### Title

Mural on freedom of speech wall

### Description

This mural appeared on the downtown mall's Freedom of Speech wall following the events on August 12, 2017. It depicts: the initials of the three individuals who died on August 12 (Heather Heyer and Virginia State Police officers Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Berke M.M. Bates) and the Statue of Liberty vanquishing a Nazi alongside the Virginia state motto, "Sic Semper Tyrannis."

### Date

2017-08-19

### Rights

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

### Spatial Coverage

[Charlottesville Pedestrian Mall](#)

### Files



### Collection

[The University of Virginia Collection on Events in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-13, 2017](#)

### Citation

Anonymous, "Mural on freedom of speech wall," Digital Collecting, accessed October 18, 2022, <http://digitalcollecting.lib.virginia.edu/rally/items/show/81>.

OMEKA



# August 12th lunch in Clemons Library

## Dublin Core

### Title

August 12th lunch in Clemons Library

### Description

After the state of emergency was declared by the governor, a potluck lunch organized by medical students as part of the day of reflection was moved indoors to Clemons Library.

### Creator

Abby Flanigan

### Date

2017-08-12

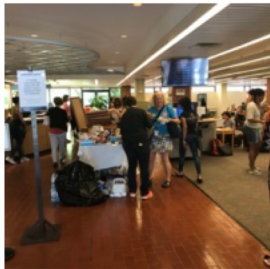
### Rights

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

### Spatial Coverage

[UVA Academical Village](#)

### Files



### Collection

The University of Virginia Collection on Events in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-13, 2017

### Citation

Abby Flanigan, "August 12th lunch in Clemons Library," Digital Collecting, accessed October 18, 2022, <http://digitalcollecting.lib.virginia.edu/rally/items/show/43>.

OMEKA



# Contribute a Story

Title (Required)

For example, “Police in downtown Charlottesville” or “What I witnessed from the Rotunda.”

Tell Your Story

Date

When did this occur?

Location

Where did this occur?

Select Below

Your name (Required)

Upload a file

250Mb size limit.

Browse... No file selected.

Email (Required)

## Medic Respite Park at McGuffey

### Dublin Core

Title

Medic Respite Park at McGuffey

Creator

Megan

Date

2017-08-12

Rights

http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/

Spatial Coverage

McGuffey Park

### Text Item Type Metadata

Text

As a member of Together Cville, I had signed up well in advance to work the medic/respite site at McGuffey Park. After the enraged response to Klan day, all of us knew this one would be several fold worse, so as a small woman and the mother of two, I deliberately chose not to be on the frontlines; but rather, steadfastly contributing as support. We had two activists from out of town stay with us overnight, having come in specifically for this counterprotest. We walked in very early, 7ish, for our brief orientation. As a marshall, so to speak, a title given to those of us more or less being an information contact point within the park, I was wearing a bright red shirt. Once at the park, we were given black hats, walkie-talkies, a bandana and swim goggles – which we wore around our necks for the entirety of the day in anticipation of tear gas – and backpacks full of bottles of diluted Maalox, in that same anticipation.

Someone later in the day equated our constant state of terror as a war zone. I can see the parallel, at a lesser degree, of course. I've never been near that many guns in my life. Walking past insanely militarized groups stalking our usually calm streets is more than a bit disconcerting. Again, as a tiny woman, I more than once ceased walking and attempted to blend into buildings when a screaming and undisciplined group of cammo-wearing bodies stomped past with assault rifles. Jesus Christ.

Our park was a diagonal block away from the heart of the fury. Clouds of tear gas rose visibly, and the thunderous sound of the circling helicopter, each adding to the surreal nature of this day that throughout felt ultimately as though it shouldn't be happening. We quickly learned that the location of the hovering helicopter meant the white supremacists were directly below, and we manuevered our responses accordingly.

The singing march in the morning before anyone was hurt or had died, it never felt optimistic. This day was to be quite different from Klan day; we knew that. The singing felt determined, imbued with intention. We meant our rejection.

Time didn't matter. Our park was the hub of all information, as reports of the occupied areas came through our tech set up in the name of WTJU. Once the supremacists were ejected from Emancipation Park, our knowledge was all that was guiding the counterprotesters who flowed in and out of McGuffey, getting water, sitting for a moment, having abrasions and swollen eyes tended to. Briefly, one activist danced defiantly to music, cigarette clamped in his teeth, eyes closed. We loved seeing him.

And the car. The alert came through my phone once the car struck. All of us staying in touch with one another, hearing that the mass had been thrown out of McIntyre and were now headed for Friendship Court to terrorize families. At this news, our park emptied, the counterprotesters unhesitatingly flowing to their feet and out, willing to place their bodies in between the hating violent and families, children. I'm still left breathless, in awe, at their selflessness. We all knew someone would be hurt. So a friend of mine followed, and reported.

Through text, he cried out a second after it happened, sobbing – it felt – for our park's medics. I screamed, "NATHANI!", our defacto leader of Together Cville, and He Through Whom All Updates Flowed. "MEDICS! THEY NEED MEDICS NOW!" And everyone stood, poised, waiting to be told where. Stammering out "Water St – a car – they don't know how many –" and Nathan on the phone, furiously organizing, and the medics and nurses running out, clutching bags. And gone. And we waited. Because we knew. We knew this was bad, and some of them would be coming back to us.

As they did. The not so hurt but still badly broken. Our one medic who had stayed behind cut away jeans from swollen knees, applied icepacks, and we were instructed to keep the probably-concussed awake until transport. Ambulances were busy at the site of the attack; so we summoned cars who had volunteered for precisely this purpose. I held the shaking and weeping, and sent screenshots of maps for Martha Jefferson since so many were from out of town. We cried together, and I smoothed strangers' hair. And Heather died. And these people are not welcome in this town.

Collection

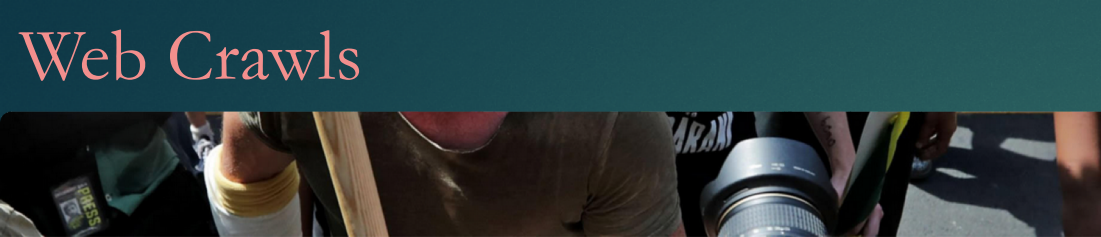
The University of Virginia Collection on Events in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-13, 2017

Citation

Megan, "Medic Respite Park at McGuffey," Digital Collecting, accessed October 20, 2022, http://digitalcollecting.lib.virginia.edu/rally/items/show/125.

# Appraisal Power

- Creating histories and heritage that speak to all people
  - Evolving as society evolves
- Redefining records
  - Unconventional formats & unconventional methods of documentation
- Digital records in August 11-13 collection
  - Web pages – blogs, YouTube videos, social forums, memes, etc.; Tweets; Audio files
- Interactive digital technologies allow users to facilitate new records themselves, to define their communities, fill gaps, change the definitions of historical events, and capture emotions.



# Why We Fought in Charlottesville

A Letter from an Anti-Fascist on the Dangers Ahead

Analysis | Current Events

I am one of the thousands of people who confronted Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend. I am a blue-collar person, with a job, family, and responsibilities. I would have preferred to do other things with my weekend.



Charlottesville false narrative (self.Charlottesville) submitted 9 months ago by [redacted]

Yes, there was white nationalists present at this protest considering they were protesting the removal of a robert e lee statue. They had a permit to be there and not all of them were violent. Antifa and black lives matter showed up and the cops shut down the event and pushed the two groups together. The cops did nothing to keep these two groups apart, and did not consider what would happen if they were not kept separate. The cops once again stand down and allow fighting to ensue. A woman died because of the blatant mishandling of the situation. Now she is being used to push a narrative.

It seems that when a tragedy happens, instead of people taking notice, nowadays they just amp up their agenda. Now MSM is pushing the narrative that it was just nazis and white supremacists; Fucking hypocrites. It still comes back to

## DATA RELEASE: Discord Chats Planned Armed Neo-Nazi Militia Operations In Charlottesville



### Reflections on my experience in Charlottesville

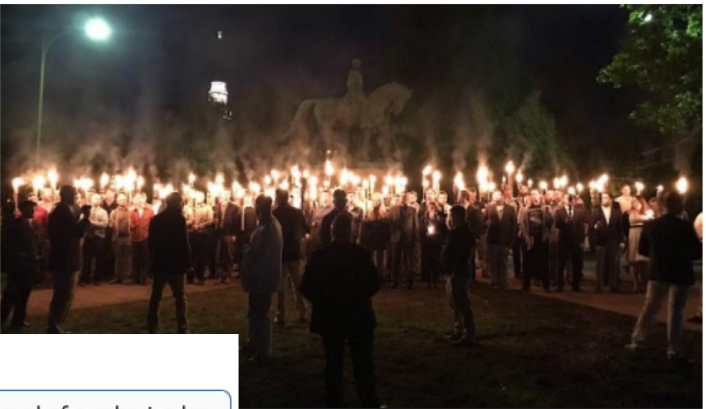
Posted on August 24, 2017

August 12, 2017

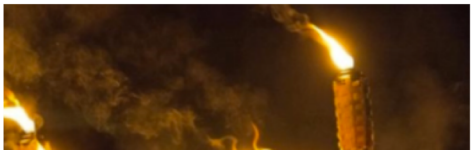
### My fellow white Americans.

706 Comments

These are images from Charlottesville, Virginia last night.



twenties and thirties. Like me.



d tell you that it was an easy decision to go down to Charlottesville, that I was und convicted that being there was the right thing from the moment mid-July I about the white nationalist rally being planned. It wasn't, and I wasn't. Even d a training on July 20<sup>th</sup> to prepare – reviewing tips for providing immediate

# Loving Profile of UVA Librarian Tyler Magill, Heroic Stroke Victim and "The Velvet Facilitator".



durrati

Community (This content is not subject to review by Daily Kos staff prior to publication.)

Sunday August 20, 2017 · 7:14 PM GMT

Search How it works Start a GoFundMe



★ Recommend 36

f Share

🐦 Tweet

20 Comments 20 New

## Charlottesville Hate Crime Victims



## The Internet Reacts To The Charlottesville Sh\*tshow

We're living in some pretty surreal times. In case you've been living under a rock, earlier this week the country bore witness to the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The rally, an alt-right, neo-Nazi and white nationalist demonstration, had a bloody end - resulting in one death and 19 injuries.

Whatever your politics, the violence is bo rally in a variety of ways - thoughtful polit tweets.



# Audio recordings

## Summary

This resource is part of the larger University of Virginia Collection on the Events in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-13, 2017. The 'Related Item(s)' hyperlink directs users to the finding aid for the collection.

"Charlottesville, VA occupies a special place in the Oxtail Recordings world - we've released a number of tapes from Charlottesville artists, and the town and music community there have always been unbelievably warm, welcoming, and inspiring to us. We were heartbroken by the white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally and subsequent violence there during the weekend of August 11-12, 2017.

Oxtail artist and friend to all Tyler Magill (of Grand Banks and Carry) was among those protesting the rally that weekend, and he ended up suffering a stroke as a result of being assaulted by torch-wielding fascists on the evening of August 11.

The tragedy of those events shook us deeply, and the opportunity to use the small platform we have in this label to raise money to fight hate, bigotry, and violence and to help our friend heal was a no-brainer.

The number of incredible contributions we received from the Charlottesville music scene, as well as label friends in NYC and around the world was stunning - many of the tracks presented here are the artists' own attempts to engage with and make sense of the world since November 2016. That outpouring, in turn, energized us as it reminded us of the power that art and community have to bring people together to heal, share, and grow.

We believe that openness, engagement, and understanding are the ways to fight division, fear, and hatred. With that in mind, we're proud to present a release that attempts to forward those ideals, both in concept and in practice. Please enjoy: Together."



Full tracklist:

01. Sugarlift - A12\_defendremix
02. Sophie Lam + Hellyn Teng - Aodh (Live from August 2017)
03. Harmon H. - Blue Tet
04. Luciernaga - You Were There
05. Outer Heaven - Sgarlata
06. Rhucle - Drowse
07. Wwwater - Nightmare (Demo)
08. Low Wave - Nothing to See Here
09. Sam Hatzaras x Manta - Untitled 1
10. MrDougDoug - Cochlea Jam Sink 56 ft. Siri
11. Ross Fish - Gershon
12. Ellen O - Interlude
13. Andreas Brandal - Soft Doctrine
14. Voice of Saturn - Dripspace
15. Winterweeds - used w.o. permission
16. Glass Frog - Fiona Bolivia
17. Kyle Landstra - Pastoral Environment 1
18. Leaaves - Mill's and Kant's Theories of Value
19. John Lindaman - Peripheral Heart Activity
20. Long Distance Poison - Sangha Lingua (Live at Silent Barn)
21. Matthew D. Gantt - Elegy
22. Rambutan - Emergent Realities
23. Tanson - Aya
24. Channeling - Anabatic
25. Mike Nigro - Live at Low Records 7/28/2017
26. Hex Breaker Quartet - Respect for Life Books and Things
27. Grand Banks - Mississippi River Flood Map, 1927
28. Maharadja Sweets - Infinite Potential

# Concluding Remarks

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- August 11-13 collection
  - Mediated community participation in creating archival records: whole community of Charlottesville called upon (no guarantee they will participate)
  - No focus on a specific underrepresented group
  - More like a mediated participatory project within a collection that exhibits many different communities (explicitly stated or inferred later)
  - Also a collection that captured voices otherwise not likely to have been represented in archives
  - Nevertheless, it can be defined and categorized as participatory archiving

# Looking Ahead

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- Transparency through participation is an achievable goal only if
  - Disrupt existing power structures, traditional archival theory and practice, and governmental/bureaucratic approaches
  - Break down traditional power dynamics that disproportionately privilege the ‘great white western men’ who have the power that gives them the ability, literacy level, time, and means to create records.
  - “Lens of public memory” (Smith)
  - Policy, Policy, Policy

# Some Links

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- Virgo resource record
- ArchivesSpace resource record
- Digital Collecting site on OMEKA
- Archive-It web archive collection
- ReplayWeb web archive collection (Google Chrome browser only)
- Digital audio recordings record on Avalon
- Related material:
  - <https://doi.org/10.18130/V3/MSCNLT>
  - <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/DVLJTO>

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# Questions

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