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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZAMI Donates Papers to Auburn Avenue Research Library Atlanta Lesbian Group to be Immortalized for its Activism

(Atlanta, GA – August 19, 2008) – **The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History** (AARL) has become the official repository of the papers and organizational records of **ZAMI, Inc.**, Atlanta’s premier organization for Lesbians of African descent.

The library will collect, preserve and make available to the public the records, which include minutes, photographs, reports, scrapbooks, correspondence of officers and other papers. All of the items will document the history of the organization, which has been a champion to lesbian and feminist women of color in Atlanta for 20 years.

Board Member Beryl Jackson says the archiving of the papers means *to her* that their work has left an indelible footprint and celebrates the organization’s achievements, including the mentoring of hundreds of young women. It also recognizes ZAMI’s 14-year legacy, **The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund**, founded by Executive Director, Mary Anne Adams, which offers *out* LGBT ‘scholars of color’ monies to continue their education and post-graduate work.

Auburn Avenue Research Library Archivist, Kerrie Cotten Williams, says AARL staff will re-house the collection, preserve it, and create a descriptive inventory called a “finding aid.” It will be available online and through the library’s website and catalogue.

Cotten Williams says the gift from ZAMI will strengthen other collections that document the political and cultural history of Black women in the South. This is the first major archival collection in the library’s repository that documents Black Lesbian Community Activism in Atlanta.

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