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Living Seeds of History: The John Stokes and Mary's Gardens Exhibit

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Living Seeds of History: The John Stokes and Mary's Gardens Exhibit

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Stephanie Shreffler and Kayla Harris
University of Dayton



University of Dayton Libraries

- Made up of Roesch Library and the Marian Library
- 3 distinct archives/special collections areas:
 - University Archives and Special Collections (Roesch Library)
 - U.S. Catholic Special Collection (Roesch Library)
 - Marian Library
- Collaboration across University Libraries was crucial in planning process

What is a Mary's Garden?





Indoor Garden



Archival Displays



Art Gallery





John S. Stokes Jr.

Environmentalist

John S. Stokes Jr. (1920–2007) was a passionate advocate of Mary Gardens and co-founder of the Mary's Gardens movement.

Activist

Stokes's legacy covers the second half of the twentieth century and serves as an important example of Marian and Catholic history in the United States. This exhibit, explore artifacts and documents from the John Stokes and Mary's Gardens collection, donated to the Marian Library in May 2013.

Catholic

There is more to see!



Special thanks to past and present Libraries Advisory Council outreach team members for their work on this exhibit:

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Challenges and Opportunities

- Committee Composition
 - Library Advisory Council
 - UD employee changes
- Garden Logistics
 - Available flower varieties
 - Last minute changes
 - Mulch
 - Insects



Partnerships and Collaborations



Takeaways

- Look for ways to make archival exhibits interactive
- Friends' groups can come up with creative ideas that “break the mold”
- Tie your exhibits into programs or events that you are already hosting

Thank You!
Questions?