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LG MS 16 Transsupport Archives Finding Aid

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**JEAN BYERS SAMPSON CENTER FOR DIVERSITY IN MAINE
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COLLECTION**

**TRANSUPPORT ARCHIVES
LG MS 16**

**Total Boxes: 2
Linear Feet: 0.5**

**By
Karin A. France**

**Portland, Maine
April 2010**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Transsupport Archives represent materials related to the organization Transsupport from 1991-1998. The Archives was donated by Robert Smutny of Greene, ME in 2005.

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Cite as: Transsupport Archives, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: Some materials are restricted until the year 2073.

History

According to its by-laws, "Transsupport is a non-profit, educational, non-sexual and social peer group/support group for individuals, their families, friends, and anyone who desires a better understanding of gender related issues." During the period covered by the Archives, the organization served cross dressers, transsexuals and other transgendered persons and their families by offering: programming that promoted acceptance; a safe and private environment for cross dressing; and emotional support. Transsupport also acted as an information resource about gender issues and related services.

Membership in the organization was open to cross dressers, transsexuals, transgenderists, spouses, and significant others. However, members were required to go through an interview process before joining in order to ensure the security of the group and the individual's willingness to adhere to the organization's rules of conduct. Members came from all around Maine, including Portland, Bangor, Rockland, and Old Orchard Beach, among other cities and towns. Some members came from New Hampshire, as well. Meetings were typically held monthly, often in Brunswick, ME. A newsletter shared information with the membership. Transsupport had a resource library, as well.

Security and confidentiality were extremely important to the group. This included protecting the identities and contact information of members, imposing rules to ensure that anything said at meetings remained private, and dismissing members who violated the security guidelines of the organization.

Description of the Archives

The Archives contains papers documenting the organization and activities of Transsupport, including articles of incorporation, by-laws, security guidelines, rules of conduct, minutes from Board meetings, and financial materials documenting income and expenses. Also present are newsletters documenting the organization's meetings, programs, and other offerings, as well as some personal testimonials.

The Archives contains some materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Wherever possible, the private information (names, addresses etc.) has been blacked out on a photocopy of the original document, so that the non-private information is still available to the public. The original documents containing private information are located in the Restricted box.

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	President's Letters Some materials are RESTRICTED	1994
1	2	President's Letters and Other Newsletters Some materials are RESTRICTED	1996 Sep-Dec, 1999 Jan
1	3	Board Meeting Minutes Some materials are RESTRICTED	1994 Dec, 1995 Feb, May, Sep, Nov, 1996 Mar, Sep, 1997 Jan, Mar, Jun, 1998 Feb
1	4	Mission and Other Guidelines/Policies	1995 Sep, 1997 Mar, Aug, undated
1	5	Articles of Incorporation and State of Maine Annual Reports Some materials are RESTRICTED	1991-98
1	6	Financial Information (Ledgers, Bills, Receipts, Reimbursements, Deposits, Budgets) Folder 1 of 2 Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993-98
1	7	Financial Information (Ledgers, Receipts, Bills, Reimbursements, Deposits, Budgets) Folder 2 of 2 Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993-98
1	8	Bank Statements and Related Correspondence Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993 Feb, 1994 Aug, 1995 Dec-1997 Dec
Restricted			
2	9	Items removed from President's Letters (Folder 1)	1994
2	10	Item removed from President's Letters and Other Newsletters (Folder 2)	1996 Sep-Dec, 1999 Jan

2	11	Items removed from Board Meeting Minutes (Folder 3)	1994 Dec, 1995 Feb, May, Sep, Nov, 1996 Mar, Sep, 1997 Jan, Mar, Jun, 1998 Feb
2	12	Items removed from Articles of Incorporation and State of Maine Annual Reports (Folder 5)	1991-98
2	13	Items removed from Financial Information (Ledgers, Bills, Receipts, Reimbursements Deposits, Budgets) (Folder 6)	1993-98
2	14	Items removed from Financial Information (Ledgers, Bills, Receipts, Reimbursements, Deposits, Budgets) (Folder 7)	1993-98
2	15	Items removed from Bank Statements and Related Correspondence (Folder 8)	1993 Feb, 1994 Aug, 1995 Dec-1997 Dec