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DAWN FORTUNE PAPERS
LG MS 33

Total Boxes: 2
Linear Feet: .75

By
Christina E. Walker

Portland, Maine
September 2014

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The materials were donated by Dawn Fortune on June 18, 2010.

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

Restrictions on access: The bulk of this collection is open for research. Some material has been restricted until 2065.

Biographical Sketch

Dawn Fortune is a Unitarian Universalist Candidate for Ministry and is an intern at Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont, California. Fortune holds a Masters in Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Sexuality and Religion at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. A longtime activist, Fortune revitalized the Gay and Straight People's Political Alliance (GASPPA) at the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) in the early 1990s. Fortune was also active in Equal Rights For All (ERFA), a group that formed out of the 1995 No on 1 Campaign in Waterville, Maine.

Description of the Papers

The Papers contain materials related to the professional career and activism of Dawn Fortune and span the years 1988 through 2011 with the majority of the material dating to the 1990s. They include items related to Fortune's activism work with Equal Rights For All, the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) group GASPP along with materials related to their work with Southern Maine Pride. The Papers also contain photographs of events that Fortune attended including GASPP's trip in 1992 to Washington, D.C. There are also VHS recordings of talks that GASPP sponsored at UMF.

The Papers have been divided into twelve folders:

Folder one includes an essay that Fortune wrote in 1988, "AIDS Kills." It also contains a handwritten introduction added by Fortune in 2011.

Folders two and three relate to Fortune's work with Equal Rights For All (ERFA). Folder two contains multiple versions of a report compiled by Fortune, "Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Teens: Central Maine Needs Assessment," along with handwritten notes and a questionnaire. Folder three also contains work related to ERFA, but is specifically

connected with the group's efforts in Winslow, ME and was removed from a non-archival folder labeled "ERFA- Winslow."

Folders four, five, six and seven contain materials related to Fortune's involvement with gay pride events. In folder four there is a photocopied image of ACTUP Maine members, along with contact lists (RESTRICTED- moved to FC 18 Folder 22), and corporate sponsorship information, marketing materials for Southern Maine Pride, a 2002 Pride Guide, and a section of the Maine Sunday Telegram from June 2002. There are also materials related to the 2001 NorthEast Regional Pride Coordinators Conference that were removed from their original, non-archival envelop and placed in an archival envelop along with photocopies of the original envelop. Folder five contains stickers and letterhead with the Southern Maine Pride logo. Folder six contains pamphlets and corporate sponsorship ideas for Southern Maine Pride and was removed from a non-archival folder labeled "Ideas." In folder seven there are photographs of Southern Maine Pride and the Pride Film Festival.

Folder eight contains photograph contact sheets for various events including the comedian Lea DeLaria's visit to UMF in 1993 and The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt taken in 1992 in Washington, D.C. There are also contact sheets for an event held by GASPP and ACTUP in Augusta, ME in 1990. The items in this folder were removed from a commercially produced, three-ring binder that had a University of Maine at Farmington logo on the cover. The front and back of the binder were scanned and copies were placed in the folder.

Folder nine contains photographs taken at the Waterville, Maine office of Maine Won't Discriminate in 1995.

Folder ten contains undated photographs taken at the lesbian bar, Sisters.

Folder eleven includes volunteer applications for Southern Maine Pride (RESTRICTED- moved to FC 18 Folder 22).

Folders twelve and thirteen contain VHS recordings of talks sponsored by UMF GASPP in 1992. Folder twelve contains a talk by Lois Reckitt given on April 6, 1992, "Lesbian and Gay Liberation: Celebrating the Past and Moving to the Future" and "Gay-bashing in Maine: one teen's story," a talk given by Ryan Scott on April 7, 1992. Folder thirteen contains "butchfemmelezziedykefag" a performance by Lea Delaria recorded on April 9, 1992. Also in folder thirteen is a recording of a UMF GASPP activist event to desensitize the public to homosexuality entitled "Public Display of Homosexual Affection." This event, recorded on April 10, 1992, also includes footage of an informal, pre-event meeting of group members.

Folders fourteen and fifteen contain photographs of the trip GASPP took to Washington, D.C. in 1992 and includes images of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and a candle light vigil.

Keywords

Dawn Fortune, GASPP, Gay and Straight People's Political Alliance, University of Maine at Farmington, UMF, Equal Rights For All, EFRA, LGBT Activism, Winslow Maine, Sisters Bar Portland Maine

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	AIDS Kills Report	1988, 2011
1	2	Equal Rights For All	1996, undated
1	3	Equal Rights For All- Winslow	1996, undated
1	4-7	Gay Pride Some materials RESTRICTED	1997, 2001-2002, undated
1	8	Photographs, Contact Sheets and Negatives	1990 - 1993, undated
1	9	Photographs, Maine Won't Discriminate	1995
1	10	Photographs, Sisters	undated
1	11	Southern Maine Pride Volunteer Applications RESTRICTED	Undated
1	12-13	UMF GASPP Sponsored Talks, VHS	1992
2	14-15	UMF GASPP Trip to Washington, D.C.	1992
FC	Folder	Restricted	
22	16	Volunteer contact lists (removed from Box 1 Folder 4);	undated
		Southern Maine Pride Volunteer Applications (Box 1 Folder 11)	undated