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LG MS 40 Harbor Masters Archives Finding Aid

Natalie Hill

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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE LIBRARIES
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

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

HARBOR MASTERS ARCHIVES

LG MS 40

Total Boxes: 1

Linear Feet: .5

By

Natalie Hill

Portland, Maine

December 2015

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Harbor Masters Archives represent materials related to the organization Harbor Masters of Portland, Maine, Inc. from 1982-2010. The Archives was donated by Ralph and Butch Cusack-Fenton of Portland, ME in 2011.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The Harbor Masters Archives is the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or her/his legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

Cite as: Harbor Masters 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 2080.

History

Harbor Masters of Portland, Maine, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization whose members share an interest in the leather/levi lifestyle. The organization was originally incorporated in Maine in 1984 to serve as a social club for like-minded gay males. However, members of any sex are allowed to join Harbor Masters. The club was founded with the goals of promoting fellowship among and tolerance for individuals interested in the leather lifestyle and continues to work toward those goals.

Over time, the Harbor Masters took on a more active role in New England's LGBT community. The organization has regularly participated in charitable events benefitting the LGBT community, primarily in the fight against AIDS. The club has been an active participant in the annual Portland Pride events and has also attended LGBT events in Boston, New York City, and Washington DC.

Harbor Masters is organized around a Constitution and Bylaws. Annual elections are held to establish a Board of Directors and Officers responsible for club leadership. These elections are voted in by Full Members. Full Members are required to live within commuting distance of Portland, Maine, attend regular club functions, serve a probationary period, and pay club dues. Associate Membership is available to individuals who cannot meet the requirements of Full Membership. Associate Members do not possess full voting rights.

Description of the Archives

The Archives contains papers documenting the organization and activities of Harbor Masters, including the club's Constitution and by-laws, annual reports, minutes and summaries from Board meetings, officer election ballots, general correspondence, and financial materials documenting income and expenses. Also present are information on group members, marketing materials for events sponsored by Harbor Masters, and files on topics of interest to the group (e.g. AIDS, Pride, etc.).

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 file.

The Archives is organized into five series:

- Administrative Files
- Membership
- Events
- Subject Files
- Publications

Series 1. Administrative Files

This series contains information about the organizational structure of Harbor Masters, as well as non-profit annual reports, financial records, voting ballots, membership applications, and related correspondence.

Series 2. Membership

This series contains obituaries and condolence correspondence related to deceased members of Harbor Masters.

Series 3. Events

This series contains information relating to events organized and/or sponsored by Harbor Masters, including promotional materials.

Series 4. Subject Files

This series contains documents collected by Harbor Masters on various subjects, such as AIDS, local Portland establishments, the Mr. Drummer contest, the National Leather Association, and Pride.

Series 5. Publications

This series contains magazines, newspapers, and newspaper clippings related to Harbor Masters and its interests.

Series 6. Restricted

This series consists of materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location.

Keywords:

AIDS; National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights; Drummer (magazine); John Preston; Sail Away; Autumnfest; GLT: Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine (regional LGBT newspaper); The Mirror (regional LGBT newspaper); Our Paper (regional LGBT newspaper)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1. Administrative Files (1987-2000, undated)			
1	1	Constitution and By-Laws	1992, undated
1	2	Annual Reports and Related Correspondence	1990-2000
1	3	Permits, Communications Officer's Reports, and Financial Records	1987, 1990, undated
1	4	Correspondence	1987-1990s, undated
1	5	Voting Records and Membership Applications	1987, 1990, 1992-1993, undated
1	6	Meeting Summaries, General Information, and Newsletters Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993, 1996, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 2. Membership (1985-2000, undated)			
1	7	John Preston, Obituaries and Condolence Correspondence	1985, 1988, 1990, 2000, undated
Series 3. Events (1987-2010, undated)			
1	8	Mr. New England Drummer, Autumnfest, Sail Away, A Run-Around New England, Bus to D.C.	1987-1989
1	9	Portland Pride, Sail Away, Tenth Anniversary Run, Toys for Tots Run	1990-1993, 2010
Series 4. Subject Files (1985-2005, undated)			
1	10	AIDS (including Names Project Quilt, Candlelight Memorial, and March on Washington scans of newspaper clippings)	1988, 1990, undated
1	11	Blackstones, Chart Room (The), Maine Attractions calendar, Mr. Drummer contest, National Leather Association, Pride, Unicorn (The)	1985, 1988, 2005, undated
Series 5. Publications (1978-1993)			
1	12	Drummer magazine (Issues 28 and 38)	1978, 1980
1	13	Drummer magazine (Issues 65 and 82)	1983, 1985
1	14	Drummer magazine (Issues 96 and 104)	1986, 1987
1	15	Drummer magazine (Issues 106 and 107)	1987
1	16	GLT: Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine (regional LGBT newspaper) (Vol 10, Issue 6)	1993
1	17	The Mirror (regional newspaper)	1989
1	18	The Mirror (regional newspaper)	1990
1	19	The Mirror (regional newspaper), Maine Sunday Telegram (newspaper), Bay Windows (regional newspaper)	1990-1992
1	20	Our Paper (regional LGBT newspaper) (Vol 5, No 1; Vol 5, No 7; Vol 7, No 10; Vol 9, No 3)	1987-1988, 1991-1992
1	21	Our Paper (regional LGBT newspaper) (Vol 9, No 7; Vol 9, No 10; Vol 9, No 11)	1992
Series 6. Restricted (undated)			
FC 22	Folder 6	Member contact information (2 pages) (Series 1, Folder 6)	undated