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**EUGENE ROCHOW PAPERS
LG MS 10**

**Total Boxes: 7
Linear Feet: 5.5**

**Originally processed by
Bjorn Swenson**

Revised by Susannah Clark

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Anthony Marvullo**

**Portland, Maine
April 2005
Rev. June 2010, April 2013, and June 2017**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Eugene Rochow Papers were created and compiled by Eugene Rochow, who donated the material in October 2004.

Additional revision occurred in June 2010 and April 2013. In June of 2017, the Papers grew with a new batch of documents donated by Eugene Rochow.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The Eugene Rochow Papers are the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or his legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

Cite as: Eugene Rochow Papers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on Access: The majority of this collection is open for research. Some materials have been restricted until 2035 to protect privacy rights.

Historical Note

Eugene Rochow served on the board of the Matlovich Society, a Portland-based organization that provided an educational forum for the local gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community during the 1990s. Founded in 1991 by K. Ronald McClinton, a former anesthesiologist at Mercy Hospital, and Lois Galgay Reckitt, a long-time activist and community organizer, the Matlovich Society held meetings twice a month featuring speakers presenting on various topics related to the LGBTQ+ community. Gene Rochow attended his first meeting of the Matlovich Society in October 1991. The organization continued to hold meetings until 1999, when membership had dwindled and the group disbanded.

McClinton named the group after Leonard Matlovich, a former member of the United States Air Force who was discharged from service based on his sexual orientation. Although Matlovich made headlines during the 1970s after his legal battle against the USAF, McClinton was distressed to learn through conversation that a young gay man had never heard about Matlovich, only two decades later. This realization inspired McClinton to establish the Matlovich society with the help of Lois Reckitt, to preserve the history and culture of the gay and lesbian community through education. When McClinton died that same year of complications due to AIDS, Howard Solomon, a Tufts University history professor, filled in as co-chair with Reckitt.

Over eight-and-a-half years, the Matlovich Society hosted a diverse range of speakers, including Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts, Tim McFeeley (former director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund), Leslie Feinberg (author of *Stone Butch Blues*), and numerous other writers, musicians, and scholars. The group hosted social events such as alcohol-free cruises around Casco Bay, and an annual lawn party. Initially, meetings occurred in the Peoples Building on Bracket Street in Portland, where the group rented office space, before moving to the Portland Public Library and then to the Holiday Inn by the Bay as the group outgrew each space. More than 300 people attended some meetings, and the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance recognized the Matlovich Society in 1992 for its service to the LGBT community.

In a 2004 interview with *Queertalk*, an LGBT-themed radio program on the University of Southern Maine's WMPG station, Lois Reckitt credited the Matlovich Society with inspiring many other initiatives such as the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Equal Protection Portland, and a group of LGBT social workers. Reckitt stated that the Society ended due to its own success at integrating the LGBT community within Portland.

Description of the Papers

The Eugene Rochow Papers document the Matlovich Society between 1990 and 1999, and other organizations and events in the LGBTQ+ community. The majority of the papers in the collection are records of the Matlovich Society that Rochow retained after the organization disbanded in 1999. The collection includes documents related to Equal Protection Portland, a 1992 initiative to pass and protect a Portland city ordinance to bar discrimination against homosexuals, and Maine LGBT newspapers spanning the years 1979 through 1997.

The Papers are organized into five series and their subseries:

Series 1: Matlovich Society

This series is divided into the following subseries: Administrative Documents, Correspondence, Fundraising, Programming, Advertising and Publicity, and Subject Files. This series includes bylaws, membership and mailing lists, budget information and meeting minutes, drafts for grant applications, brochures listing the Society's events and materials to the speakers it hosted, newspaper clippings, stationery, press releases, and materials related to the design process for brochures. Original folder titles and organization were maintained where possible.

Series 2: Equal Protection Portland

The documents in this series offer a glimpse into some of the strategies used to lobby for the Equal Protection Law in Portland, including a packet with examples of advertising from those opposed to the law, and instructions for those attending a public hearing on the issue. The papers also include examples of flyers and brochures used by the campaign.

Series 3: Maine LGBT Publications

This series includes issues from four Maine newspapers for the LGBT community: Maine Magazine (one issue from 1979); Our Paper (issues spanning 1983–1993); 10% (1994–1995); and Community Pride Reporter (1993–1997). There are also sections from the Portland Press Herald from 1992.

Note: In 2007, Community Pride Reporter, Our Paper, and 10% were removed for consolidation into catalogued runs.

Series 4: Restricted

This series consists of materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Listed within their regular series, the materials are included here to give their physical location. Materials include lists of organization members and correspondence containing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Series 5: Oversize

This series contains materials too large or bulky to fit into regular archival boxes. Listed within their regular series, these materials are included here to give their physical location. Oversize materials include a Portland Pride Day proclamation plaque, posters for Equal Protection Portland, parade banners, t-shirts, and the program for “Bent,” a theater drama about “love and death during the Holocaust,” for which Gene Rochow served on the production staff. Additionally, the series includes a print of an Annette Dragon photograph.

Keywords:

Matlovich Society, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Haymarket People’s Fund, Funding Exchange, Chicago Resource Center, Christian Civic League, Equal Protection Portland, Maine Gay Men’s Chorus, Maine Won’t Discriminate, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, GLAD, Portland Pride Day, Eugene Rochow, Howard Solomon, K. Ronald McClinton, Lois Galgay Reckitt, Barney Frank, Tim McFeeley, Leslie Feinburg, Annette Dragon

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1.1 Matlovich Society Administrative Documents (1985–99, undated)			
1	1	Administrative Documents. 1 of 2. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1991–96
1	2	Administrative Documents. 2 of 2. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1991–96
1	3	Governance Documents.	1996
1	4	Matlovich Society By-Laws	undated
1	5	Budgets	1991–93
1	6	2 Floppy Disks: File Maker Pro V.2.1	undated
1	7	Fleet Bank Pouch	undated
1	8	Meeting Minutes. Some materials are RESTRICTED.	1991–93, undated
1	9	Membership and Volunteer Forms	undated
1	10	Advisory Board List	undated
1	11	Non-Matlovich Resources	1990–95
1	12	Maine House and Senate Contacts and Legislative Reports	1985, 1990, undated
1	13	Nonprofit Mailing and USPS Guide	1996–99
1	14	One-subject notebook	undated
Series 1.2: Matlovich Society Correspondence (1991–97, undated)			
1	15	Correspondence. 1 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1991
1	16	Correspondence. 2 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1991
1	17	Correspondence. 3 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1992
1	18	Correspondence. 4 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1992
1	19	Correspondence. 5 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993
1	20	Correspondence. 6 of 6. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993–97
Series 1.3: Matlovich Society Fundraising (1990–92, undated)			
1	21	Grants	1991–92
2	22	Foundations/Fundraising. 1 of 2.	1991–92, undated
2	23	Foundations/Fundraising. 2 of 2.	1991–92, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1.3: Matlovich Society Fundraising (cont'd)			
2	24	Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation	1990, 1992, undated
2	25	Haymarket People's Fund	1992, 1992, undated
2	26	Funding Exchange	1992
2	27	Chicago Resource Center. 1 of 2.	1992
2	28	Chicago Resource Center. 2 of 2.	1992
Series 1.4: Matlovich Society Programming. (1991–96, undated)			
2	29	Programs - Upcoming	1991, 1992
2	30	Programming (1 of 2) (By Speaker)	1991–95
2	31	Programming (2 of 2) (By Speaker)	1991–95
2	32	Rev. Carter Heyward Photograph	1992
2	33	Resumes	1991, undated
2	34	Gay and Lesbian History Course by Howard Solomon. Some materials are RESTRICTED	1992
2	35	Event Calendar Brochures. 1 of 4.	1991–92
2	36	Event Calendar Brochures. 2 of 4.	1992–93
3	37	Event Calendar Brochures. 3 of 4.	1993–95
3	38	Event Calendar Brochures. 4 of 4.	1995–96
Series 1.5: Matlovich Society Advertising and Publicity (1991–96, undated)			
3	39	Society Logo	undated
3	40	Stationery	undated
3	41	Blank mailing list and donations placard. See also OVERSIZE	undated
3	42	Direct mailing material	1995, 1999
3	43	Public Radio Recording	undated
3	44	Membership / Background Brochure	undated
3	45	Camera-Ready Flyers	1991, undated
3	46	Clippings. 1 of 4	1991
3	47	Clippings. 2 of 4	1991
3	48	Clippings. 3 of 4	1991–92
3	49	Clippings. 4 of 4	1992–93
3	50	Publicity Documents	1992

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1.5: Matlovich Society Advertising and Publicity (cont'd)			
3	51	Clippings and Public Relations. 1 of 3	1992–94
3	52	Clippings and Public Relations. 2 of 3	1994
3	53	Clippings and Public Relations. 3 of 3	1994–95
3	54	Matlovich Society in Portland Pride Parade Photograph	1995
3	55	Matlovich Society Parade Banner and Materials (See OVERSIZE)	1995
OS		Matlovich Society Placemat	undated
3	56	3 Matlovich Society Buttons and Logos	undated
4	57	Explainer Flyer	undated
4	58	Society Brochure	1996
4	59	Press Releases	1994–96
Series 1.6: Matlovich Society Subject Files (1990–95, undated)			
OS		Portland Pride Day Proclamation. See OVERSIZE	
4	60	K. Ronald McClinton	1992
4	61	Lois Galgay Reckitt State House Campaign Brochure	undated
4	62	Health / AIDS	1993
4	63	Christian Civic League Suit	1990–91
4	64	Time Out (Maine / New Hampshire Outdoors Group)	1993
4	65	Institute for Nonviolence Education, Research, and Training	undated
4	66	Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)	1992
4	67	Maine Gay Men's Chorus	1992
4	68	National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals	1994
4	69	Maine Won't Discriminate Campaign. See T-Shirts in OVERSIZE	1995
Series 2: Equal Protection Portland (1992, undated)			
4	70	Equal Protection Portland. 1 of 3	1992
4	71	Equal Protection Portland. 2 of 3	1992
4	72	Equal Protection Portland. 3 of 3	1992
OS		Equal Protection Portland and Bent Posters. See OVERSIZE	1992, undated
4	73	Speakers Bureau	undated
Series 3: Maine LGBT Publications (1979–97)			
REMOVED		Community Pride Reporter, Vol. I: 2, 4–6	1993
REMOVED		Community Pride Reporter, Vol. I: 7–11, Vol II: 1–4, 6	1994
REMOVED		Community Pride Reporter, Vol. II: 7–12, Vol. III: 1–3	1995

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 3: Maine LGBT Publications (cont'd)			
REMOVED		Community Pride Reporter, Vol. III: 6–8, 10–12, Vol IV: 2–4, 6	1996
REMOVED		Community Pride Reporter, Vol. IV: 7–8, 10–11	1997
4	74	Maine Magazine	1979
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. I: 3	1983
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. I: 7, 10, 12, Vol. II: 1–4	1984
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. II: 5–11, Vol. III: 1–4	1985
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. III: 5, 7–8, 11, Vol. IV: 1–2	1986
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. IV: 5–6, 10, 12, Vol. V: 1	1987
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. V: 10, Vol. VI: 2	1988
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. VI: 6, 9, Vol. VII: 1–2	1989
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. VII: 5–12. Vol. VIII: 2–3	1990
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. VIII: 6–7, 9, Vol. IX: 1–4	1991
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. IX: 5–7, 10–11, Vol. X: 1, 3	1992
REMOVED		Our Paper, Vol. X: 4, 6	1993
4	75	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 1 of 6	1992
4	76	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 2 of 6	1992
4	77	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 3 of 6	1992
4	78	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 4 of 6	1992
4	79	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 5 of 6	1992
4	80	Portland Press Herald Clippings. 6 of 6	1992
REMOVED		10% Newspaper, Vol. I: 1–3, 6–8, 11	1994
REMOVED		10 % Newspaper, Vol. II: 1	1995
Series 4: Restricted			
5	81	Items removed from Administrative Documents (Series 1.1, Folder 1)	1991–96
5	82	Items removed from Meeting Minutes (Series 1.1, Folder 8)	1991–93, undated
5	83	Matlovich Society Mailing Lists by Alphabet and Zip Code. 1 of 5	1990–91, undated
5	84	Matlovich Society Mailing Lists by Alphabet and Zip Code. 2 of 5	1990–91, undated
5	85	Matlovich Society Mailing Lists by Alphabet and Zip Code. 3 of 5	1990–91, undated
5	86	Matlovich Society Mailing Lists by Alphabet and Zip Code. 4 of 5	1990–91, undated
5	87	Matlovich Society Mailing Lists by Alphabet and Zip Code. 5 of 5	1990–91, undated
5	88	Items removed from Correspondence (Series 1.2, Folder 15)	1991- 1995, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 4: Restricted (cont'd)			
5	89	Items removed from Gay and Lesbian History Course by Howard Solomon (Series 1.4, Folder 34)	1992
5	90	Items removed from Equal Protection Portland. 1 of 2 (Series 2, Folder 70)	1992
5	91	Items removed from Equal Protection Portland. 2 of 2 (Series 2, Folder 70)	1992
Series 5: Oversize			
6		Portland Pride Day Proclamation plaque	6 Jun 1992
6	92	Equal Protection Portland and "Bent" Posters	1992
6		Annette Dragon Photograph of a person's back. (See also: Annette Dragon Papers)	Sep 1993
7		Matlovich Society Placemat (27" x 19.5")	undated
7		Purple parade banner: "Matlovich Society" (118.5" x 37.5")	1995
7		T-shirts: "Maine still won't discriminate" [2 shirts]	undated
7		Large stand-up cardboard sign reading "Matlovich Society. Never Forget." Button attached.	undated