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11-2013

LG MS 026 Michael Martin Papers Finding Aid

Nicholas Martin

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**JEAN BYERS SAMPSON CENTER FOR DIVERSITY IN MAINE
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**MICHAEL MARTIN PAPERS
LG MS 26**

**Total Boxes: 1
Linear Feet: 0.5**

**By
Nicholas Martin**

**Portland, Maine
November 2013**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Michael Martin Papers were donated by Michael Martin, AIDS activist in the Southern Maine area, from his personal collection.

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

Restrictions on access: These papers are open for research.

Biographical Note

AIDS Activist Michael Martin served the Southern Maine community as a concerned member of several LGBT organizations, maintaining a leadership role with three groups (the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, The AIDS Project, Peabody House), as well as a tertiary role in the development of others (EPL, PAWS, Maine Won't Discriminate).

From 1992 until 2012 the Maine Gay Men's Chorus represented the LGBT community of Maine in shows and galas not only across the state, but also on the national stage in choral festivals across the country. Their final show was performed on July 10, 2012 to a packed house at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House during the GALA Choruses International Festival in Denver. Michael Martin is credited both as a benefactor as well as singer and accompanist for the organization. Martin also received acclaim for designing the Chorus's official logo and letterhead, and was named an "Angel" donor for his contributions.

Tracing its origins from the Gay Health Action Committee's AIDS hotline, The AIDS Project was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization on August 21, 1986 with the purpose of providing assistance, information, direction and support to anyone affected by HIV/AIDS. Initially, Michael Martin attended support group meetings run by the AIDS Project, the first of their kind in Southern Maine. Later, however, Martin became involved with the organization, serving as both writer and editor of *In the Affirmative*, the organization's official newsletter. Martin also contributed op-ed pieces to area newspapers such as the *Portland Press Herald* and *Community Pride Reporter*. He was named to The AIDS Project's Board of Directors, serving first as Vice President before his eventual appointment to President in 2001.

Founded in 1995, Portland, Maine's, Peabody House served as a respite for all of Maine's population, straight or gay, affected by HIV/AIDS, offering support and treatment for those infected with the virus as well as support for family members and friends. Due to a desire to combine services, the Peabody House merged with The AIDS Project during Michael Martin's tenure on the latter's Board of Directors. Martin, who had worked extensively with Frances Peabody (founder of both Peabody House and The AIDS Project) on fundraising endeavors for both organizations, collected various articles and promotional materials related to Peabody House. Martin also offered guest lectures and spoke on panels at Peabody House events in addition to adding public commentary on the future directions of the Peabody House following the death of Frances Peabody and again after its merger with The AIDS Project.

Description of the Papers

The Papers contain materials related to Southern Maine AIDS activist Michael Martin, the bulk of which dates from 1989 to 1997. Most items are original materials, including full issues of newspapers featuring articles relevant to the LGBT community in Southern Maine, particularly the greater Portland area. Legislation covered (briefly) in the Papers include the 1995 state referendum, Question 1 and the coalition *Maine Won't Discriminate*, along with others mentioned in the accumulated articles of the *Portland Press Herald*, *Community Pride Reporter* and *Casco Bay Weekly*. Organizations covered in the materials include the Maine AIDS Alliance, PAWS, Equal Protection Lewiston and the Names Project, with multiple files relating to The Maine Gay Men's Chorus, The AIDS Project, and Peabody House, the three organizations for which Michael Martin served in a direct capacity. In addition to articles and documents related to legislation and organizations, the Papers include personal items of Michael Martin, such as correspondence, research, and notes.

The Papers have been divided into 13 folders:

Each folder corresponds to a different facet of Michael Martin's life as a leading activist in the Southern Maine community; with preference given to the organizations Martin held a position with including The AIDS Project, The Maine Gay Men's Chorus and Peabody House. Additional folders feature the correspondence of Martin, and areas of personal importance named "Subject Files." Compiled by Martin himself, each of the Subject Files speaks to a particular aspect of the Southern Maine LGBT community, including, but not limited to, articles on the research of HIV/AIDS, membership information of pivotal HIV/AIDS organizations at the time, and items related to the political and societal challenges faced by the LGBT community during the early-to-mid 1990s.

Note: In 2007, *Community Pride Reporter*, *AIDS Project Newsletter*, and *Maine AIDS Care* were removed for consolidation into cataloged runs.

Michael Martin Papers
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection
Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity
University of Southern Maine Libraries

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	The AIDS Project: book, The AIDS Project: A History	1997
1	2	The AIDS Project: pocket folder, Welcome packet	[1990s]
1	3	The Maine Gay Men's Chorus: correspondence/press releases; logo [development]; programs, reviews; schedules	1992-1996
1	4	Peabody House: brochure; clippings; correspondence; fundraising materials; renovation/startup materials	1994-1996
1	5	Peabody House: The Peabody House Visitor (Publications)	1994
1	6	Correspondence: Maine Civil Liberties Union; Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance; United States Senate/House of Representatives	1993
1	7	Subject File: "AIDS File"	1993-1997
1	8	Subject File: 1995 Maine Question 1	1995
1	9	Subject File: Clippings 1	1989-2001
1	10	Subject File: Clippings 2	1992
1	11	Subject File: Clippings 3	1992-1995
1	12	Subject File: Newsletters: A Different Light Review; Equal Protection Lewiston; The Hot Notes; The Matlovich Society; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Report	1993
1	13	Subject File: Time magazine	1996-1997