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LG MS 030 Allen Bernstein Collection Finding Aid

Elizabeth Sistare

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

**ALLEN BERNSTEIN COLLECTION
LG MS 30**

**Total Boxes: 1
Linear Feet: 0.25**

**By
Elizabeth Sistare**

**Portland, Maine
March 2014**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: Materials in this collection were donated by Allen Bernstein in July 2001 from a larger gift to the general collection.

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

Restrictions on access: The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

Allen Bernstein was born on June 19, 1913, in Nashua, New Hampshire. He holds a MA in Economics from the University of Chicago; he also attended Tufts and Harvard. In the 1920s and 1930s Bernstein visited Portland, Maine frequently. In the late 1930's he was a writer for the Federal Writers Project. Bernstein enlisted in the Army in 1940 and fought in WWII, doing clerical work in the U.S., until 1944 when he was dishonorably discharged for being gay. After the war he met and married Anne Fine – who knew he was gay – and had two sons. Bernstein taught at New England College for a short time before moving to Maine to work for the Maine State Labor Department as a Labor market analyst. After retirement in 1978 he became involved in providing volunteer services to the community – the Red Cross Blood Center, Maine Medical Center, and Mercy Hospital. He appealed his dishonorable discharge 14 times from the late 1940's -1980, and in 1981 he was finally successful in gaining his honorable discharge, retroactive to 1944. In 1999 he was named Red Cross "Volunteer of the Year", and in 2000 he was honored for his volunteer work with the "Living Legacy Award" from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. He traveled a lot in his later days as well as taking classes at the USM Seniors learning center. He died on September 8, 2008 at the age of 95.

Description of the Papers

The contents of this collection are based on more recent articles on gay rights and gender equality. Dates range from 1984-2004, with the majority of material in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The AVER publications promote equality among member of the military. The various Gender Studies Newsletters focused on scholarly sources. The Loving Brotherhood is an international network of men interested in developing fulfilling relationships with other men, a deeply spiritual group. Outword is a newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues

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Network. The Edward Carpenter Community is a group for gay men offering gatherings and events for an international audience.

| Box | Folder | Description | Date(s) |
|-----|--------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) May 2003, Feb. 2004, May 2004 | 2003, 2004 |
| 1 | 2 | Gender Studies Newsletters: Journal of Gender Studies vol. 17 no. 2 Summer/Fall 1995; The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago newsletter vol. 6 no 1 Autumn 2003; CLAGS News vol. 5 no. 1 Spring 1995; "Answers to your questions" newsletter by the American Psychological Association [undated] | 1995, 2003, undated |
| 1 | 3 | Booklet, Fifth International Bisexual Conference Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA | 1998 Apr 3-5 |
| 1 | 4 | The Loving Brotherhood Newsletter: promotional brochure; ripped out pages clipped together from Sep 2001 – Oct 2002; vol. 25 no 11, 12; vol. 26 no. 1, 3, 10-12; vol. 27 no. 1-8 Nov 2002-July 2004; WorldCat search for The Loving Brotherhood Newsletter; poems and bible scripture clipped together | 2001-2004 |
| 1 | 5 | Outword (American Society on Aging) vol. 9 no. 4 Spring 2003 and vol. 10 no. 1 Summer 2003; "Making a Difference" newsletter of the National Association For Lesbian and Gay Gerontology – report on a national conference on aging, Winter 1984 | 1984, 2003 |
| 1 | 6 | Over the Rainbow (Edward Carpenter Community) Events booklet for 2004; vol. 9 no. 3 Sept 2003 and vol. 10 no 1-3 Feb, May, Sept 2004 | 2003, 2004 |
| 1 | 7 | San Francisco Prime Timers: "Prime Times" vol. 4 no 2 May 1999; "The Mentor" – newsletter of the San Francisco Prime Timers July-August 2002 | 1999, 2002 |