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## **LG MS 036 Michael Rossetti Collection Finding Aid**

Megan Hendrix

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

**Michael Rossetti Collection  
LG MS 36**

**Total Boxes: 4  
Linear Feet: 9.5**

**By  
Megan Hendrix**

**Portland, Maine  
November 2014**

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## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** The Michael Rossetti Collection was donated by Michael Rossetti in 2001.

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

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on this collection.

## **Historical Note**

Michael Rossetti is the founder of Southern Maine Pride. He began Southern Maine Pride in 1987 as a reaction to the death of Charlie Howard who was the victim of a hate crime in Bangor, Maine in 1984 and the gay community's response to how Charlie's death was dealt with by local law enforcement. The 1987 Portland Pride march took place starting in Congress Square and went through Congress Street in Portland with a group of 200 people, straight and gay, displaying signs and banners. The focus of the first Pride march was to be a visible community in Portland. "Portland Pride" was the chosen designation in 1987 and changed to Southern Maine Pride in 1995. Rossetti was Southern Maine Pride's Director until 1999 when he chose to officially step down, although was involved in the 2000 Southern Maine Pride. Michael Rossetti received several awards during his career as Southern Maine Pride's Director including an award from the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (now EqualityMaine) in 1987. Casco Bay Weekly interviewed the gay public in Portland who nominated individuals as the most influential in their community and in 1997 listed Michael Rossetti as one of those notables. Michael also received the Great Pioneer Award from the MLGPA in 2001 and was the Grandmaster at the 2006 Southern Maine Pride.

## **Description of the Collection**

The collection contains materials related to Michael Rossetti's involvement with Southern Maine Pride (SoME Pride) as founder and director until roughly 2000. The collection is comprised of Michael's personal papers and collection of Southern Maine Pride papers and includes a personal history timeline titled "Lessons in Pride" and administration paperwork such as to-do lists, workbooks and email correspondence. Also included are materials put out by Southern Maine Pride such as flyers and newsletters and materials about Southern Maine Pride from the Portland Press Herald. This collection has a significant amount of objects including buttons, flags, banners,

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photos, posters and t-shirts from Southern Maine Pride and Michael Rossetti's personal collection of gay memorabilia.

This collection has been divided into 7 series and the groupings are as follows:

- Series 1. Administration of Southern Maine Pride (Administration)
- Series 2. Advertisements
- Series 3. Entertainment
- Series 4. Articles/Periodicals
- Series 5. Personal
- Series 6. Memorabilia
- Series 7. Oversize

Series 1. Administration of Southern Maine Pride (Administration) 1986-2001  
This series contains information about the original organization of Southern Maine Pride and includes to-do lists, budget and financial paperwork, receipts from SoME Pride, legal documents, sponsor letters, guidebooks and a personal history from Michael Rossetti titled "Lessons in Pride".

Series 2. Advertisements 1987-2000  
This series contains advertisements promoted by Southern Maine Pride and include taped together flyers (originals), artwork for SoME Pride, affiliation media and SoME Pride newsletters.

Series 3. Entertainment 1989-2000  
This series contains folders of entertainers who either performed at Southern Maine Pride or were being considered for entertainment. There are 16 entertainer folders alphabetized by first names/group names with a collection of articles, photos and works by or about the entertainers and an additional folder with mixed artists.

Series 4. Articles and Periodicals 1984-2001  
This series contains articles from the Portland Press Herald about Southern Maine Pride and individuals involved in Southern Maine Pride, a few articles from other papers and periodicals from and about the gay community that included the Community Pride Reporter, Our Paper, APEX and 10% that were removed from this collection for consolidation into the periodical collection. Periodicals that stayed in this collection include copies of Casco Bay Weekly, Our Paper, Gay Community News, March Weekly, Community Pride Reporter, The Maine Progressive, The Gay Agenda, Roar of Pride and several Pride Guides and a 1987 magazine issue of The Advocate.

Series 5. Personal 1990-2001  
This series contains emails to and from Michael Rossetti regarding some personal matters and also some legal matters related to Southern Maine Pride as well as

personal receipts, copies of checks, bills and statements that were Michael Rossetti's out of pocket expenses for SoME Pride primarily in 1999 and 2000.

**Series 6. Memorabilia 1987-2000**

This series contains objects from Southern Maine Pride and include a collection of buttons from Southern Maine Pride, other Prides and LGBT functions, foldered in the order originally received by Michael Rossetti. A photo album, 51 slides, several Southern Maine Pride t-shirts and other LGBT group t-shirts, hats and 2 flags as well as street flyers can be found in this series. Periodicals from a variety of gay news prints as well as articles about gay issues in non-gay prints and posters relating to gay issues, pride, legislature and Southern Maine Pride are also found in the oversize collection location. For a listing of the t-shirts, posters and buttons please see the finding aid appendix.

**Series 7. Oversize 1984-2001**

This series is comprised of 39 poster board posters, periodicals, magazines and guidebooks from Southern Maine Pride, other LGBT Prides, the gay news community and the Maine community.

**Keywords:**

Southern Maine Pride, SoME Pride, Michael Rossetti, LBGT Periodicals, LBGT Magazine, Pridelights, Portland Press Herald, In Newsweekly, LBGT Pride Festivals

**Appendix:**

This contains a descriptive list of the buttons, t-shirts, posters, baseball caps, flags and posters within the Michael Rossetti Collection.

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 1. Administration of Southern Maine Pride (1986-2000, undated)</b>			
1	1	Timelines	1999
1	2	Budgets	1989-2000
1	3	Finances	1986-1999
1	4	Receipts	1986-2000
1	5	Legal Papers	1992-2001
1	6	Sponsors	1986-2000
1	7	Guide books	Undated
<b>Series 2. Advertisements (1987-2000)</b>			
1	8	Flyers/Artwork	1987-2000
1	9	Affiliation Promotions	1988-2000
1	10	Newsletters/SoME Pride Promotion	1987-2000
<b>Series 3. Entertainments (1989-2000)</b>			
1	11	Barbara Higbie and Teresa Trull	1989
1	12	Dave Hall	1997-1999
1	13	Ernest David Lijoi	1997-2000

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Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 3. Entertainments (cont.)</b>			
1	14	FLAIR featuring SUEDE	1998
1	15	Jean Meike	1999
1	16	Lady Chablis	1994-1997
1	17	"Love Makes a Family"-Exhibit	Undated
1	18	Martin Swinger	1996-2000
1	19	Michelle Malone	1997
1	20	Mona Rae and Dashboard Magellan	1998
1	21	Paul J. Williams	1996-1997
1	22	Puzzle Monkey	Undated
1	23	Pridelights-Event	1996-1997
1	24	Rhode Island Feminist Chorus	1989
1	25	Sonia Rutstein of disappear fear	1996-1997
1	26	Yolanda!	1998-2000
1	27	Additional Entertainers	1995-1998
<b>Series 4. Articles/Periodicals (1984-2001)</b>			
1	28	Portland Press Herald	1994-1999
1	29	Others	1988-1999
		Periodicals, Community Pride Reporter	1984-2001
		Casco Bay Weekly, The Maine Progressive, Our Paper, The Phoenix, Gay Community News, March Weekly and Pride, miscellaneous papers and articles See Oversize	
		Magazines, 1987 issue of The Advocate See Oversize	1987
<b>Series 5. Personal (1990-2001)</b>			
1	30	Michael Rossetti Pride Finances	1990-2000
1	31	Michael Rossetti Correspondence	2001
<b>Series 6. Memorabilia (1987-2000, undated)</b>			
1	32	Slides	[1987-1999], Undated
1	33-40	Buttons	1987-1997, Undated
2	41	Album	[1987-1999], Undated
2		SoME Pride T-shirts,	1994-2000, Undated
2		Flags	Undated
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3	Street Flyers/Guidebooks, Pride's Pier Dance posters, Drag Ball, NY Pride Guide, In Newsweekly NE Pride Guides See Oversize	1996-2000
4	Posters 1984 Charlie Howard Incident, Portland Pride Gay Rights Rallies, articles about Prides around the United States, Claudia Brenner Incident, Pride Guides, flyers and 1972-1994 timelines. Included is one 3-fold poster board used in an April 2001 exhibit by Michael Rossetti after he had already donated the collection to USM, with reproductions from Pride parade and festival includes information on lighthouse logo and postal stamp and letter from Michael Rossetti encouraging others to share their history See Oversize	Undated

#### **Series 7. Oversize**

3	Periodicals (Ser. 4)	1984-2001
3	Magazines (Ser. 4)	1987
3	Street Flyers/Guidebooks (Ser. 6)	1996-2000
4	Posters (Ser. 6)	Undated
o/v	Poster- trifold	[2001]

#### **Appendix:**

##### **BUTTONS: Located in Box 1**

There are 39 buttons from Michael Rossetti's personal collection from a number of different Pride Events and marches. They are kept in folders in the order originally placed in a binder by Michael Rossetti.

##### **Folder 33:**

2 "Stonewall 25" pins:

Yellow "Stonewall 25, June 26, 1994"

Orange "Stonewall 25"

5 "Stonewall 25" Buttons:

"Stonewall 25, International March on the UN, June 26, 1994, New York City"

Black and neon

"Stonewall 25, Keep On Marching!, June 26, 1994" Black and grey

"Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride, The Borough of Nations, Celebrates Stonewall 25" Pink and purple

"CSW 25 Years of Pride" Black/rainbow

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"Stonewall 25, June 26, 1994" White and purple

**Folder 34:**

"The 1993 March on Washington, For Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, April 25" White, blue and pink

"Discover; Pride Without Borders, Arizona Central Pride, Festival '96, May 31-June 2" White/rainbow

"Human Rights Campaign Fund's Speak Out" US flag motif

"Gay & Lesbian Voters for Clinton, Human Rights Campaign Fund" Blue and white

"The Canada to Kittery Walk, Vote NO, A Step in the Right Direction, Feb. 10, don't discriminate" White and green

**Folder 35:**

"Pridefest '96, Free to Be, Pride South Florida" Multicolored

"Have you hugged a homosexual today?, Gay and Proud, Bangor, June 1992" Purple and pink

"Celebrate Gay Cod 1994, Cape and Islands Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Pride March" White with purple fish

"Equal Protection, Portland" Teal

"The Flame of Liberation, 1996 GLBT Pride Twin Cities" White with flame

**Folder 36:**

"Just come OUT! Pride, Portland, ME, 6-15-96, 10 year" White with butterflies

"Stonewall 20, A Generation of Pride, New York City Lesbian & Gay Pride Weekend, June 24-25, 1989" White with teal and purple

"June 18-22, 1997, Southern Maine Pride, Portland, ME, Equality Through Visibility" White/rainbow with eyes

"San Diego Lesbian & Gay Pride 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Never Ever Forget, Stonewall 25" White with rainbow flame

"Out & Outraged, 13 Oct 1987 Lesbian/Gay Civil Disobedience, For Love, Life & Liberation" White with people figures

**Folder 37:**

2 pins:

"Pride Without Borders, Cape Code Pride '96" Yellow with Statue of Liberty

"Twin Cities Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender 1995 Pride, From Silence to Celebration" Yellow with orange letters

"Pride, From Silence to Celebration, New York City Lesbian & Gay Pride 1995" Black and rainbow triangle

"The Atlanta Pride Celebration June 1996, People of the World: Listen, Think, Act!" White with purple human figure

**Folder 38:**

"1996 Pride fest, Carry the Torch" Rainbow torch

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"Twin Cities Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender 1995 Pride, From Silence to Celebration" Black with pink letters  
 "S.F. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride 1996, Equality & Justice for All" Flags and eagle  
 "Celebrating 15 Years of Dignity" White with blue letters  
 Rainbow triangle button

### **Folder 39:**

"Northern Maine PRIDE, July 13, 1996" Rainbow  
 "From All Walks of Life, Sunday May 31, 1987" Drawing of a group of people together  
 "Vote No! Discrimination" Black and neon yellow

### **Folder 40:**

3 pins:

"1997, IALGPC, NYC" triangle pin with city buildings  
 "Share the Vision, San Diego Pride '97" Blue with an eye  
 "Power, Progress, Pride, Equality through visibility, Long Beach '97" White with triangles in middle

"Pride without borders, NYC Gay & Lesbian Pride 1996" Black with white letters  
 "Pride without borders, NYC Gay & Lesbian Pride 1996" White with black letters  
 "Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride '96, Pride Without Borders, Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>" Blue with map of world

### **SHIRTS: Located in Box 2**

Pride 2K, "southern maine pride 2K, Get the Pride Bug!"  
 Black with pink lettering  
 White with pink lettering  
 Pride 1996 "just come out! Pride, portland, maine 6-15-96, 10 year"  
 Off-white/natural color  
 "A southern maine pride 2K VOULUNTEER, get the pride bug!"  
 White  
 Southern Maine Pride june 18-22, 1997, "Equality through visibility, Portland, Maine"  
 White  
 Pridelights. [www.pridelights.org](http://www.pridelights.org)  
 The Pridelights Foundation is committed to eliminating homophobia through collaborative efforts between the gay and straight communities. Pridelights is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization."  
 Yellow shirt  
 Stonewall 25, International March, June 26, 1994 NYC  
 White  
 Stonewall 25 Maine "All we're asking of America is to be true to what it's saying on paper!" Martin Luther King  
 White

Southern Maine Pride, Portland, Maine June 20, 1998 "Courage to be Ourselves"  
 White  
 Stonewall 25 Maine "June 27, 1969" "We're Here, We're Wicked, Queah!"  
 White

**FLAGS: Located in Box 2**

Rainbow flag  
 Stonewall flag

**BASEBALL CAPS: Located in Box 2**

Black baseball cap, with splash of rainbow design, "wet" on splash mark on back  
 Black baseball cap, "Hard Rock Café, Save the Planet, New York." "Love all Serve all"  
 on back

**POSTERS: Located in Box 4**

39 posters covering the years 1984 through 2000 creating a timeline of the Maine LGBT events (also two posters showing a brief history from 1972-1994).

Poster No.	Description	Years Portrayed
1	Charlie Howard Incident	1984
2	Beginning of Portland Pride	1987
3	Gay Rights Rally in Washington D.C.	1987
4	Maps and Schedule of D.C. rally	1987
5	First Portland Pride weekend	1987
6	Second Pride March; B.J. Broder incident; "Hate crime statistics Act"	1988
7	Bangor Pride Festival	1990
8	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Pride Day	1990
9	March on Washington; Anti-discrimination Ordinate	1992-1993
10	March on Washington; Cohen Article	1993
11	Portland Pride Parade; Carolyn Cosby	1993

12	Portland Pride Weekend; Stonewall March in New York	1994
13	Pictures of Portland Pride Parade	1994
14	Gay Pride Marches in New York	1994
15	Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter	1995
16	Civil rights vote for sexual minorities	1995
17	Portland Pride weekend	1995
18	Guide to Portland Pride weekend	1995
19	Southern Maine celebrating 10 years of Pride	1995-1996
20	Casco Bay Weekly on 10 years of Pride	1996
21	Claudia Brenner Incident	1996
22	Letters to Washington	1996
23	Getting ready for Portland Pride weekend	1996
24	Community Pride reporter and Portland Pride articles	1996
25	Portland Pride Festival	1997
26	Southern Maine Pride events	1997
27	Articles from Community Pride Reporter on Gay and Lesbian families	1997
28	Pride Rally in New Haven, Connecticut	1997
29	Portland Pride Pier Dance	1997
30	Portland Pride Fundraiser, Drag Ball and Pier Dance	1997
31	The Maine Civil Rights March and Rally	1998
32	The Guide, Southern Maine Pride	1998

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33	Community Pride Reporter, activities for the community	1999
34	Flyers for the Pier Dance	1999
35	Pride Pier Dance and Pride Day	1999
36	Music and Budget for Pride Weekend	1999
37	Pier Dance, Pride weekend	2000
38&39	Brief Timelines	1972-1994
o/v Poster- trifold		[2001]