LG MS 36 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,
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:

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”.

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.

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.

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.

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, LGBT Magazine, Pridelights, Portland Press Herald, In Newsweekly, LGBT Pride Festivals

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Timelines</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Budgets</td>
<td>1989-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Finances</td>
<td>1986-1999</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Receipts</td>
<td>1986-2000</td>
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<td>Legal Papers</td>
<td>1992-2001</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>1986-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Guide books</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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</table>


Michael Rossetti Collection
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection
Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity
University of Southern Maine Libraries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Series 3. Entertainments (cont.)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>FLAIR featuring SUEDE</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jean Meike</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lady Chablis</td>
<td>1994-1997</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>“Love Makes a Family”-Exhibit</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Martin Swinger</td>
<td>1996-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Michelle Malone</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mona Rae and Dashboard Magellan</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Paul J. Williams</td>
<td>1996-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Puzzle Monkey</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Pridelights-Event</td>
<td>1996-1997</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Rhode Island Feminist Chorus</td>
<td>1989</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Sonia Rutstein of disappear fear</td>
<td>1996-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Yolanda!</td>
<td>1998-2000</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Additional Entertainers</td>
<td>1995-1998</td>
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<td><strong>Series 4. Articles/Periodicals (1984-2001)</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1988-1999</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Periodicals, Community Pride Reporter</td>
<td>1984-2001</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>See Oversize</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magazines, 1987 issue of The Advocate</td>
<td>1987</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>See Oversize</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Series 5. Personal (1990-2001)</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Michael Rossetti Pride Finances</td>
<td>1990-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Michael Rossetti Correspondence</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Slides</td>
<td>[1987-1999], Undated</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>33-40</td>
<td>Buttons</td>
<td>1987-1997, Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Album</td>
<td>[1987-1999], Undated</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>SoME Pride T-shirts,</td>
<td>1994-2000, Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flags</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Street Flyers/Guidebooks, Pride’s Pier Dance posters, Drag Ball, NY Pride Guide, In Newsweekly NE Pride Guides
See Oversize

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

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
“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
“San Diego Lesbian & Gay Pride 20th Anniversary, Never Ever Forget, Stonewall 25” White with rainbow flame

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
“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 2nd” 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
   White
Pridelights. 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Years Portrayed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Charlie Howard Incident</td>
<td>1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beginning of Portland Pride</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gay Rights Rally in Washington D.C.</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maps and Schedule of D.C. rally</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>First Portland Pride weekend</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Second Pride March; B.J. Broder incident;</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Hate crime statistics Act&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bangor Pride Festival</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Pride Day</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March on Washington; Anti-discrimination Ordinate</td>
<td>1992-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March on Washington; Cohen Article</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Portland Pride Parade; Carolyn Cosby</td>
<td>1993</td>
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</table>
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Community Pride Reporter, activities for the community</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Flyers for the Pier Dance</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Pride Pier Dance and Pride Day</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Music and Budget for Pride Weekend</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Pier Dance, Pride weekend</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>38&amp;39</td>
<td>Brief Timelines</td>
<td>1972-1994</td>
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<td>o/v Poster- trifold</td>
<td>[2001]</td>
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