

**L1997.09**  
**Slightly Older Lesbians (Muriel Fisher)**  
**Collection, 1974-1997**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Gabrielle Garcia

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

Muriel Fisher donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 1997.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project. This project was guided by an overarching anti-racist framework that informs archival practice in all aspects at Lambda Archives. Therefore, along with processing the collections specified in the original narrative, we intentionally prioritize the collections of BIPOC and Transgender members of the community to preserve and disseminate their narratives, which have been historically ignored and suppressed in archives across the U.S.

This framework promotes transparency and accountability in our responsibility to those in the LGBTQ+ community that have been historically underrepresented, misrepresented and/or trivialized in archives. Our goals are to (a) gain or rebuild trust with BIPOC members of the community; (b) more fully reflect the community's diversity; (c) outwardly recognize the contributions that BIPOC have made which have enabled the community, as a whole, to flourish; and (d) improve the discoverability of these under-acknowledged histories to increase their engagement for varying purposes within the community and for research and public knowledge.

**EXTENT**

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet of shelf space: 1

**ABSTRACT**

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

Muriel Fisher - 85 years young, born April 11, 1919, most recently living in Oceanside, California passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 26, 2005. She was a talented crafts person, fiber artist, poet and Renaissance Woman who participated in many, different organizations over the years. Muriel Fisher's life was a lot like her artwork -

eclectic and full of spunk - says her friend Kithie Gateley. Her special artistic medium was collecting 'found junk' recycling it and creating beautifully crafted art pieces out of bits of fabric, beads, yarn, feathers, buttons, and objects from nature. A few years ago, Muriel created a series of dolls to honor notable women in our herstory. Many of these dolls now reside at the Women's History Museum in San Diego. People would ask Muriel if she made a living with her artwork, and she would always answer them by saying, "I don't make a living, I make a life." She was part of founding the 'Many Hands' artist cooperative still operating today in San Diego over 25 years later.

She helped found and volunteer for a number of Lesbian groups over the past 25 years including San Diego Lesbian Organization (SDLO), San Diego Jewish Lesbian Chavarah, Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL), Shirrtails Collective Coffee Houses - a monthly open-mic night (later to become Shirrtails Dances) as well as performed and created stage sets for the (BLT) Beautiful Lesbian Thespians theatre group. She played the King in the all women production of 'Cinderella' when she was in her sixties and even into her eighties was artistically and politically active in community events, participating in an art show a week before her passing.

A few years ago, Muriel honored the San Diego LGBTQI community by participating as the Grand Marshal of the San Diego Pride Parade. She leaves behind a large army of friends and lovers - people she met at Jewish get-togethers, environmental group activities, through her lesbian artist and theater groups, at grief counseling meetings which she began attending after her son Gerald Fisher died in the terrorist attack at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and at artisan craft fairs where she would sell her work. Her daughter, Elsa Fisher, a Long Beach resident, said she was very proud of her mother. "She was one of the most inspirational characters ever," she said. "Everybody used to say to her, 'I want to grow up and be you.'"

She was born in N.Y. and lived in many places during her lifetime including different areas of California and Mexico. She is survived by her daughter, Elsa Sue Fisher, her brother, Jay Schwartz, 3 grandchildren and one great granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her son, Gerald Paul Fisher who perished at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Services with burial were held March 1, 2005, at Mount Sinai Mortuary in Los Angeles. A Celebration of Life Ceremony was created in honor of Muriel complete with Music, Art, refreshments, ritual, dancing and drumming on Sunday, March 6, 2005, at the Rolling Thunder Studios in the Clairemont Mesa area of San Diego. Her work may be viewed at Muriel Fisher.com along with a Tributes webpage where those who love her may share their memories of Muriel.

Submitted by Wendy Sue Biegeleisen, Kithie Gateley and Jayne Marx

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106543451/muriel-fisher>

## **COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains materials pertaining to Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL), the West Coast Old Lesbian Conference, Lesbian Solidarity, National Organization for Women (NOW), Women Synergy, San Diego Lesbian Organization, Labrys Productions, Wing Cafe, Life Line, National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (1979 and 1987), The Wishing Well, the Gay Academic Union, Califia Community, self-development and therapy, and other lesbian organizations and activities. These materials include meeting minutes, flyers, letters, newsletters, speeches, notes, contacts, cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, forms, event programs, articles, finances, applications, maps, attendee lists, press releases, evaluations, certificates, publications, clippings, worksheets, directories, phone lists, a brown leather address book belonging to Muriel Fisher, and an Aquazon Deck.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection consists of 1 box and no series.

## **SEPARATED MATERIAL**

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. T-shirts: [T211, box 9]
  - a. SDLP pink t-shirt

## **SUBJECTS**

Muriel Fisher, Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL), San Diego Pride, San Diego Lesbian Organization, Labrys Productions, Lesbian Solidarity, Women Synergy, Wing Cafe, LifeLine, National March on Washington 1979, National March on Washington 1987, The Wishing Well, National Organization for Women (NOW), AIDS Foundation of San Diego (AFSD), West Coast Old Lesbian Conference, Gay Academic Union, Califia Community, lesbians, organizations - lesbian, Women's Movement, feminism, organizations - political, organizations - social

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

## PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]

Slightly Older Lesbians (Muriel Fisher) Collection, 1974-1997

Lambda Archives of San Diego

San Diego, California

## RELATED MATERIAL

L2002.04, L2013.15

## LOCATION NOTE

C.10.3.2

## LANGUAGES

English

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	
1	1	SOL Materials	1983-1991	
1	2	SOL Materials	1984-1990	
1	3	West Coast Old Lesbian Conference	1981-1989	
1	4	West Coast Old Lesbian Conference	1981-1989	
1	5	SOL Topics: Menopause		
1	6	SOL Papers from Other Groups	1987-1991	
1	7	SOL Papers from Other Groups 1	1982-1991	
1	8	SOL Papers from Other Groups	1974-1991	
1	9	Lesbian Solidarity	1982-1983	
1	10	NOW (National Organization for Women)	1983-1989	
1	11	WomenSynergy	1981-1985	
1	12	San Diego Lesbian Organization and Labrys Productions	1991	
1	13	Wing Cafe	1981-1982	
1	14	LifeLine	1984-1986	
1	15	National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights	1979, 1987	
1	16	Women's and lesbian Publications	1979-1991	

1	17	The Wishing Well	1988-1991	
1	18	1992 Additions to Collection	1977-1993	
1	19	Vogel Institute	1986	
1	20	Purple Folder Contents	1985-1988	
1	21	Oversized	1981-1991	
1	22	Personal Materials	1981-1983	
1	23	Names, Directories, Phone Lists, Contacts	1984-1991	
1	24	Miscellany	1982-1988	
1	25	Artwork		
1	26	Loose Items in Box: Muriel Fisher's brown leather address book with cat design; small box that contains an Aquazon Deck by Morgan R. Maxwell.		