

L2014.09
Michael Portantino
Collection, 1987-2010

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Ethan Lopez

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

William Mondigo donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego on February 21st, 2014.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Ethan Lopez as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 4
Linear feet of shelf space: 2.25

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Michael Portantino, 30, Prudential Bache Financial Advisor, has been in the financial industry for over 10 years. Starting at Smith Barney, Harris, Upham, a major Wall Street investment firm in New York, he quickly advanced to become the youngest supervisor in the company's 104-year history. From there he was recruited (by Montgomery Securities a major investment brokerage firm) in San Francisco to head their operations staff. Three and a half years ago he left Montgomery Securities to move to San Diego where he has been a Financial Advisor with the San Diego office of Prudential Bache Securities.

Living in various parts of the Uptown area, Mike became more and more interested and involved in the local arena. He began writing a financial advice column, published in the San Diego Weekly, California Federal retirees, Uptown Examiner, Gay Times and in various community newsletters.

Two years ago, he and a partner bought the Uptown, a monthly community newspaper. He is now publisher, as well as a regular featured columnist writing a finance and investment advice column. In the last two years, Uptown has grown to become the largest

monthly newspaper serving inner city San Diego with a readership of over 75,000 covering neighborhoods from Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Old Town, North Park, Golden Hills, Downtown, and Kensington.

Mike's involvement in the gay community started out as purely social as he joined a gay softball league, a gay bowling league, and Front Runners. Networking, he began doing more and more "gay" business and realized that there was a tremendous need for better financial planning in the gay community. Typically, he found gays were much more likely to spend for the moment rather than save for the future, and to change this he began an outreach to the gay community. He approached his superiors at Prudential Bache and explained the situation and his philosophy of providing investment counseling geared toward the gay community and they expressed their support.

Mike initiated an advertising campaign in the gay media and started public speaking to various gay groups, Couples, SAGE, Couples Outreach, and SAGA. He also became more involved in SAGE (Seniors Active in a Gay Environment) and has been nominated to the upcoming SAGE Inc. Board of Directors. SAGE Inc. is an extension of SAGE with the goal of raising funds to build a retirement home for gay seniors. As a way of returning something back to the community, Mike is a frequent contributor to the AIDS Assistant Fund (AAF) and through the Uptown he awarded a \$3000 grant to the AAF. He has also made the commitment whereby he donates \$25 to the AAF or SAGE inc. for every gay account he opens."

-Michael's biography unknown date

Biography for Michael G. Portantino

"I have been a business owner in San Diego for the past 14 years, both in retail ventures and community publishing. I have published San Diego's oldest and largest monthly community newspaper, Uptown Newsmagazine, from Oct. '88-Jan. '99. I am also the publisher of the Gay & lesbian Times, Southern California's largest gay weekly and the nation's fourth largest gay weekly. I have been a community activist and philanthropist for two decades, in San Francisco as well as San Diego, and in 1998 surpassed the \$1 million mark in community donations. My previous career as a stockbroker, financial advisor/operations manager for Montgomery Securities in San Francisco (c. '82-'85) and Prudential Bache Securities in San Diego (c '86-'91) put me in touch with big businesses and the corporate world, allowing me to thoroughly understand sound financial and business practices. I am the proud father of a 13-year-old daughter and fought for her in a landmark gay custody case in California's courts. I have been a girl scout parent, a soccer dad, a Catholic-school fundraiser as a member of St. Didacus parish and on the St. Didacus School Advisory Board. I have been domestically partnered for 9 years and own my own home. My efforts in the community have been recognized over the years with, amongst others, the following awards, and honors:

- First Annual Ordinary Miracles Founders Award, 1999
- Human Dignity Ordinance Award

- Board of Governors Award- Nicky's '98
- Silver Business Award – The Center '98
- Best Businessman Award- Nicky's '93
- Outstanding Businessman Award- Nicky's '94
- Voices '96 Special Award (community response to the Republican Convention)
- Recognition from Diane Feinstein as top fundraiser

I have also belonged to the following organizations:

- Board Member of Family pride (A national gay-parenting organization)
- Board Member of Regional AYSO Soccer Association
- Board Member of Harvey Milk Scholarship Fund, 1996-2000
- Past Board Member of Harvey Milk Democratic Club
- Member of Christine Kehoe Finance Committee
- Member of Tony Atkins Finance Committee
- Member of National Gay Newspaper Guild
- State delegate to '96 & '97 Democratic Convention
- President of Gay & Lesbian Times/Michael G. Portantino Foundation"

-Michael G. Portantino's autobiography (unknown date)

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains documents and materials relating to the various businesses and organizations that Michael Portantino was a part of. It includes file cards, news clippings, newspapers, correspondence, thank you letters, ephemera, and magazines, business files from the Gay and Lesbian Times Office, subject files on various San Diego Organizations such as Bravo, SDCC, FilmOut, Stepping Stone, and some folders about individual activists or politicians. This collection also includes the articles of incorporation, by-laws, correspondence, financial information, clippings, flyers, corporate records, Uptown Letterheads. The collection also contains more personal materials such as adoption papers and letters from his daughter Tatiana.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 4 boxes divided into 4 series:

- Series I: Newspaper Related Materials
- Series II: Personal Materials
- Series III: Correspondence
- Series IV: Miscellany

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. DVD: D284-286
2. CD-R: D287
3. Zip disc: C 6.2.2

SUBJECTS

Michael Portantino, Christine Kehoe, Toni Atkins, National Gay Newspaper Guild, Gay and Lesbian Times (GLT), Update, Magazines, Bravo, San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC), Organizations, Political, Film Out San Diego, Outfest, Stepping Stone, Family Pride Coalition, Tony Zampella, Mama's Kitchen, Live and Let Live Alano Club, Latin Pride, Nicole Murray Ramirez

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Lambda Archives of San Diego does not hold copyright to this collection. It is incumbent upon the researcher to procure permission to publish information from this collection from the owner of copyright.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
Michael Portantino Collection, 1987-2010
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.64

LOCATION NOTE

C.4.3.1

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Bravo & Tony Zampella	1987-1993	
1	2	News Related to Tony Zampella & Bravo Scandal	1987-1993	
1	3	San Diego Gay Times Purchase Agreement	1989	
1	4	San Diego Gay Times Corporate Records	1991-1999	
1	5	Gay & Lesbian Times Demographic Survey 1992	1992	
1	6	Gay & Lesbian Times Demographic Survey 1992-part 2	1992	
1	7	Peter Navarro	1992	
1	8	Uptown Publications Stock/Shares	1992-2000	
1	9	San Diego Democratic Club & Uptown Publications	1994	
1	10	Roberts vs. Uptown Publications Correspondence	1995	
1	11	Simmons Originals	1995-2000	
1	12	Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International	1996-1997	
1	13	Bob Filner	1997-2006	
1	14	Coors Debate	1997-1998	
2	1	Family Pride Coalition 1998	1998	
2	2	Family Pride Coalition 1998-2000	1998-2000	
2	3	Family Pride Lawsuit	1999	
2	4	LGBT Event Programs	1998-2007	
2	5	Coors	1999-2001	
2	6	Credibility in Newspapers Journalism	1999	
2	7	Splash 1999	1999	
2	8	AIDS Walk San Diego 1999	1999	
2	9	Community Pub Group	1999	
2	10	Todd Klein	1999-2006	
2	11	San Diego Democratic Club	1999-2007	
2	12	Spectrum Weekly	2000-2001	
2	13	The Center	2000-2003	
2	14	AIDS Walk 2000-2004	2000-2004	
2	15	Christine Kehoe	2000-2004	
2	16	Imperial Court De San Diego	2000-2007	
2	17	Pride Pullout Artwork	2001	
2	18	Atkins Miscellany	2001-2008	
2	19	City Commission 2001	2001	
2	20	Mama's Kitchen	2002	
2	21	Day of the Dyke	2002	

2	22	San Diego Pride	2002-2003	
2	23	Gay & Lesbian Times Audit	2002-2007	
2	24	Mardi Gras Hillcrest	2002-2007	
2	25	Mike Aguirre	2002-2004	
2	26	Model Ad Response	2003	
2	27	Outfest SD	2003	
2	28	Live and Let Live Alano	2003-2007	
2	29	Latin Pride	2003-2005	
2	30	City of SD Advisory Board 2003	2003	
2	31	National Newspaper Guild	2004	
2	32	Brent Miller	2004	
2	33	Stepping Stone Events	2004-2005	
2	34	National Gay Newspaper Guild	2004-2006	
2	35	San Diego Pride Guides 2005-2008	2005-2008	
2	36	GLT Gift Guide	2005	
2	37	Film Out	2005-2009	
2	38	Family Health Centers	2006	
2	39	Gay & Lesbian Times Online Conversations with Nicole	2006-2007	
2	40	AIDS Walk SD 2006-2008	2006-2008	
2	41	Mama's 2007	2007	
2	42	Human Dignity Foundation	2007	
2	43	Lambda Archives	2007	
2	44	Greater San Diego Business Association	2007-2010	
2	45	GLTNewsNow.com	2009	
2	46	Miscellany		
3	1	Personal Biographies		
3	2	Awards	1991-2000	
3	3	Stepping Stone Tiles	2002	
3	4	Adoption Papers	2006-2007	
3	5	Daughters Personal Materials		
3	6	Letters of Testimony		
3	7	Letter to Clients	2010	
3	8	Greeting Cards	1993-2002	
3	9	Thank You Notes from the Center San Diego	2000-2002	
3	10	Greeting Cards	2003-2008	
3	11	Greeting Cards		
3	12	Nicole Murray Ramirez Correspondence		
3	Loose	San Diego Weekly Reader 2008	2008	
4	Loose	Uptown Publications Calendar 1992	1992	
4	Loose	California Legislature Book 1989	1989	
4	Loose	San Diego Gay Times Inc. Seal 1988	1988	

4	Loose	Stock Stamp		
4	Loose	San Diego Human Dignity Foundation- Art of Generosity Sketchbook	2008	
4	Loose	Big Mike's Photo Album	2002	