

**L2013.61
Sheila Clark
Collection, 1986-2016**

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Ethan Lopez

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Judith Reif on behalf of the Sheila M. Clark Estate donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego on November 4th, 2013.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

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

EXTENT

Number of containers: 2
Linear feet of shelf space: 1

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Judy Reif and Sheila Clark are life partners who were involved with Shirtails Productions (organizing dances and concerts), the San Diego Women's chorus, the Beautiful Lesbian Thespians theater group, and other musical and women's events.

You can find their interview here: https://archive.org/details/casdl_a_000040

"Birth of the San Diego Women's Chorus:

For a number of years, a women's chorus had been trying to materialize. Each time, within a year, the chorus disbanded. The fourth chorus, which is now in existence, was formed in 1986 by Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace and Peggy Heathers.

Cynthia had been a singing member of the other choruses and felt a strong commitment to having a women's chorus in San Diego. Peggy contacted everyone on the disbanded choruses' lists, and then had a meeting to form the "fourth" chorus. Five women responded. They began to gather in Cynthia and Peggy's home where they sang and delegated the business of the chorus to Peggy. Each took turns bringing a song to teach

the others and bringing new friends. Thus, in 1987 the San Diego Women's Chorus began as an ensemble group.

As it grew, the chorus needed a pianist. Cynthia arranged with Shirley Pokal, a friend and student at UCSD to record parts and accompaniment on cassette tape for use during rehearsals. The chorus' first performance was for the San Diego Democratic Club Freedom Banquet in October 1987. At this point, the group started meeting at the Grass Roots Cultural Center and Shirley's role expanded to include her presence at rehearsals and at performances until she left in September 1990, to work and study in Mexico. After that first performance, where the group was essentially "self-directed" with Cynthia coordinating, the chorus began to search for a "professional" conductor who would donate her time and talent. However, after trying out two different conductors, the chorus urged Cynthia to take this leadership role. Although Cynthia had never directed a chorus before and primarily wanted to sing, she did have an extensive musical background, so she accepted. She is now enjoying this aspect and hopes to continue.

In July of 1989 in Seattle, the chorus enjoyed an overwhelming reception at the GALA Choral Festival. Upon returning to San Diego the chorus doubled in size. The San Diego Women's Chorus was well on its way to becoming an effective voice for social change in the San Diego Community."

- Document from collection

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains material from the San Diego Women's Chorus and business cards from the Shirtsails Dances. Documents include Song lists, lyrics, correspondence, songbooks, posters, advertisement flyers, program booklets, magazines, and newspaper clippings. Ephemera items include a metal, nametags, and business cards.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 2 boxes divided into 2 series:

- Series I: Performance Materials
- Series II: Historical Materials

SEPARATED MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECTS

San Diego Women's Choir, Cynthia Lawrence, LGBT Performances, LGBT Choir, Songs, Lesbian Songs, West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival, Sheila Clark

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

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PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
Sheila Clark Collection, 1986-2016
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.48

LOCATION NOTE

C.4.2.2

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Intake Sheets/Separation		
1	2	Song Lists and Lyrics		
1	3	Songbooks by Sheila		
1	4	SDWC Posters and Advertisements	1990-2010	
1	5	SDWC Program Booklets	1992-2016	
1	6	SDWC Program Booklets	2006-2016	
2	1	Cynthia Lawrence (SDWC Founder)		
2	2	SDWC Newspaper Articles	1992-2012	
2	3	West Coast Women’s Music and	1986-1988	

		Comedy Festival		
2	4	Miscellany		
2	Loose	1 Metal with purple Ribbon awarded to Sheila for SDWC		
2	Loose	9 Nametags from Sheila		
2	Loose	2 Business Card Holders with Sheila's Business Cards		