

L1995.10
Jeri Dilno: San Diego Pride 1975
Papers, 1975

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Jeri Dilno donated these materials on behalf of The Center and San Diego Pride to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 1995.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia a part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: Folder
Linear feet of shelf space: 0

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Jeri Dilno

Jeri Dilno was born and raised in San Diego. Dilno joined the Airforce after attending San Diego State University in 1958, however she received a dishonorable discharge in 1961 after being investigated, along with eight others, for being gay. Dilno was the only one to fight the charges and later had her dishonorable discharge changed to honorable, establishing her commitment to pursuing LGBT Rights.

After living in Philadelphia for a brief time, Dilno returned to San Diego and helped found the first organized San Diego Pride march in 1975. Dilno served as the first female Executive Director of The Center from 1975 to 1977 and chaired the board of The Center from 1978 to 1980. Dilno also served as the President of the San Diego Democratic Club from 1987 to 1991, the co-chair of the LGBT Democratic Caucus from 1989 to 1991, and a delegate at the National Democratic Convention in 1988, 1992, and 2000.

From 1993 to 1995, Dilno held the position of Editor at the Gay and Lesbian Times (GLT) at a time during the AIDS crisis when organizations such as ACT UP and Queer Nation held large protests. A dedicated journalist, Dilno once posed as a straight couple alongside Mel Merrill to attend a conservative church meeting that was held to discuss the overturning of the Human Dignity Ordinance.

Dilno has received a great deal of recognition for her political involvement and activism, including being one of the Grand Marshalls—alongside Jess Jessop—in the 1989 San Diego Pride parade, having March 25, 2006 declared “Jeri Dilno Day” by Mayor Maureen O’Connor, and receiving many awards such as the Harvey Milk Award at the 1988 Nickys, the 1990 Jess Jessop memorial Founders Award from The Center, and the Susan B. Anthony Achievement Award from the San Diego chapter of NOW.

San Diego Pride 1975

“San Diego’s Gay Pride celebration took a giant leap forward in 1975 with an event that included a 400-person march and a rally at Balboa Park. A parade permit was secured from the police department and the park and recreation department issued a permit for the rally at Sixth and Juniper. Both permits were secured with the help of local attorneys working on behalf of the Center, which organized the event.

Although the permits were only secured after much foot dragging by the city, not all members of the city government were ill-disposed toward Pride. One notable exception was Councilwoman Maureen O’Connor, who sent a telegram of support to the Center. It read: Good luck, hope the day will bring good friends, good weather, and a successful march. Years later, O’Connor would become the first mayor to march in the parade.

The March

The march started at Newtown Park (Hobo Park) and proceeded up India Street to C Street, to Fifth Street, to Juniper, and east on Juniper to the site of the rally. The march was 400 people strong and featured contingents from local and regional organizations. Lesbian activist Barbara Gittings was the Grand Marshall, and other honorees included Morris Kight, George Raya, and Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear.

Marchers carried signs representing a variety of contingents including MCC, Orange County, The Center and others. The march also included a large contingent from the Socialist Workers Party, marking the first of many years of contention between that organization and many people within the community. The march also featured many individuals, not part of any particular contingent, carrying homemade signs.

The Rally

The march ended at Balboa Park, where a small stage had been erected and guest speakers covered various issues facing the community at the time. Honored guests Barbra Gittings, Allan Spear, Morris Kight, and George Raya were joined by local speakers, including Nicole Murray and Reverend David Farrell.

The march and rally were covered by both gay and mainstream media. The Pacific Coast Times included articles and columns about the event. The San Diego Union covered the event, remarking on the 400 people who marched. The event also attracted the attention of television and radio outlets with reporters from local stations covering the march and rally.”

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of a single file folder containing correspondence, documents, telegrams, financial documents, and song lyrics pertaining to the 1975 San Diego Pride.

Additionally, there is a questionnaire and souvenir booklet pertaining to the Christopher Street West 1975 Pride and letter pertaining to the 1984 San Diego Pride.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of one file folder and no series.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECTS

San Diego Pride, The Center, Gay Center for Social Services, Christopher Street West, Gay Media Project, Richard T. Bourgault, R.L. Hoopler, George I. Loveland, Carolyn Innes, James E. Dukes, Fred M. Weisier, Tawny Tann, Gary Gulley, David Kimble, Bonnie Harbinger, John McConnell, Roger Hedgcock, Pride events - 1975

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]
Jeri Dilno San Diego Pride, 1975
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.46, L2013.23, L2014.17, L2008.08, L2008.16, L2012.55, L2013.63

LOCATION NOTE

C.9.3.6

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	2 Letters from Chief of Police R.L. Hoopler to Richard T. Bourgault to serve as permission for 1975 Pride, June 3, 1975 (original and black-and-white copies)	1975	
1	2	2 Letters from Community Services Supervisor Goerge I. Loveland to Richard T. Bourgault with approval for the location of 1975 Pride Rally and the rules and and regulations for use, May 30, 1975 (original and black-and-white copies)	1975	
1	3	Noise Abatement and Control Administration document signed by Administrator James E. Dukes granting Carolyn Innes permission for voice amplification, instruments, and rally for 1975 Pride, June 11, 1975	1975	
1	4	Thank you letter from Fred M. Weisier to Tawny Tann, July 1975	1975	
1	5	Invoice from Gay Media Project Philadelphia for 500 buttons, June, 1975	1975	
1	6	Draft of 1975 Pride press release titled, "Thousands of Gay People Expected in Balboa Park"	1975	
1	7	Bill/itemized expenses of Gay Pride Parade '75	1975	
1	8	Sheet of paper with lyrics for 2 songs to be sung during Pride 1975	1975	
1	9	Letter and envelope from Gary Gulley to David Kimble, August 1, 1975	1975	
1	10	4 Western Union Telegrams from local politicians sent to The Center and pride organizers, June 27, 1975	1975	
1	11	2 forms, 2 payment slips, and 1 small business brochure from Trans Rent-A-Car	1975	
1	12	Note from Michael Card of Gay Media Project Philadelphia that came with button order, May 27, 1975	1975	
1	13	Letter from Bonnie Harbinger and John McConnell to San Diego Mayor Roger Hedgecock on June 21, 1984	1984	

1	14	4-page Christopher Street West Pride '75 questionnaire	1975	
1	15	"It's a Gay, Gay, World" Christopher Street West '75 souvenir issue booklet	1975	