



MAX GUNDY AND JACK D. BLOCH PAPERS

Coll2008-070

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Max Gundy and Jack D. Bloch Papers

Creator

Gundy, Max, 1910-1996
Bloch, Jack D. (Jack Daniel), 1912-1996

Extent

Number of containers: 3 records boxes, 1 archive carton, and 1 oversize box.
Linear feet: 4.8 linear feet.

Date

1887-1996

Repository

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

Materials relating to the lives of progressive activist Max Gundersheimer (aka Gundy; 1910-1996), of New York City, and his partner of more than 60 years, Jack D. Bloch (1912-1996). The documents include correspondence, photographs, business, and financial records, as well as minutes and notes taken by Gundy of the meetings and other activities of Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive organizations in Long Beach, California, where the couple retired in 1977. Both men died in 1996, within three months of each other.



Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish material must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives as the physical owner of the material. Note that permission to publish does not constitute copyright clearance. ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Max Gundy and Jack D. Bloch Papers, Coll2008-070, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

- Bloch, Jack D. (Jack Daniel), 1912-1996
- Citizens' associations—California—Long Beach.
- Communist Party of the United States of America—California—Long Beach.
- Gay couples—United States.
- Gay men—California—Long Beach.
- Gundersheimer, Max, 1910-1996
- Gundy, Max (pseudonym for Gundersheimer, Max), 1910-1996
- Peace and Freedom Party of California.
- Political activists—California—Long Beach.

Acquisitions Information

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

Formerly boxes 103-106, 103-107, 103-108, and 104-121. Collection processed by Michael C. Oliveira, with assistance from Misha Karbelnig and Richard French, December 2008.

Separated Materials

The following materials were transferred to the library collections of ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, December 18, 2008.

Brogan, Jim. *Jack and Jim: A Personal Journal of the 70's*. Bolinas, California: Equanimity Press, 1982.

Berger, Raymond M. *Gay and Gray: The Older Homosexual Man*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1982.

Data-Boy Magazine. Pacific Southwest, number 192, October 19, 1977 / Pacific Northwest, number 117, October 20, 1977.

The Directory Long Beach: A Gay Persons Guide. Tukay Media Services, Long Beach, California. Volume 2, number 3, 1980; volume 6, number 2, 1984.

Gordon, Eric A. *Mark the Music: The Life and Work of Marc Blitzstein*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989.

Hernton, Calvin C. *Coming Together: Black Power, White Hatred, and Sexual Hang-Ups*. New York: Random House, 1971

ONE Magazine. ONE Incorporated, Los Angeles, California. Volume 11, number 10, October 1963.

Weinberg, George H. *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1972.

The Voice. Paul D. Hardman & Associates, San Francisco, California. Volume 2, number 11, May 23, 1980.

Biography

Max Gundersheimer, Jr., was born in New York City on December 19, 1910, to Max and Alice Gundersheimer. Little is known of his early life. He served as the President of Beth Sholom Peoples Temple Young Folks League from 1929-1930. In the early-to-mid 1930s he met Jack D. Bloch, a fellow New Yorker. Bloch was born June 4, 1912, and held a series of jobs in a variety of occupations until 1942. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe from March 1942 to October 1945. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Gundersheimer, who went by the name Max Gundy as early as 1944, became involved in the Communist party and other progressive causes; he became more actively involved after his retirement to Long Beach, California, in 1977. In 1950, Bloch purchased a home in Eastchester, Westchester County, New York, in which the two lived. In 1953, Bloch joined Gundy's printing business as an assistant production person in direct mail advertising. The business was dissolved in 1970, and both men obtained other related positions. In 1977, they retired and relocated to Long Beach, California, where they purchased a condominium. Bloch volunteered helping other senior citizens while Gundy took a more active role in Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive community organizations. He volunteered at the International Book Shop in Long Beach, of which he became the manager in the early 1980s. He also ran as the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for the 57th district of the California Assembly between 1980 and 1988. Gundy and Bloch both died in 1996, within three months of each other, after more than 60 years together.

Scope and Content and Container List

Approximately half of the collection consists of Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes, together with newsletters, flyers, and other materials relating to Communist, socialist, peace, and other progressive community organizations in Long Beach, California, from 1977 to 1994. The remainder of the collection consists of Gundy's and Bloch's personal papers and the records of Gundy's printing business. The personal papers consist of correspondence, photographs, financial records, genealogical information dating from 1887, day planner calendar books, and various greeting cards. The collection is divided into two series: (1) Community Activism, and (2) Personal Papers.

Series 1: Community Activism

Date: 1974-1994

Extent: 42 folders

From 1977 to 1994, Gundy participated in approximately twenty different progressive community organizations in Long Beach, including Communist, socialist, and peace groups. The folders in this series are arranged alphabetically by the name or title Gundy provided, and contain Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes along with the organizations' newsletters, flyers, and other materials. The first two folders listed contain unsorted flyers and handwritten lists and notes. The folders contain Gundy's handwritten notes and minutes along with the organizations' newsletters, and flyers.

Box Folder

1	1	Unsorted Flyers, circa 1985
1	2	Unsorted Lists and Notes, circa 1985
1	3	Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of the Political Prisoners of Iran, 1984
1	4	American Civil Liberties Union Gay Rights Chapter (ACLU GRC), 1977-1989
1	5	Center 55, 1988-1995
1	6	Coalition for a National Health Care Plan / Los Angeles South Coalition for National Health Care, 1984-1985
1	7	Coalition to Roll Back Rents / Council of Senior Citizens, 1978
1	8	Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East, 1974-1976
1	9	Committee in Solidarity with the People of Iran (CISPI), 1984-1985
1	10	Communist Party, 1979-1989
1	11	Couples, 1984-1984
1	12	<i>Daily World</i> , 1973-1985
1	13-14	Gray Panthers, 1977-1988 (2 folders)
1	15	International Book Shop (IBS), 1977-1989
1	16	Long Beach Anti-Klan Coalition (LBAKC), 1981-1983
1	17	Long Beach Area Citizens for Peace (LBACP), 1981-1985
1	18	Long Beach Area Citizens Involved (LBACI), 1977-1984
1	19	Long Beach Area Peace Network (LBAPN), 1982-1992
1	20	Long Beach Club of the Communist Party (Club), 1983-1989



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1	21	Long Beach Housing Action Association (LBHAA), 1978-1981
1	22-23	Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club (LBLDA), 1977-1990 (2 folders)
1	24	National MJ Coalition on Lebanon, 1982
1	25	National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL), 1983-1984
1	26	ONE, Incorporated, 1970-1984
1	27-28	ONE in Long Beach, Incorporated, 1977-1994 (2 folders)
1	29	Peace and Freedom Party (PFP), 1981-1994
2	1	Peace and Solidarity Commission, 1983-1984
2	2	People for Just Cause Evictions, 1983 <i>People's World, People's Daily World,</i>
2	3	1977-1988
5	5	<i>People's World</i> newspapers, 1979-1980 (Oversize)
2	4	PISC (unknown acronym), 1984
2	5	Response Committee to the Straight Community Order, 1987
2	6	Right on Committee (ROC), 1981-1989
2	7	Socialist Classes, 1981-1986
2	8	Southern California Coalition for a National Health Service, 1984-1989
2	9	<i>Tikva: Lesbian and Gay Jews Celebrating Our Heritage</i> newsletter, 1986
2	10	Unitarian Universalist Church (UUC), Unitarian Universalists Fellowship (UUF), 1977-1985
2	11	United States Peace Council (USPC), 1982-1984
2	12	Wilsonian Apartments, 1976-1994

Series 2: Personal Papers

Date: 1887-1996

Extent: 36 folders

This series consists of genealogical information, correspondence, photographs, personal and business financial records, day planner desk calendars, and various greeting cards, including New Years, birth announcements, birthday, get-well, Christmas, and Hanukkah cards. The folders of three alphabetical file cases of correspondence and financial records retain their existing alphabetical order. The eight folders of photographs consist of early family photographs, Gundy as an activist, Bloch in the military and on vacation, Gundy and Bloch together at home and on vacation, and photographs from their extended family.

Box Folder

		Biographical and Family Documents, 1887-1996
2	13	1887-1996
5	1	1887 (Oversize)
		Correspondence, 1928-1995
2	16-17	File Case 1: A-W, 1928-1953 (2 folders)
5	3	File Case 1: A-W, 1953 (Oversize)
2	18-19	File Case 2: D-Z, 1929-1947 (2 folders)
2	14-15	File Case 3: N-Z, 1928-1947 (2 folders)



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5	2	File Case 3: N-Z, circa 1960 (Oversize)
2	20-22	1931-1995 (3 folders)
5	4	1977-1978 (Oversize)
		Max Gundy Printing, 1952-1970
2	26	Bills and Receipts, 1969
2	25	Business Records, 1952-1970
2	27	Corporate Papers, 1969
		Personal, 1940-1995
2	24	Bank Statements, 1948-1984
3	4-10	Day Planners (11), 1970-1994 (7 folders)
3	1	Federal, State, and Local Tax Documents, 1955-1976
3	11-18	Greeting Cards, 1970-1995 (8 folders)
2	23	Identification cards, 1940-1982
3	2	Insurance Documents, 1956-1984
3	3	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1969-1986
		Photographs, circa 1916-1988
4	1	Gundy and Gundy with Family, circa 1916-1978
4	2	Gundy and Progressive Organizations, 1968-1985
4	3	International Bookshop, Long Beach 1978
4	4	Bloch and Bloch with Family, circa 1929-circa 1984
4	5	Bloch in the United States Army, United States and Europe, 1942-1945
4	6	Bloch on Vacation, circa 1945-circa 1965
4	7-9	Gundy and Bloch, circa 1950-1977 (3 folders)
4	10-12	Extended Family, circa 1920-1988 (3 folders)