

Guide to the Lee Plotkin Papers, 1955-2006

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Plotkin, Lee
Title:	Lee Plotkin Papers
ID:	MS-00518
Date [inclusive]:	1955-2006
Physical Description:	1 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Lee Plotkin papers document Plotkin's political work and associations as an LGBT activist and spokesman for the Las Vegas gay community, and include correspondence, press releases, copies of his columns, institutional and legislative documents, brochures, fliers and other ephemera from 1955 to 2006.

Preferred Citation

Lee Plotkin Papers, 1955-2006. MS-00518. Special Collections, UNLV Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Born July 8, 1959 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, LGBT activist Lee Plotkin emerged as the de facto spokesman for the Las Vegas gay community in the mid-1980s after coming out of the closet in 1977. Plotkin was an effective public voice of the community for more than two decades. In addition to serving as the community's media point man, Plotkin had positions with the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc., Golden Rainbow, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, and the Campaign for Liberty. Plotkin worked as a lobbyist in the 1993 repeal of Nevada's sodomy law. In 1994, he successfully helped the Campaign for Liberty defeat an anti-gay initiative petition effort mounted by the Nevada Citizens' Alliance. He also helped organize local demonstrations of National Coming Out Day. Additionally, he wrote political commentary for the Las Vegas Bugle, Q-Tribe, and Las Vegas CityLife. Twice honored at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center's annual Honorarium, Plotkin also served as executive director in Nevada of the National Conference for Community and Justice and was appointed by Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn to a three-year term on the Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Lee Plotkin Papers document Plotkin's political work and associations as an LGBT activist and spokesman for the Las Vegas gay community, and include correspondence, press releases, copies of his columns, institutional and legislative documents, brochures, fliers and other ephemera from 1955 to 2006. The papers document Plotkin's positions with the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc., Golden Rainbow, National Coming Out Day, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, and the Campaign for Liberty. Additionally, they include information on his time as executive director in Nevada of the National Conference for Community and Justice and his appointment by Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

1959	Lee Plotkin born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1968	Plotkin moved with his family to Las Vegas, Nevada
1977	Plotkin came out of the closet
1993	Plotkin worked as a lobbyist to repeal Nevada's sodomy law
1994	Plotkin worked with the Campaign for Liberty to defeat an anti-gay initiative by the Nevada Citizens' Alliance

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Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish from this collection, please contact the Director of Special Collections.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Lee Plotkin in 2006. Accession number 2006-021.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Dennis McBride in 2006. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Lindsay Oden to bring it into compliance with DACS. June 2014

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Names and Subjects

- Gays -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Gay community -- Nevada -- 20th century
- Community activists -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Gay liberation movement -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- 20th century
- Gay rights -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Campaign for Liberty		
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Political Action Committee registration form, April 7, 1994	box 01	folder 04
Strategy, 1993-1994	box 01	folder 05
Columns, 1994-1996	box 01	folder 06-08
Correspondence: Fitzpatrick, William P., 1994-1995	box 01	folder 09
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