Finding aid to the Barbara Cameron Papers, 1968-2003 GLC 63

Tim Wilson
James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
2014
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
info@sfpl.org
URL: http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian
Title: Barbara Cameron Papers
Date (inclusive): 1968-2003
Identifier/Call Number: GLC 63
Creator: Cameron, Barbara M.
Physical Description: 2 boxes + 5 oversized folders (2 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org
URL: http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian
Abstract: Barbara M. Cameron was a Native American lesbian writer, speaker, photographer, and political activist. Her papers include speeches, writings, subject files, photographs, audiotapes, and printed materials on the subjects of: rights for lesbians, for women and for Native Americans; race; HIV education; and homophobia.
The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English, with one item in German.
Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Barbara Cameron Papers (GLC 63), LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Accession note
Materials Discarded
The following newspaper sections about the deaths of Harvey Milk and George Moscone have been discarded as they duplicate holdings in the San Francisco History Center’s collection: San Francisco Chronicle, November 29, 1978 Section 1; San Francisco Examiner, November 27, 1978 Section 1; and, San Francisco Examiner, November 30, 1978 Section 1.
Biographical Note
Barbara M. Cameron was a Native American lesbian writer, speaker, photographer, and political activist. She was born on May 22, 1954 in Fort Yates, North Dakota. She was raised on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota principally by her grandparents. After high school graduation, Cameron moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she attended the Institute of American Indian Arts. She majored in photography and film and won many awards. In 1973 she moved to San Francisco to attend the San Francisco Art Institute.
In 1975 Cameron co-founded the group Gay American Indians. She was a principal organizer of the Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration (1980-1985), the executive director (1989-1992) of CUAV (Community United Against Violence), and a delegate to the 1988 Democratic Convention. She was appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the Citizens Committee on Community Development, and by Mayor Frank Jordan to the Commission on the Status of Women. She also served on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the American Indian AIDS Institute; and she was a member of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.
In 1986 Cameron traveled to Nicaragua as a member of Somos Hermanas, a group of women who went to learn about, and show solidarity with, the women working to improve life there. She went to Berlin in 1993 to the International Conference on AIDS, participating in the International Indigenous AIDS Network. Throughout 1993 she traveled to reservations in the continental U.S. and Hawaii, working to further AIDS education.
Cameron’s writing is published in several anthologies, including both versions of Our Right to Love and This Bridge Called My Back. Her writing is included in the curriculum in many colleges and universities.
Barbara Cameron died in San Francisco on February 12, 2002. She was survived by her partner of twenty-one years, Linda Boyd, and their son Rhys Boyd-Farrell.
Scope and Contents
The papers primarily document Cameron's life in San Francisco. The collection is strongest in Cameron's speeches and writings. Additional materials demonstrate her involvement with several organizations that provided support to the Native American, lesbian, and women's communities.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into six series: Series 1. Personal Papers; Series 2. Speeches and Writings; Series 3. Subject Files; Series 4. Printed Materials; Series 5. Photographs; and, Series 6. Ephemera and Audiorecordings.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Lesbian authors -- California -- San Francisco -- Biography.
Indian Women -- North America -- Biography.
Chrystos
Cameron, Barbara M. -- Archives

Series 1 Personal Papers, 1971-2003

Physical Description: 16 folders

Scope and Contents
The series contains correspondence, biographical information, letters of recommendation, notes on speaking engagements, sketch books, and certificates. Of particular note are the poems, letters and drawings from Menominee poet Chrystos to Cameron and Linda Boyd.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

box 1, folder 1 Astrological chart, undated
box 1, folder 2 Biographical information, undated
box 1, folder 3 Biographical information. Profile regarding the Women's Building, 1984
box 1, folder 4 Certificate of Honor. San Francisco Board of Supervisors [in presentation cover], 1993
box 1, folder 5 Certificates and awards, 1983-2002

General note

box 1, folder 6 Chrystos. Poems, letters and cards to Barbara Cameron and Linda Boyd, 1991-2003, undated
box 1, folder 7 Correspondence, 1971-2002

Bettina (1991)
Berlandt, Konstantin (1985)
Bratt, Georgia W. (1993)
Dunlap, Mary, CUAV donor letter (undated)
[Guy], Roma (1994, [1995])
Harper Collins (1994)
Hitchcock, Jodi (1991)
Hutton, Dorothy, R.N. (1971)
Levy, Chana (1983)
Locklear, Clisby R., North Carolina Minority AIDS Education Program (1993) ⚜
Melton, Bill (1994)
Merrill, Greg (1999)
Migden, Carole (2002)
[Norman?], Pat (1997)
PowWow listserve (2000)
Series 1 Personal Papers, 1971-2003

- Reid (1992)
- Rink (1994)
- Third Woman Press (2000)
- Turney, Anthony, NAMES Project (1993)
- Vazquez, Carmen (2001-2002)
- Wyre, Ed (1985)

**box 1, folder 8**

**Human Rights Commission (San Francisco), 1988, 2002**

- General note
  - Includes letters of recommendation about Cameron written by Roma Guy, Ken Jones, and Carmen Vazquez; and a resolution passed to honor Cameron's life.

**box 1, folder 9**

**Obituaries, funeral mass program, memorial remembrances, 2002**

- Graves, Sharol

**box 1, folder 10**

**Online documents found via Google searches on "Barbara Cameron", 2002**

- Bates College (speech, program correspondence), 1991-1992
- Passport, 1985
- Performance evaluation, UCSF Women's Specialty Clinic, 1995
- Resume, 1993
- Sketch Books, 1988, undated
- Speaking engagements (programs), 1983, 1993
- Spiral notebook [includes recipes, etc.], undated

Series 2 Speeches and Writings, 1980-2002

**Scope and Contents**

Cameron's speeches and writings generally address issues of acceptance, racism within the lesbian and gay community, and homophobia within the Native American community. The speeches are usually shorter and include a call for action. The speech "At the Memorial for Phil Tingley" is a longer piece and muses about many subjects including HIV. Cameron's writings are often quite personal; some are diary entries, poems, and several pieces deal with friends and relatives who have died. "For Linda" is to her life partner Linda Boyd. A few of the pieces are about Cameron's trip to Nicaragua with Somos Hermanas; others are about HIV and AIDS awareness.

**Arrangement**

Arranged into two subseries: Series 2A. Speeches; and, Series 2B. Writings. Arranged alphabetically within each subseries.

Subseries 2A Speeches, 1980-1993

- Physical Description: 9 folders

- **box 1, folder 17** At the Memorial for Phil Tingley, [1991]
- **box 1, folder 18** Bates College (speech, program correspondence), 1991-1992
- **box 1, folder 19** Family, undated
- **box 1, folder 20** Freedom of Women, [198-]
- **box 1, folder 21** Gay Freedom Day Speech, June 29, 1980
- **box 1, folder 22** LAVA acceptance (Bay Area Career Women), 1993
- **box 1, folder 23** Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, June 1983
- **box 1, folder 24** Native Lesbians, undated
- **box 1, folder 25** "Uniting Ourselves--Bridging Our Differences" about lesbians of color, June 13, 1987

Subseries 2B Writings, 1981-2002

- Physical Description: 36 folders

- **box 1, folder 26** Adrian, undated
- **box 1, folder 27** As a Child I Was a Tomboy..., undated
- **box 1, folder 28** Autobiography ["Biography"], [1984]
- **box 1, folder 29** Be Like Mike the Lakota, undated
The Body Keeps Spilling, undated
The Buffalo Nation Loves Us Best, Just Ask Them: Homage to My Lakota People and the Buffalo Nation in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, undated
For Linda, undated
4 I Miss: Tommy, Marian, Marilyn, Manny, undated
Frybread in Berlin, 1993
Declaration of the International Indigenous AIDS Network (June 11, 1993) 60889
Henry, January 1984
I Wanted to Love You Johnny Grey Eyes, 2000
Letter to Mani After His Death; Mani, undated

Letter to the Editor regarding John Carman, [1994]
Long Time, No See [screenplay?], undated
Mani, undated

On HIV and AIDS in Native American Communities and On Racism in Lesbian / Gay Communities, 1987-1993
National Native American AIDS Prevention Center survey

Place at the Table, undated
Poem drafts, 1993, 1996, undated
Physical Description: Contains drafts of: Mourning Becomes a Clandestine Act; The River Is Home; searching; Santa Fe 1993; When the visitors come; Nondilke; I Need to Get to Camino del Monte Sol; Wearing Short Hair in Order to be a Blonde; Look at me, I am not a separate woman; Me at Eleven; Adrian.

Poetry, 1984
Poetry, May 1987
Poetry, San Francisco, 2000
Point of View, 1988
Racism, undated
"Record" [diary entries, addresses, recipes, book / movie scenes], 1994
"Record" [diary entries, recipes], 1995-1996
The River Is Home, undated
Screenplay, undated
This Bridge Called My Back [program of book reading, and review of program by Linda Boyd], [1981]
Tokenism, undated
Agnos, Art
Lesbian Agenda for Action

Writings, undated
General note
Includes: Smirk Faced Goddess; Wild Turnip; Ron's (Cante ska Wicasa) Indians; The Deer of Peace, Bo Huston; "Traveling from East to West."
Series 3  Subject Files, 1968-2002

Physical Description: 31 folders

Scope and Contents

The series contains materials collected on such subjects as AIDS education, Nicaragua, organizations for Native Americans, Native Americans in popular culture, domestic violence, and politics. Of note is a folder of correspondence and other documents by and about Konstantin Berlandt.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

box 1, folder 61  AIDS Prevention Training, 1993
National Native American AIDS Prevention Center


box 1, folder 63  American Indian AIDS Institute, 1993-1995

box 1, folder 64  American Indian Film Festival (20th: San Francisco, California) program, 1995


General note
Includes: certification of immunization; postcards and letters to Winnifred Elliott; clippings about and by Berlandt; short story "Ring My Bell;" letter from Marven Nelson dated January 27, 1991; letter from Tom Collins dated November 7, 1994; A Spring Bouquet from A Hippie Garden of Verses by Herman Berlandt (1992); resumes; "Gay Politics" by Berlandt (July 9, 1980); autobiographical sketch.

See also:
Box 1 / Folder 7. Correspondence (1985)

Berlandt, Herman
Collins, Tom
Elliott, Winnifred
Nelson, Marven O.

box 1, folder 66  Braithwaite, Ron (September 29, 1960-November 13, 1994). Eulogy and funeral mass program, 1994

box 1, folder 67  Cable Car Awards program, 1992

box 1, folder 68, oversize-folder 2  Clippings, 1984-1994

General note

box 1, folder 69  CUAV (Community United Against Violence), 1991, undated
Marks, Milton

box 1, folder 70  Democratic National Convention, 1988

General note
Includes Jesse Jackson for President '88 bumper sticker.

box 1, folder 71  Domestic Violence, 1997-1998, undated

box 1, folder 72  Incident at Oglala (Miramax Films) press kit, [1992]

box 1, folder 73  Institute on Native American Health and Wellness, 1995-1997

box 1, folder 74  Lakol New Voices, 1998-1999

box 1, folder 75  Lakota Books catalog, 60992 1996

box 1, folder 76  Lakota / Dakota language course information, 1999

box 1, folder 77  Maps, undated

box 1, folder 78  Matthews, Tede, 1993
Nicaragua, 1987-1988, undated

General note
Includes: 1987 SOMOS HERMANAS calendar with Cameron’s annotations; two images of Dora Maria Tellez; Poem and card in memory of Nora Astorga (1948-1988); clipping of 9 people at a table; FSLN (Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional) banner.

Out in Front! A Call for Leadership in Funding the Needs of Bay Area Lesbian and Gay People, 1995

Peltier, Leonard, 2002

A Reception Honoring American Indian Women, May 16, 1984

San Francisco Bay Area Native American groups, 1991-1997, undated

General note
Includes: “Mental Health Issues in the Context of Culture, Race and Sexuality: A Preliminary Study of Gay and Lesbian Native Americans” by Kathleen Erwin (1991); 10th Annual Silverstar program; flyers; “Save Ward Valley.”

Sitting Bull College (Fort Yates, North Dakota), 2002

Sovereignty for Indian Nations [cut out], undated

Stanford Powwow (31st: Stanford, California) program, 2002

Strawberry Press. Poetry postcards, 1979

General note
 Includes: “Elegy for Chief Sealth [1786-1866]” by Duane Niatum; “Ghosts...listening to Helene sing” by Wendy Rose.


Women’s Building (San Francisco, California) brochure, undated


General note
Includes: Teacher’s guide; Student’s guide; CD-ROM.


General note
Inscribed to Cameron.


Kenny, Maurice. I Am The Sun: a Lakota Chant, 1976
Kenny, Maurice. *North: Poems of Home*. (Chapbook no. 4, Blue Cloud Quarterly, South Dakota), 1977

General note

Inscribed to “Barbara and Rubin.”

Lesbenstich 1/81. 2 Jahrgang, 1981

General note

Periodical in German. Includes article on Native American lesbians with photo of Cameron. Also includes letter (in English) from Jo to Cameron, February 23, 1981.

Native American Smoke Signals: Voice of the Nation (Mayer, Arizona), vol. 1, no. 5, August 1993


A Sampler for Social Change: Focus on Lesbian and Gay Issues” (Education Exploration Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota), Spring 1980

Seven Circles Foundation Newsletter (Lagunitas, California), Spring & Summer 1997

Sinister Wisdom #20 (Amherst, Massachusetts), 1982

General note

Inscribed: “Especially for Barbara, who inspired the poem. Love Chrystos.”

This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color (Watertown, Massachussetts: Persephone Press). Edited by Cherrie Moraga, Gloria Anzaldua, 1981

General note

Includes piece by Barbara Cameron.

TJC Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education, vol. 14 (no. 1), Fall 2002

General note

Two pieces marked: "Lakota Blood" by Danielle Rose Black Fox; and "For My Son" by Linda Jones.


Series 5 Photographs, 1977-1995

Physical Description: 20 folders

Scope and Contents

The series contains snapshots of Cameron and many of her friends, political events and parades. Of note are images from the Nelson Mandela rally in Oakland, some informal photographs of a women’s group in Willits, California, and a photo of Cameron being sworn in that is signed by Frank Jordan.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club paste-ups for Alice Reports, 1990, undated

Konstantin Berlandt, 1980-1983, undated

Barbara Cameron, 1981, 1988, undated

General note

One photo of swearing in inscribed by Frank M. Jordan.

Frank M. Jordan

Barbara Cameron, Canyon Sam, San Francisco Gay Pride, June 1981
Series 5 Photographs, 1977-1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pam David, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pam David and Carmen [Vazquez?], undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Democratic National Convention (includes negatives), 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Roma Guy birthday, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Ken Jones (Parade Co-Chair), undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Kenny, Maurice, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>LAFA (Lesbian Agenda For Action), undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Jacqui Lewis, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Nelson Mandela rally, Oakland Coliseum, [1990]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Miscellaneous: “mostly Alice [B. Toklas Democratic Club] members”, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Miscellaneous: parades, Roma Guy?, photos prepared for a publication, 1995, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Diane Sabin, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Canyon Sam, 1982, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Somos Hermanas contingent, [Gay / Lesbian Pride] Parade, [San Francisco, California], undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>[Vazquez?], Carmen, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Willits group [some nudity], undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Chrystos]

Gearhart, Sally
Lichtenberg, Paula
Sam, Canyon

Series 6 Ephemera and Audiorecordings, 1981-1993

Physical Description: 5 folders+ 6 audiotapes

Scope and Contents

The series contains ephemera such as a Jesse Jackson for president T-shirt from 1988, and a Greg Day for San Francisco Supervisor button. It also includes audiotapes of a few of Cameron's speaking engagements. The tapes of the readings from This Bridge Called My Back from 1981 and the Lesbians of Color panel in 1986 are probably the most significant recordings.

Arrangement

Arranged into two sections: Ephemera (in alphabetical order); Audiotapes (in chronological order).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Award (plaque): Cable Car Award &quot;1992 Outstanding Harvey Milk Community Service Award&quot;, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Button: &quot;Greg Day Supervisor&quot;, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Postcards: Hotel Santa Fe, Berlin &quot;Gold-Else&quot;, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>T-shirt: &quot;Jesse Jackson '88. 'It's Time for a change' &quot;, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>This &quot;Bridge&quot; Called My Back [book reading], Friday, June 5, [1981]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description: 1 audiotape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Formando Un Puente...Building Bridges (Oakland, California: Redwood Records), 1984</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description: 1 audiotape

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Lesbians of Color (Cameron, Harris, Ordona, Vazquez), [June 21, 1986]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description: 1 audiotape

General note

A presentation on Cross-Racial Hostility by Barbara Cameron, Virginia Harris, Trinity Ordona and Carmen Vazquez. Part of "Coming Out And Surviving: A Conference for/by Lesbians of Color." The first Bay Area Lesbians of Color Conference was held June 21, 1986 at the Women's Building in San Francisco.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2, 46      | **Counting Crows**: "August & Everything After"; **Gipsy Kings**: "Mosaique", [1989, 1993]  
Physical Description: 1 audiotape |
| 2, 47      | **OUT93--1993 Outwrite Writer's Conference. Public Conversation**: Chrystos, Cheryl Clarke, 1993  
Physical Description: 1 audiotape |
| 2, 47      | **Indian Voice**: 16 min. long (side A); **Marian's Visit B-Day**: (side B), undated  
Physical Description: 1 audiotape |