Finding aid to the Marvin Liebman *Coming Out Conservative* Collection, 1964, 1990-1993

Finding aid prepared by Tim Wilson
Support for the processing of the Marvin Liebman *Coming Out Conservative* Collection was provided by a grant from the Library Foundation of San Francisco.
James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
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San Francisco, CA, 94102
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1996
Title: Marvin Liebman Coming Out Conservative Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1964, 1990-1993

Date (bulk): 1990-1992

Collection Identifier: GLC 23

Creator: Liebman, Marvin

Physical Description: 20 folders + 1 videocassette tape (0.5 cubic feet)

Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
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Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, clippings, drafts of Liebman's coming-out letter and of his book *Coming Out Conservative*, and a videotaped interview. Drafts include comments by Betty Berzon, William F. Buckley, Jr., Carol Buckley, and Priscilla Buckley.

Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Marvin Liebman transferred copyright to San Francisco Public Library in 1993. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Marvin Liebman Coming Out Conservative Collection (GLC 23), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
The Coming Out Conservative Collection was donated by Marvin Liebman in February, 1993.

Related materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also the Marvin Liebman Papers (1953-1980) at the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University, and the Marvin Liebman Papers (1990-1996) at New York Public Library.

Biographical note
Marvin Liebman, born in New York City on 21 July 1923, was a public relations consultant and conservative lobbyist. His firm Marvin Liebman Associates, Inc. (1957-1968) provided organizational, fundraising and public relations expertise to the anti-communist and conservative movements in the U.S. and abroad. Its extensive list of clients includes: the Committee of One Million, Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, the American Emergency Committee for Tibetan Refugees, the American-Asian Educational Exchange, the American African Affairs Association, and the American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters.

From 1969 to 1975, Liebman was Managing Director of Sedgemoor Productions in London. During this period, he produced or co-produced nine West-End productions, an equal number of touring or out-of-town productions, two television films, and three feature films.

In 1975, Liebman returned to the U.S. to organize Marvin Liebman Inc., a firm with the same mission as his earlier Marvin Liebman Associates. Among the notable clients were: the Friends of Free China, the Friends of Jim Buckley, the Committee of Single Taxpayers, the American-Chilean Council, the Ad Hoc Citizens Legal Defense Fund for the FBI, Firing Line, and Covenant House.

With the Reagan victory in 1981, Liebman went to Washington, D.C. He was Consultant to the Office of Policy and Planning for Action from June through October 1981, Consultant to the Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Education from October 1981 to February 1982, and Director of the Office of Public Affairs and Director of Special Projects for the National Endowment of the Arts from February 1982 to July 1987. He served as Director of Special Projects and Acting Director for the Office of Public Affairs at the National Endowment for the Arts.


Scope and Contents

GLC 23

**Arrangement note**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Berzon, Betty
Buckley, William F., (William Frank), 1925-2008
Liebman, Marvin -- Archives
Coming out (Sexual orientation)--United States.
Conservatism--United States--History--20th century.
Gay men--United States--Biography
Homosexuality--United States.
Lobbyists--United States--Biography.
Political consultants--United States--Biography
Public relations consultants--United States--Biography.

### Series 1 Correspondence, 1990-1992
Physical Description: 3.0 folders

#### Folder 1
Series 1a To/from Marvin Liebman, 1990-1992

**Scope and Contents**

**Arrangement note**
This folder is arranged alphabetically by last name, with anonymous letters filed in the front.
Series 1 Correspondence, 1990-1992
Series 1b To/from The National Review, 1990-1992

Physical Description: 2.0 folders

Scope and Contents
Contains letters directed to The National Review concerning Liebman's coming out letter and William F. Buckley, Jr.'s response. The prevailing view is that it was inappropriate for The National Review to publish the letter, and that Liebman is a "Sodomite," etc. Some letters applaud Liebman's courage. Of interest are the letters from Harry Jaffa and Dr. George Mohun regarding Liebman and his homosexuality. Liebman's responses are filed in Series 1a. Correspondence between Liebman and William F. Buckley, Jr. was separated from the general correspondence by placing it in its own folder. It includes drafts of Liebman's coming out letter and Buckley's comments. This file also includes Buckley's comments on a draft version of Coming Out Conservative in 1991, and his review of the published volume in 1992.

Arrangement note
This folder is arranged alphabetically by last name, with anonymous letters filed in the front. The letters to William F. Buckley, Jr. are separated out into their own folder.

Folder 2
Anonymous, B-W, 1990

Folder 3
Buckley, W[illiam] F., Jr., 1990-1992

Series 2 Works by Liebman, 1990-1992

Physical Description: 15.0 folders

Scope and Contents
Contains typescript drafts of books and statements by Liebman. Most of these are preliminary drafts of the book which was ultimately titled Coming Out Conservative. In chronological order, these are: "Autobiography" (June 1990), "History...Excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background" (October 1990), Coming Out Right (November 1991), Coming Out Conservative (March 1992), and Coming Out Conservative (bound, [1992]). A copy of Liebman's 1992 statement for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force press conference appears in this series as well.

Arrangement note
Folders arranged alphabetically by title.

Folders 4-7
General note
See also Ser.2 “History...Excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background.”

Folders 8-9
Coming Out Conservative, March 1992
General note
Uncorrected manuscript.

Folder 10
Coming Out Conservative, [1992]
General note
Uncorrected manuscript. Bound.

Folders 11-15
"Coming Out Right," 3 November 1991
General note
Also titled "Everywhere but Home."

Folders 16-17
"History...excerpts from Autobiography Covering Historical Background," 15 Oct. 1990
General note
See also Ser.2, "Autobiography."


Physical Description: 2.0 folders

Scope and Contents
Contains photocopies of newspaper and magazine clippings. The primary subjects of these items are Liebman's letter to the National Review in 1990 and the publication of his book Coming Out Conservative in 1992. Gay rights, conservative politics, and anti-gay propaganda are among the other subjects touched upon in the articles. Also included here is a photocopy of "Marvin in Manialand" written by John Gregory Dunne in 1964.

Arrangement note
Arranged chronologically.

Folder 19 1964, 1990
Folder 20 1991-1992

Series 4 Audiovisual materials, 1993

Physical Description: 1.0 videotape

Interview, 1993 March 11

Physical Description: 1.0 videotape

General note