

Finding Aid to The 15 Association Records

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: The 15 Association records

Collection Number: 2018-21

Physical Description: 22 linear feet (15 cartons and 1 oversized box)

Creator: 15 Association

Date (inclusive): 1980-2020

Language of Material: English

Abstract: The 15 Association is fraternity of gay men interested in bondage, domination, sadism, and masochism (BDSM) sexual practices. The records include correspondence, event ephemera and records, newsletters, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings concerning "The 15" and other topics of interest, personal BDSM artifacts and leather vests, and a set of collectible pins.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], The 15 Association records (2018-21), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research. Researchers may not publish or publically disclose names or identifying names or identifying information about individuals for 10 years from the date of donation, unless those individuals have already themselves disclosed, in print or in a public forum, their association with this organization, or unless they are deceased. These restrictions will expire on May 26, 2028.

Publication Rights:

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with this organization, or unless they are deceased. These restrictions will expire on May 26, 2028.

Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Eric See on May 26, 2018. Small additions from Alan Parso-York were added in September 2019. Small ongoing additions are expected.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Rennie Lum in 2019.

Biographical / Organizational Information:

The 15 Association was established in February of 1980 in San Francisco as a fraternity of gay men who are interested in BDSM. It is one of the West Coast's oldest and most recognized gay men's BDSM clubs. The "15" in the name comes from the structure of the organization – there will always be 15 "fraternal members" who sit on the board and make decisions regarding the direction of the club. All other members are called "associate members." Major activities of the 15 Association include monthly play parties, charitable events, and association meetings.

Scope and Content:

The records of the 15 Association include correspondence, event ephemera, newsletters, member and event rosters, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings concerning the 15 and other topics of interest, personal BDSM artifacts and leather vests, and a set of collectible pins. The strength of the collection is found with the event fliers, meeting minutes, and photographs. These series give a historical overview of the involvement and impact that the association has had in the 1980s and 90s within the BDSM scene in San Francisco and beyond.

Arrangement:

The *administrative series* ranges from 1980 to 2016 and includes meeting notes, constitution and bylaws, and individual member files, arranged by date. Of particular interest is the file on the early beginnings of the association.

The *membership series* contains membership applications and rosters, mailing lists, and some individual member files for members of note.

The *events series* contain materials relating to various events hosted or attended by the Association, from 1980 to 2020, including the annual Boot Camp Summer campouts. Arrangement is first by event title and then by date.

The *publications series* contains a wide range of newsletters and articles about the 15. There are also files of other clubs' newsletters which the 15 subscribed to and were used to keep up to date

with the leather and BDSM community within San Francisco and beyond; filed by title, then by dates.

The *correspondence series* contains various letters. These are separated by letters between members, letters from member or non-members to the club. There are letters between the 15 and other BDSM or queer advocacy clubs.

There is a *photograph and media* series that documents events of the 15. These are mainly photos of Boot Camp and anniversary parties, but some other events and media types also. Arranged by creator and date.

The boxes of *artifacts* contain a variety of items. Some are personal belongings, such as badges or leather vests, and some are "The 15" branded items that were given away or available for purchase, such as patches, mugs, or anniversary party handkerchiefs and center pieces.

Indexing Terms

- Sadomasochism
- Leather
- Gay men
- Kink

Container Listing

Series I: Administrative (1980–2016) Physical Description: Cartons 1-3

Scope and Content: The *administrative series* ranges from 1980 to 2016 and includes meeting notes, constitution and bylaws, and individual member files, arranged by date. Of particular interest is the file on the early beginnings of the association.

Early agendas, minutes, typed and handwritten, 1981-1988
Agenda, minutes, 1981-1986
Agenda, Meeting minutes, 1987-1989
Agenda, Meeting minutes, 1990-1993
Minutes, 1994-1995
Minutes, 1996
Minutes, 1997
Minutes, 1998
Minutes, 1999
Minutes, 2000

Carton 1, Folder 11	Minutes, 2001
Carton 1, Folder 12	Meeting notes, Profit/loss, 2002
Carton 1, Folder 13	Agendas, Meeting minutes, 2003-2005
Carton 1, Folder 14	Agendas, Meeting minutes, 2006-2009
Carton 1, Folder 15	Meeting notes/agendas/profit/loss reports 2010-2012
Carton 1, Folder 16	Agendas/Meeting minutes, 2013-2016
Carton 1, Folder 17	Ledgers, 1982-1983
Carton 2, Folder 1	Constitution, Drafts, meeting notes 1981-1995
Carton 2, Folder 2	Bylaws, drafts, meeting notes, 1980-2009
Carton 2, Folder 3	Constitution, Bylaws – Review, Ad-hoc committee, 1980-1999
Carton 2, Folder 4	Incorporation – Non-profit articles of incorporation, CA Franchise Board paperwork, letter from IRS, 1980-2004
Carton 2, Folder 5	Richard Hazelwood (lawyer) correspondence re: incorporation, name, etc, 1980-1982
Carton 2, Folder 6	Bank statements, 1988-1999 Carton 2, Folder 7
Carton 2, Folder 7	Liability analysis, 2010
Carton 2, Folder 8	Liability insurance, 2004-2013
Carton 2, Folder 9	Treasury reports, financial statements, 1981-1989
Carton 2, Folder 10	Treasury reports, financial statements, 1990-2013
Carton 2, Folder 11	Accounting and tax, 1996-2004
Carton 2, Folder 12	Financial transactions, 1998-1999
Carton 2, Folder 13	Secretary's charges, 1995-2000
Carton 2, Folder 14	Checks/records expense sheets 1995-1996
Carton 2, Folder 15	Other receipts, 1984-2016
Carton 3, Folder 1	Club "breakup", scandal, reconstitution, 1991
Carton 3, Folder 2	Founders and list of officers, 1980-1998
Carton 3, Folder 3	Officer job descriptions, no dates
Carton 3, Folder 4	Sorel Fund form, no date
Carton 3, Folder 5	Pseudonym issue, 2002

Carton 3, Folder 6	Website design, 2002
Carton 3, Folder 7	Letterhead, envelopes, no dates
Carton 3, Folder 8	Morning Glory Caterers, 1980
Carton 3, Folder 9	Charitable donations, 1995-1996
Carton 3, Folder 10	Awards, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 11	15 History, 1998-2004
Carton 3, Folder 12	Fraternal Committee, 1988-1994

Series II: Membership (1980–2006) **Physical Description:** Cartons 3-4

Scope and Content: The *membership series* contains membership applications and rosters,

mailing lists, and some individual member files for members of note.

Access Restrictions: Researchers may not publish or publically disclose names or identifying names or identifying information about individuals for 10 years from the date of donation, unless those individuals have already themselves disclosed, in print or in a public forum, their association with this organization, or unless they are deceased. These restrictions will expire on May 26, 2028.

Carton 3, Folder 13	Member file, 1989-1997
Carton 3, Folder 14	Member file, 1989-1991
Carton 3, Folder 15	"Captain" member file, art and correspondence, 1987-1990
Carton 3, Folder 16	Peter Fiske, 1996-2002
Carton 3, Folder 17	Member file, 1994–2004
Carton 3, Folder 18	Member file, 1981–1991
Carton 3, Folder 19	Member file, 2011
Carton 3, Folder 20	Member file, 2002–2004
Carton 3, Folder 21	Member file, 1987–1991
Carton 3, Folder 22	Member file, 1982–1992
Carton 3, Folder 23	Member file, no date
Carton 3, Folder 24	Member file, no dates
Carton 3, Folder 25	Member file, individual members, 1986–2003

Carton 3, Folder 26	Individual Members, various, 1986–2006
Carton 3, Folder 27	Certificates awarded to the 15, 1995-2005
Carton 3, Folder 28	Deaths, various, 1987-2004
Carton 3, Folder 29	Membership card/button/patch/order forms
Carton 3, Folder 30	Blank Membership Applications
Carton 3, Folder 31	Membership acceptance letters & checklist, 1992-2001
Carton 3, Folder 32	Membership renewals (processed), 1999
Carton 3, Folder 33	15 Association Dues Termination + Warning papers
Carton 3, Folder 34	Care, Dues info, 1981
Carton 3, Folder 35	Membership Policies and Procedures
Carton 3, Folder 36	Dues notices, etc., Membership cards
Carton 3, Folder 37	Associate Sponsorship Application 2002
Carton 3, Folder 38	Les's artwork non-party specific
Carton 3, Folder 39	Lists
Carton 3, Folder 40	Image Committee
Carton 3, Folder 41	Men We Know
Carton 3, Folder 42	1997 Questionnaire to Members, 1991 research survey
Carton 3, Folder 43	Committees
Carton 3, Folder 44	Miscellaneous forms
Carton 4, Folder 1	Roster, 1980
Carton 4, Folder 2	Rosters, 1981
Carton 4, Folder 3	Membership list, 1982-1983
Carton 4, Folder 4	Membership Roster, 1984-1985
Carton 4, Folder 5	Membership, 1986
Carton 4, Folder 6	Membership, 1987
Carton 4, Folder 7	Membership roster, 1988
Carton 4, Folder 8	Membership rosters, 1989-1990
Carton 4, Folder 9	Membership roster, 1991-92
Carton 4, Folder 10	Membership roster, 1993-1996
Carton 4, Folder 11	Roster, 1997
Carton 4, Folder 12	Rosters, 1998-99

Carton 4, Folder 13	Membership, 2000-2002
Carton 4, Folder 14	Membership, 2003-2004
Carton 4, Folder 15	Membership Roster, 2005
Carton 4, Folder 16	Mailing Lists, 1982-1990
Carton 4, Folder 17	Mailing Labels, no date, 1992
Carton 4, Folder 18	Membership application cover letter invitations, 1995-2001
Carton 4, Folder 19	Membership Applications 1 of 3, 1980-1985
Carton 4, Folder 20	Membership Applications 2 of 3, 1980-1985
Carton 4, Folder 21	Membership Applications 3 of 3, 1980-1985
Carton 4, Folder 22	Membership Applications, 1986-89
Carton 4, Folder 23	Membership Applications, 1990s
Carton 4, Folder 24	Membership Renewal, 2003
Carton 4, Folder 25	Membership Applications, 2000-2010
Carton 4, Folder 26	Membership Applications, 2011-2013
Carton 4, Folder 27	Membership, 2015

Series III: Events (1980–2020) **Physical Description:** Cartons 5-8

Scope and Content: The *events series* contain materials relating to various events hosted or attended by the Association, from 1980 to 2016, including the annual Boot Camp Summer campouts. Arrangement is first by event title and then by date.

Subseries: 15 Association Hosted Events

Carton 5, Folder 1	Anniversaries 1980-1999
Carton 5, Folder 2	Anniversaries 2000-2020
Carton 5, Folder 3	Custom Fantasy Trips
Carton 5, Folder 4	Induction Weekend 1994-1996
Carton 5, Folder 5	Invitations/registrations 2014-2015
Carton 5, Folder 6	Policy & Behavior at Events
Carton 5, Folder 7	DM Guides and other material
Carton 5, Folder 8	Events spaces - 455 14th Street
Carton 5, Folder 9	Events spaces in SF, Other
Carton 5, Folder 10	Model releases, signed 1992-1994

Carton 5, Folder 11	Music, no date
Carton 5, Folder 12	Party Invites, 1980-84
Carton 5, Folder 13	Party Invites, 1985-89
Carton 5, Folder 14	Party Invites, 1990s
Carton 5, Folder 15	Party Rosters, 2003-2007
Carton 5, Folder 16	Party waivers, ledgers, Scene 6+7 financials, 1981
Carton 5, Folder 17	Party waivers, expenses, - Scene 13, Sep 1983
Carton 5, Folder 18	Party waivers, Scene 15-20 Sep 1984-Apr 1988
Carton 5, Folder 19	Party waivers - Scene Mar 16, 1991
Carton 5, Folder 20	Party releases, rosters, tickets, Nov 28, 2009
Carton 5, Folder 21	Video Party video requests
Carton 5, Folder 22	Video Party Oct 1987 Releases
Carton 5, Folder 23	Waivers - Blank Revised
Carton 5, Folder 24	Waivers - Signed
Subseries: Events hosted b	y other organizations
Carton 5, Folder 25	Castro Street Fair, 2010-2011
Carton 5, Folder 26	Dore Alley, 2000-2007
Carton 5, Folder 27	Gay Day, 1987-1988
Carton 5, Folder 28	Other events, other organizations' events 1994-2006
Carton 5, Folder 29	San Francisco Bondage Club, Wildwood Weekend, May 1986
Subseries: Boot Camp	
Carton 6, Folder 1	Boot Camp XVII Various, 2005
Carton 6, Folder 2	Boot Camp XVII Liability Waivers/Applications, 2005
Carton 6, Folder 3	Boot Camp XVIII Roster/Applications/Releases, 2006
Carton 6, Folder 4	Boot Camp XIX Applications/Releases, 2007
Carton 6, Folder 5	Boot Camp XIX Correspondence/Forms, 2007
Carton 6, Folder 6	Boot Camp XX Attendees/Releases, 2008
Carton 6, Folder 7	Boot Camp XXI 2009
Carton 6, Folder 8	Boot Camp XXIII 2011
Carton 6, Folder 9	Boot Camp XXIV 2012
Carton 6, Folder 10	Boot Camp XXV Applications, Releases, agendas, 2013

Carton 7, Folder 1 Saratoga Springs
Carton 7, Folder 2 Orr Hot Springs

Subseries: Event rosters

Carton 8, Folder 14	November 2005 Party
Carton 8, Folder 15	January 28, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 16	February 25, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 17	March 25, 2006 Anniversary
Carton 8, Folder 18	April 22, 2006 Associate's Weekend
Carton 8, Folder 19	May 27, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 20	June 25, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 21	July 29, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 22	August 26, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 23	September 23, 2006 Folsom Party
Carton 8, Folder 24	October 28, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 25	November 25, 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 26	December 2006 Party
Carton 8, Folder 27	Work Data 2005-2007
Carton 8, Folder 28	January 27, 2007 Party
Carton 8, Folder 29	February 24, 2007 Anniversary Party
Carton 8, Folder 30	May 19, 2007 Party
Carton 8, Folder 31	July 28, 2007 Party Dore Alley
Carton 8, Folder 32	August 31, 2007 Party
Carton 8, Folder 33	Saturday September 24, 2007 Folsom at Mr. S
Carton 8, Folder 34	October 27, 2007
Carton 8, Folder 35	November 2007 Party releases, invites, work schedule, member
guest lists	
Carton 8, Folder 36	Feb 23, 2008 Anniversary Party
Carton 8, Folder 37	April 26, 2008 Party
Carton 8, Folder 38	May 2008 Party

Series IV: Publications (1980-2000s) Physical Description: Cartons 9-11

Scope and Content: The *publications series* contains newsletters and bulletins created by the 15, and a wide range of newsletters and articles about the 15. There are also files of other clubs' newsletters which the 15 subscribed to and were used to keep up to date with the leather and BDSM community within San Francisco and beyond

Subseries: Publications of the 15 Association

1986

Carton 9, Folder 15 Calendars 1981-1993

Carton 9, Folder 16 Signed and/or Original Art

Carton 9, Folder 17 Promo Materials 1980-1996

Carton 9, Folder 18 Promo 2000s

Carton 9, Folder 19 Torture Times 1986-1990

Subseries: Publications by other creators

Carton 10, Folder 1 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Carton 10, Folder 2 AIDS Emergency Fund

Carton 10, Folder 3 Avatar

Carton 10, Folder 4 Californians Against Censorship Together (CAL-ACT)/San

Franciscans Against Censorship Together (SF-ACT)

Carton 10, Folder 5 Chicago Hellfire Club

Carton 10, Folder 6 Coalition for Healthy Sex SF

Carton 10, Folder 7	Committee to Preserve our Sexual & Civil Liberties

Carton 11, Folder 1	Oregon Guild of Activists of S&M	(ORGASM)
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Carton 11, Folder 3 QSM Newsletter

Subseries: Subject articles

Carton 11, Folder 13 Articles about the 15

Carton 11, Folder 14 Gay theory

Carton 11, Folder 15 Prostitutes

Carton 11, Folder 16 Other articles of Interest

Carton 11, Folder 17 Safety

Carton 11, Folder 18 Spanking

Carton 11, Folder 19 Torture

Carton 11, Folder 20 Videos

Carton 11, Folder 21 Whipping/Caning

Series V: Correspondence (1980-2000s)

Physical Description: Carton 12

Scope and Content: The *correspondence series* contains various letters. These are separated by letters between members, letters from member or non-members to the club. There are letters between the 15 and other BDSM or queer advocacy clubs.

Carton 12, Folder 1	Correspondence – Info 1 of 3
Carton 12, Folder 2	Correspondence – Info 2 of 3
Carton 12, Folder 3	Correspondence – Info 3 of 3
Carton 12, Folder 4	Information requests/Inquiries/Video Requests
Carton 12, Folder 5	Members' Personal letters
Carton 12, Folder 6	Correspondence - Members
Carton 12, Folder 7	Correspondence with Members
Carton 12, Folder 8	Correspondence – Misc
Carton 12, Folder 9	Misc Correspondence: Strap et al.
Carton 12, Folder 10	Correspondence – Other Clubs
Carton 12, Folder 11	Correspondence with clubs

Series VI: Photographs, Computer media, audiovisual material (1989-2003)

Physical Description: Carton 13

Scope and Content: The *photograph and media* series documents events of the 15. These are mainly photos of Boot Camp and anniversary parties, but some other events and media types also. There is also a small box containing DVDs, CDs, cassette tapes.

Carton 13, Folder 1	Photos from Boot Camp 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 Featuring
	Peter Fiske, Sarge, Leo, Don, Rick, Rob Kline (1989 – 2003)
Carton 13, Folder 2	Other photos featuring Alexis. Rancho Cicada May 1989, Sep 15-17
	1989 "Branding," Jeff's initiation, 10th Anniversary, Feb 16, 1990;
	David, chairman Les; Boot Camp II, July 20-22, 1990, Rancho
	Cicada; Folsom (?), Boot camp III, June 14-16, 1991
Carton 13, Folder 3	Photos of Drag night at the Rainbow Room, circa 2-28-1999. 36
	photos plus negatives
Carton 13, Folder 4	Charles's photos compiled 1997 featuring Alexis Sorel, Jerry Jansen,
	Peter Fiske, Les, Michel, and others. Folsom, Boot camp 1, 2, 3, 4, 6,
	8, anniversary dinners, Eagle Beer Bust 1996, (1982, 1985-97)
Carton 13, Folder 5	Other photos from Folsom, Boot Camp, anniversary dinners, 1980s-
	1990s
Carton 13, Folder 6	Picnic in the Park, by Jon B., 1996-1998
Carton 13, Folder 7	11th Anniversary Dinner, 1991
Carton 13, Folder 8	Other Boot Camp Photos 1980s-1998
Carton 13	Small box of DVDs, CDs, cassette tapes

Series VII: Artifacts

Physical Description: Cartons 14-15, Oversize box 1

Scope and Content: The boxes of *artifacts* contain a variety of items. Some are personal belongings, such as badges or leather vests, and some are "The 15" branded items that were given away or available for purchase, such as patches, mugs, or anniversary party center pieces.

Carton 14	Insulated cup
	Boot Camp XV Black mug (2003)
	Boot Camp XX white mug (2008)
	Boot Camp XXV belt buckle Jones design (2013)
	Leather key fob with "The 15" embossing (date/provenance unknown)
	Watch with "The 15" face (date/design/event unknown)
	Letter opener XX XV MM (date/event unknown)
	H20 Swag for Boot Camp

Table décor – Anniversary x2

15 brand – painboy Fiske wood tester

Armbands, leather studded, handmade. provenance unknown

Click-Seibert (RIP) – Sheriff cap, patches, ownership tags, IDs, branding iron

R. Barnaby Boot camp 6 dog tag

Auto license plate – "THE 15"

40th Anniversary handkerchief, 2020

Carton 15 Black boot and flower centerpiece

Oversized Carton 1 Leather 15 Association Vest with pins and patches, Gift of Fred

Vaselenak

Leather 15 Association Vest with patches

Buttons and pins

15 Association founders name plaque