



Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas Collection

2003-2005

1 box (0.5 linear foot)

Call no.: MS1045

Collection overview

Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas is a personal historian and the founder of Mosaic Memoirs, a service that assists people in recording, editing, and producing oral histories, memoirs, and other family stories. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Holyoke Community College, she has been particularly interested in recording "ordinary lives" and lives connected with social justice struggles.

On May 17, 2004, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* that it was unconstitutional to prohibit same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. On the first day of legalized same-sex marriage, Rakouskas conducted interviews with couples getting married, city clerks, and others. Her collection also includes an assortment of other materials documenting the first day of full marriage equality.

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[Civil rights](#)[LGBTQ](#)

Background on Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas

Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas is a personal historian and the founder of Mosaic Memoirs, a service that assists people in recording, editing, and producing oral histories, memoirs, and other family stories. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Holyoke Community College, she has been particularly interested in recording "ordinary lives" and lives connected with social justice struggles.

Scope of collection

On May 17, 2004, the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts ruled in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* that it was unconstitutional to prohibit same-sex marriage. Active in promoting marriage equality, Rakouskas conducted interviews and collected other materials documenting the first day of legal same sex marriage in the Commonwealth.

Inventory

| Interviews | 2004 May 17 | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| ▶ Cahillane, Deborah and Katherine Hayford | 2004 May 17 | 00:05:39 |
| ▶ Chicopee City Clerk (Nancy A. Mulvey) | 2004 May 17 | 00:04:32 |
| ▶ Conley, William (lobbyist for Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Caucus) | 2004 May 17 | 00:04:39 |
| ▶ Denny, Elizabeth and Julie Pokela | 2004 May 17 | 00:05:19 |
| ▶ Durand, Dorothy and Dee Lock | 2004 May 17 | 00:11:43 |
| ▶ Feldman, Nina and Sylvia K. Vasquez | 2004 May 17 | 00:03:47 |
| ▶ Galligan, John and Rick Koonce | 2004 May 17 | 00:16:16 |
| ▶ Garrow, Suzanne (attorney, Women's Bar Association) | 2004 May 17 | 00:02:57 |
| ▶ Gray, Susan and Deborah Hudson | 2004 May 17 | 00:11:43 |
| ▶ Knapp, Liza B. and Laura Wondolowski | 2004 May 17 | 00:08:11 |
| ▶ Koonce, Rick PFLAG | 2004 May 17 | 00:00:28 |
| ▶ Libby, Doreen and Joanna Rome | 2004 May 17 | 00:11:04 |
| ▶ Libby, Doreen and Joanna Rome [post-filing] | 2004 May 17 | 00:08:08 |
| McCoy, Joe and Stan McCoy | 2004 May 17 | 00:07:50 |
| ▶ Merrell, Rachel and Douglas Koll | 2004 May 17 | 00:04:36 |
| ▶ Merrell, Rachel and Douglas Koll | 2004 May 17 | 00:00:27 |
| ▶ Nortonsmith, Heidi and Gina Northonsmith [applause for and public comment] | 2004 May 17 | 00:03:06 |
| ▶ Osherow, Marjorie and Gretchen Brockmeyer | 2004 May 17 | 00:10:12 |
| ▶ Raging Grannies | 2004 May 17 | 00:01:52 |
| ▶ Rankin, Jeffrey and David Stevens | 2004 May 17 | 00:11:40 |
| ▶ Rankin, Jeffrey and David Stevens [post-filing excerpt] | 2004 May 17 | 00:00:33 |
| ▶ Roth, Stacy [consultant for non-profits in LGBTQ community] | 2004 May 17 | 00:06:03 |
| ▶ Sorell, J. Mary (JM JP), Justice of the Peace | 2004 May 17 | 00:02:45 |
| ▶ Sorrentino, Deborah and Rosemary Polimine | 2004 May 17 | 00:14:28 |
| ▶ Springfield City Clerk (William Metzger) | 2004 May 17 | 00:02:26 |
| ▶ Wilkins-Carmody, Donna and Kathy Wilkins-Carmody | 2004 May 17 | 00:11:14 |

| Series 2. Documents | 2003-2005 | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Correspondence | 2003-2004 | |
| Contents : Re: support for marriage equality; distribution of project. | | |
| Marriage equality: background | 2003-2005 | |
| Contents : Materials on the struggle for marriage in Massachusetts. Includes some ephemera relating to marriage equality, including Northampton Pride visitor and resource guide, equal marriage stickers. | | |
| News clippings | 2004 Feb.- Sept. | |
| Project management | ca.2004 | |

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas, June 2018 (2018-100).

Digitized content

With one exception, the interviews have been digitized and may be **heard online through SCUA's digital repository, Credo**.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, April 2019.

Language:

English

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Cite as: Eileen McCarthy Rakouskas Collection (MS 1045). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Same-sex marriage--Massachusetts

Genres and formats

- Audiocassettes
- Compact discs
- Sound recordings

Link to similar SCUA collections

[Civil rights](#) [LGBTQ](#)