

GLBT Historical Society
Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Special Collections
Holdings Related to People With Disabilities

Last edited: November 2019

Prepared by: Isaac Fellman

This research guide is intended to help users locate holdings related to people with disabilities at the GLBT Historical Society.

It highlights holdings in the following areas:

- Organizational records and personal papers
- Periodicals
- Ephemera

Other collections may contain relevant materials. Researchers are encouraged to also conduct their own searches of the catalog and finding aids. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist (reference@glbthistory.org) with any questions or comments.

Organizational records and personal papers

Skip Aiken papers, 1994-29

Skip Aiken was a computer programmer who was very active in San Francisco's leather and uniform fetish scenes; he was also a recovering alcoholic and American Sign Language interpreter who often volunteered his services at his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Aiken's collection contains extensive and deeply personal correspondence with family, friends, and lovers, as well as other materials relating to sobriety, sign language, kink, and AIDS.

Julia/Dolphin Trahan papers, 1997-28

Julia/Dolphin Trahan is a lesbian performance artist who uses a wheelchair as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. Her work often explores sexuality and gender, challenging the idea of the disabled body as asexual and genderless. Trahan's collection includes correspondence, flyers advertising performances, reviews, and zines, as well as several videotapes of performances.

Diane Hugs papers, 2001-26

Diane Hugaert, known in her activist and literary life as Diane Hugs, was a prominent early member of the Wry Crips, a disabled women's theater group with close ties to the disability rights movement. Much of the collection consists of Hugs' detailed and emotional diaries (kept from 1982 to 2001), which chronicle her relationships, her activism, the progression of her illness, and her work to recover from childhood trauma.

ABLE-TOGETHER records, 2002-33

ABLE-TOGETHER was a gay and bisexual men's disability advocacy organization; it published a magazine, also called ABLE-TOGETHER, in which subscribers could connect via personal ads. The collection contains organizational records and correspondence, the latter largely with readers about their ads, though some of it is more detailed and revealing.

Jessica Barshay papers, 2003-04

Jessica Barshay (1940-1998) was a psychotherapist who lived with multiple disabilities, including asthma, Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome (CFIDS), and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS). Barshay was a lesbian feminist and identified strongly with both Jewish and Buddhist faiths. The collection includes correspondence, journals, subject files, newsletters, medical records, and professional papers.

Gay Poetry Circle records, 2008-18

The Gay Poetry Circle of San Francisco appears to have been active in the early 1980s and included poets George Berimisa, John Powers, Lloyd Stensrud, Charlie Casey, Wallace Parr, Joe Alderham, Jordan Lee, Don Chan Mark, Loren E. Rhoads, and possibly others. The collection consists entirely of poems and short fiction, most of it photocopied. This collection also contains poems by the poet, academic, and disability activist Christopher Hewitt (1946-2004).

Judy Freespirit collection, 2008-48

Judy Freespirit (Judith Louise Berkowitz Ackerman) was an activist, writer, and performer who lived with disabilities stemming from asthma and environmental allergies. Her work focused on the subjects of women, lesbians, Jewish culture, fat acceptance, disability rights, and incest survival. Freespirit was of the earliest members of the fat acceptance movement, as coauthor (with Vivian Mayer) of the 1973 *Fat Liberation Manifesto*. The collection includes manuscripts and journals; subject files on various activist, therapeutic, and religious topics; and audiotapes, videotapes, and film of various performances, including Freespirit's own.

Laura J. Bock papers, 2013-21

Laura J. Bock was a Jewish lesbian activist and second-wave feminist who advocated for various leftist causes, for fat acceptance, and – after becoming blind as an adult – for people with disabilities. Bock's papers include correspondence, writings, photographs, biographical information and personalia, business records, subject files, ephemera, and artifacts.

Eric Jazman papers, 2017-21

Eric Jazman was a designer who lived with AIDS-related dementia; he made a film (*I Still Am*) about his condition, and continued to advocate for the destigmatization of dementia as his illness advanced. The collection consists of Jazman's papers and memorabilia, arranged by his partner William Eddelman into scrapbook-like binders which memorialize the different facets of his life.

Cypress papers, 2001-09

Cypress (Susan Rosenthal Glick), 1943-1997, was a working-class Jewish writer, photographer, and political activist who alternately identified as lesbian and bisexual. For most of her life, she lived with a disability variously described in the collection as depression, schizophrenia, or an unspecified emotional disability. The collection contains Cypress' art, photography, writing, and journals, as well as various personal documents, subject files, and biographical material compiled by her friends.

Periodicals

Title: Edge Newsletter

Type: Newsletter
Alternate Title:
Subtitle:
Organization: Education In a Disabled Gay Environment
Holdings: vol.2 #2 (Spr/Sum 1988)

Title: Gay Men's Disabled Group Newsletter
Type: Newsletter
Alternate Title: GMDG
Subtitle:
Organization: Gay Men's Disabled Group
Holdings: #6 (Fall 1984)

Title: Hikan
Type: Magazine
Alternate Title:
Subtitle: disabled wimmin's magazine for lesbians and our wimmin friends
Organization:
Holdings: #6 (Spr 1992) - #7 (Sum 1992), #10 (Spr 1993) - #12 (Aut 1993)

Title: Mainstream
Type: Newsletter
Alternate Title: Mainstream Newsletter
Subtitle: An Advocacy Network for Gay & Lesbian Disabled People
Organization: Mainstream
Holdings: One issue (n.d.)

Title: Dykes, Disability & Stuff
Type: Magazine
Alternate Title: DD&S|Dykes, Disability and Stuff
Subtitle: Cause we always have stuff to share
Organization:
Holdings: vol. 1 #1 (Sum 1988) - #4 (Spr 1989); vol. 2 #1 (Sum 1989)

Title: Mouth
Type: Magazine
Alternate Title:
Subtitle: Voice of Disability Rights
Organization:
Holdings: vol. 5 #1 (May/Jun 1994); vol. 6 #1 (May/Jun 1995), #2 (Jly/Aug 1995)

Title: The Disability Rag and Resource
Type: Zine
Alternate Title:
Subtitle:
Organization:

Holdings: vol. 15 #2 (Mar/Apr 1994)

Title: Coming Together

Type: Magazine

Alternate Title:

Subtitle: Bringing Together Deaf, HH, HS Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities Everywhere

Organization:

Holdings: vol. 1 #4 (Aug/Spt 1992); Vol 2 #1 (Spring 1995); #2 (Fall 1995/Win 1996)

Title: DGLC Update

Type: Newsletter

Alternate Title: Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center Update

Subtitle: Newsletter of the Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center

Organization: Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center

Holdings: #4 (Jun/Jul 1993), #5 (Aug/Sep 1993), #7 (Jan 1994)

Title: San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf Newsletter

Type: Newsletter

Alternate Title:

Subtitle:

Organization: San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf

Holdings: vol. 2 #2 (Spr 1990)

Title: Deaf Community AIDS Project Newsletter

Type: Newsletter

Alternate Title:

Subtitle: The future is now, Come with us...

Organization: Deaf Community AIDS Project (Deaf CAP)

Holdings: vol. 1 #1 (Spr 1991), #3 (Fall/Win 1991)

Title: Visual Aid News

Type: Newsletter

Alternate Title:

Subtitle: Assisting Artists with Life-Threatening Illnesses to Continue their Work

Organization: Visual Aid

Holdings: vol. 1 #6 (Mar 1994), #8 (Aug 1994), #8 (Nov 1994), #10 (Jun 1995), #11 (Jun 1996) #12 (Sep 1996); vol. 2 #1 (Feb 1997), #2 (May 1997), #3 (Nov 1997); vol. 3 #1 (Mar 1999), #3 (Oct 1999); vol. 4 #3 (Fall 2000)

Ephemera

The GLBT Historical Society has a large collection of ephemera arranged by subject. Relevant topics include:

General Subjects Ephemera:

Disability Rights

Groups Ephemera:

Fabled Asp (Fabulous Bay Area Lesbians with Disabilities: A Storytelling Project)

LESBIDIS (Lesbian, Bisexual, Disabled Women's Community Project)