

Finding Aid to the Eileen Hansen papers

2008-40

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Eileen Hansen papers

Collection Number: 2008-40

Physical Description: 5.2 linear feet (2 cartons, 1 manuscript box, 1 half manuscript box, 1 oversized box)

Creator: Hansen, Eileen

Date (inclusive): 1977-2002

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Eileen Hansen (1951-2016) was a lesbian political activist and queer community organizer. She was heavily involved in HIV/AIDS activism in San Francisco and the Bay Area from the mid 1980's through the 1990's. She also helped to organize the Bay Area contingent to the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, managed Tom Ammiano's 1999 San Francisco mayoral campaign, and ran for San Francisco District 8 Supervisor. A majority of the collection consists of Hansen's subject files related to the organizations and causes to which she contributed. There are also audio cassette tapes of talks she attended or presented at conferences, and VHS tapes from the Ammiano campaign. Some oversized material is present as well, including signs from her own campaigns for District 8 Supervisor and a portrait of her.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Eileen Hansen papers (2008-40), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research.

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Acquisition Information: The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Eileen Hansen in June of 2008. Additional material was donated by Denise Wells, Hansen's partner, in April of 2024.

Processing Information: This collection was rehoused, arranged, and described by Mike Gallant in 2025.

The collection was received in Eileen Hansen's original file folders, which were mostly named for organizations or events. The file names have been retained, but they've been rearranged chronologically to give a sense of what Hansen was working on throughout the years represented in the collection. The Coalition Against Surveillance files were originally in three folders, but since Mike Gallant determined there was no meaningful difference in what they contained, the contents were merged into one file split across 5 folders. Two folders were unnamed, and so were named by Mike Gallant as he processed the collection. They are folder 2:6 - Letters and folder 2:12 - Political and candidate advocacy, 1992-1993.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical Note: Eileen Hansen was born on May 1, 1951 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She moved to San Francisco in 1985 from Boston, and spent the rest of her life living in San Francisco, most of that time with her partner, Denise Wells.

Hansen was heavily involved in progressive politics, lesbian and queer activism, and the women's movement throughout her adult life. Before moving to San Francisco, Hansen participated in protests against the Vietnam War, Black civil rights protests, and labor organizing. In San Francisco, her activism centered on HIV/AIDS and queers communities. Her organizing spanned from neighborhood projects about community spaces to getting out the vote during local elections to helping organize the Bay Area contingent for the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Support for women's causes were a consistent throughline of her political work, as seen in her support for domestic violence survivors, advocacy for abortion access and reproductive rights, and work centering women with HIV/AIDS.

Hansen's professional life was spent running AIDS advocacy organizations and electoral campaigns. She was the executive director of the Marin AIDS Support Network from 1987 to 1988, the executive director of the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network from 1990 to 1994, and the policy director for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) from 1994 to 2000. In the 1990's, she ran political campaigns for progressive and queer candidates, including Tom Ammiano, Carole Migden, and Simeon White. She also helped organize progressive political coalitions. Eventually, she ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors herself in 2000 and 2002, narrowly losing the District 8 seat both times. She also received many appointments to city commissions, including the Building Inspection Commission, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors' Joint Task Force on the HIV Epidemic, and the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

Eileen Hansen died on April 29th, 2016 of multiple myeloma, two days shy of her 65th birthday. An obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle* described her as "devoted... to the work of advocating for people left out and left behind." Tom Ammiano and Aaron Peskin, speaking to the *Bay Area Reporter*, recalled that her integrity and ethics were remarkable in city politics.

Scope and Content: This collection contains subject files related to the political work and professional career of Eileen Hansen. The records span from 1977 through 2002, though most stem from the time period after she moved to San Francisco in 1985.

The files include a range of formats, including board materials; correspondence, emails, and memos; executive summaries, reports, and working papers; flyers; mailing lists; meeting agendas and minutes; news clippings; newsletters; notes; photographs; speeches; audiocassettes and VHS. Organizations represented include the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network (NLGAN), Citizens for Medical Justice (CMJ), the Marin AIDS Support Network (MASN), Coalition Against Surveillance (CAS), and the Women's AIDS Network (WAN). Events documented include the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (particularly the civil disobedience action about the verdict in *Bowers v. Hardwick*), National Lesbian Conferences, and the Creating Change Conference. The audio cassettes contain recordings of conferences she attended or presented at. Also included are materials from electoral campaigns she participated in, including Tom Ammiano's mayoral campaign, Hansen's 2000 and 2002 Supervisorial campaigns, the People's Budget, as well as work with the Progressive Alliance. The collection's video tapes stem from the mayoral campaign Hansen ran for Tom Ammiano in 1999, except for one tape of the 1989 San Francisco Pride parade.

Indexing Terms:

Hansen, Eileen

LGBTQ

Lesbians

Activism

AIDS (disease)
 Feminism
 Health
 Homophobia
 Law
 Politics and elections
 Reproductive rights
 Civil disobedience
 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (2nd : 1987 : Washington, D.C.)
 San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)
 Boston (Mass.)

Container Listing

Series I: Personal Papers

Physical Description: 4.8 linear feet (2 cartons, 1 half manuscript box, 1 oversize box)

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically by the earliest date represented in each file.

Carton 1: Folder 1	Gay Speakers Bureau, 1977
1:2	Combahee River Collective, circa 1979
1:3	Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women service group, 1981
1:4	June 12 march and rally, 1981-1982
1:5-6	Women + LGBT 1 of 2, 1981-1987
1:7-8	Women + LGBT 2 of 2, 1981-1985
1:9	Photos, 1981, 1984-1987
1:10-11	Clippings re AIDS, 1983-1990
1:12	Mission Community Coalition, 1984-1985
1:13	Civil disobedience planning, circa 1985
1:14	LaRouche Campaign, 1986
1:15	No on 64, 1986
1:16	The Exchange-National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network [complete run], 1986-1993
1:17-18	Bay Area committee/National March on Washington, 1987
1:19	LAGAI (Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention), circa 1987
1:20	March on Washington 1987, 1987
1:21-23	National info/National March on Washington, 1987
1:24	National Lawyers Guild history, 1987
1:25	Vigil/quarantine/CMJ (Citizens for Medical Justice), 1987
1:26	Civil disobedience, 1987-1988

1:27	ACT NOW. 1987-1989
1:28	National Lesbian Conference, 1987-1989
1:29	10th anniversary: cd in DC-SF, 1987, 1997
Carton 2: Folder 1	MASN (Marin AIDS Support Network), 1988
2:2	National Lesbian Conference, 1988-1989
2:3	AIDS activism clippings, 1988-1989, 1999
2:4	Dissolution of National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network 1995, 1988-1997
2:5	In Defense of Roe Conference + clippings re abortion rights, 1989
2:6	Letters, 1989
2:7	National Lesbian Conference 1991, 1991
2:8-9	Gulf War, 1991-1998
2:10	14th National LG Health Conference 1992, 1992
2:11	B of A (Bank of America) center, 1992
2:12	Political and candidate advocacy, 1992-1993
2:13	NLGAN (National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network) board, 1992-1994
2:14	Queer summit, 1993
2:15-19	CAS (Coalition Against Surveillance), 1993-1994
2:20	African american and Queers, 1993-1995
2:21	Simeon White, 1993-1994, 2004
2:22	Carole/[unidentified] election '94, 1994
2:23	L and G center administrative wk group, 1994-1995
2:24	Coors, 1997, 2000
2:25	Women's advocacy trainings, 1997-2000
2:26	Barriers to healthcare for HIV positive women - presentation, 1998
2:27	Creating Change Conference 1998, 1998
2:28	Women's AIDS Network 1998, 1998
2:29	Nation Magazine - "Rebuilding the Gay Movement" 1999, 1999
2:30	People's Budget 1999, 1999
2:31	Millenium March, 1999-2000
2:32	People's Budget 2000, 1999-2000
2:33-35	People's Budget 2001, 1999-2001
Box 1: Folder 1	Progressive Alliance, 1999-2001
Box 1:2	Progressive agenda, 1999-2002
Box 1:3	Bob Basker - obit + memorial program, 2001
Box 1:4	Eight Alliance, 2001-2002

Oversize Box 1

- "Statewide Workers Conference Against Briggs/Prop 6" Poster - Sept 1978

- Portrait of Hansen by Freddie Niem - 2000
- Campaign posters from Hansen's District 8 Supervisor campaigns - 2000-2002
- Button: "Dare to Struggle Dare to Win" - undated

Series II: Audiovisual Material

Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 Manuscript Box)

Arrangement: Materials are arranged in rough chronological order. Undated items are at the end of the list. The processing archivist used twine to tie together cassettes from similar events. .

Box 2: AV Items

VHS:

- San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade - 1989 TRT 60:00
- Ammiano Debate 12/02/99 ch 7; Ultimate Betrayal 03/20/94
- Ammiano Campaign - News w/ Eileen (short - blank from where tape is stopped)
- AMMIANO FOR MAYOR
- 2 VHS: Tom Ammiano for Mayor/Joy Reid's Video Project

Audio Cassettes:

- A Boston Chinatown Oak St Mural Dedication Ceremony, September 24 1986
 - The ceremony is bilingual. Hansen is likely the emcee.
- Physician Heal Thyself: The Impact of Stress, Burn Out And High Achievement; 14th NLGHC - Los Angeles, CA 7-11-92; VII-9
 - NLGHC is the National Lesbian/Gay Health Conference
- HIV+ Health Care The Crisis Confronting: 14th NLGHC - Los Angeles, CA 7-11-92
- MAB Segrest Opening Speaker; NGLTF Policy Institute; 6th Creating Change Nov. 12-14. 1993; PL01; 92
 - NGLTF is the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- Anti-Semitism; NGLTF Policy Institute; 6th Creating Change Nov. 12-14. 1993; MB2; 92
- Town Meeting: Access to Power; NGLTF Policy Institute; 6th Creating Change Nov. 12-14. 1993; TM01; 92
- WHV95-1 HIV Infection in Women: Setting a New Agenda; History of the HIV Epidemic in Women; Flemng, Wolfe, Lucy, Anastos
- WHV95-23 HIV Infection in Women: Setting a New Agenda; Disclosure Issues & Partner Notification; Moneyham, Skurnick, Gielen, Rothenberg, Clark
- WHV95-48 HIV Infection in Women: Setting a New Agenda; Advocacy & Influencing Policy; Davids, Young, Hansen, Banzhaf, Bellamy, Ueda
 - Hansen is a panelist. She's the first panelist to be introduced after the moderators on Side A
- AID96-70 8th Annual AIDS Update Conference; Lesbians & AIDS: What are the Issues?; A.Hollibaugh, E. Hansen, M. Plumb

- Hansen is listed as a panelist, but the first speaker says that she is filling in for Hansen, who couldn't attend due to an emergency
- Empowerment, Community Mobilisation and Social Change the Face of HIV/AIDS - Perinatal Transmission - Female-Controlled Methods to Prevent Sexual Transmission of HIV - HIV Vaccines July 9, 1996; XI International Conference on AIDS; AIDS-96
- Spine: Mandatory Names Reporting Panel 8/10/97; Front: 8/10/97 Life Panel - 3 tapes
 - Tape 1, Side A: Counseling + Testing; (Q+A on Tape 2 side B)
 - Tape 1, Side B: Finish of Counseling + Testing; Partner Notification
 - Tape 2, Side A: Partner Notification Q+A; Mandatory Names Reporting Discussion
 - Tape 2, Side B: Counseling/Testing + Mandatory Names Reporting Q+A, only partially full
 - Tape 3, Side A: Reports Back from the Five Focus Groups, only partially full
- Name Reporting Unique Identifiers & HIV Policy, APHA
 - APHA is the American Public Health Association, this tape is from their annual meeting, Nov 1998 in DC
- HIV Nat'l Prevention Conf; Atlanta/GA 8/29-9/1 1999; Surveillance and Privacy Panel; Tape # 100
- HIV Nat'l Prevention Conf; Atlanta/GA 8/29-9/1 1999; Surveillance for HIV/AIDS STDs and Beyond Panel; Tape # 126
- HIV Nat'l Prevention Conf; Atlanta/GA 8/29-9/1 1999; Activities Supported by
- Congressional Black Caucus Panel; Tape # 127
- WAN-KALW 4.5.96
 - Hansen and Lisa O'Connor on a radio show representing the Women's AIDS Network
- WNL 1 - 20th National Conference on Women & The Law; Roe v. Wade: The Fight Continues – N. Stearns, S. Lowe, N. Taub, H. Trias-Rodriguez, & R. Copelon
 - Undated