

Finding Aid to the Ken Hamai Papers

(2022-25)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Ken Hamai papers

Collection Number: 2022-55

Physical Description: 1 linear foot (1 oversized box)

Creator: Hamai, Ken

Date (inclusive): circa 1979-1981

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Two, spiral bound photo scrapbooks of Ken Hamai, a lifelong San Francisco resident, co-owner of Bay Winds Lighting Company, and a gay, Japanese American man. The albums' snapshots depict Hamai's relationships and social life in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as several events, including the 1979 Gay Freedom Day Parade, the 1979 Cherry Blossom Festival; the 1981 International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade; the 1981 Black Point Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Marin County; and several Beaux Arts Balls.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Ken Hamai papers (2022-25), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Ken Hamai in February 2021.

Processing Information:

Collection processed and finding aid created by Devin McGeehan Muchmore in 2024 with funding provided by the National Archives' National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Ken Hamai (December 1, 1946–October 1, 2022) was a lifelong San Francisco resident and co-owner, with his husband Jack Henyon (born September 30, 1947), of the Bay Winds Lighting Company. Hamai and Henyon got together in 1970 and married at San Francisco City Hall on October 20, 2008. A gay, Japanese American man, Hamai was a longtime supporter of GAPA (now known as the LGBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance), attending all of the organization's Runway shows since they began in 1988.

Scope and Content: This collection consists of two, spiral bound photo albums. The albums contain color snapshots depicting Hamai's relationships and social life in the San Francisco Bay Area, including house parties, gatherings of friends in the Russian River area, travel photos from Yosemite National Park, and Hamai and Henyon's 10th anniversary celebration; and events, including the 1979 Gay Freedom Day Parade, the 1979 Cherry Blossom Festival; the 1981 International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade; the 1981 Black Point Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Marin County; and several Beaux Arts Balls.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Gay men

Asian Americans

Photographs

Albums (Books)

San Francisco (Calif.)

Photography

Container Listing

Box 1

[gold, pink, and red scrapbook], circa 1979

Scope and content: A spiral bound, "magnetic" photo

album with gold, pink, and red brocade cloth boards. The album's color snapshots depict the 1979 Gay Freedom Day Parade; house parties; the 1979 Cherry Blossom Festival; travel photos from Yosemite National Park; and a Beaux Arts Ball.

Box 1

[gold and white scrapbook], circa 1979-1981

Scope and content: A spiral bound, "magnetic" photo album with white and gold brocade cloth boards. The album's color snapshots depict Hamai and a group of friends at the 1979 Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco; the 1981 International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade; Hamai and Henyon's 10th anniversary celebration; a 1981 friends' gathering along the Russian River; the 1981 Black Point Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Marin County; and a Tavern Guild Beaux Arts Ball. The album includes labels that were added by the creator at an unknown date.