
Guide to the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators Records, 1985-1995

Accession number: 94-18

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators Records,

Date (inclusive): 1985-1995

Accession number: 94-18

Creator: Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators

Extent: 4 inches

Repository: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

San Francisco, California.

Language: English

Acquisition

The Records (# 94-18) were donated to GLHS by two individuals in 1994 and 1997.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Audio-Visual Materials

Photographs.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators Records, 94-18, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Historical Note

The Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators was an organization created to support gay, lesbian and bisexual educators and gay, lesbian and bisexual youth and their families in Bay Area schools. It was co-founded in San Francisco by Rob Birle, a student teacher in Antioch, CA, and another person, in 1984. The goals of the group ranged from trying to be a social support network for gay, lesbian and bisexual teachers to advocating for political change. Initially the group met only in San Francisco, but by the mid to late 1980s chapters began to develop in the South Bay, Contra Costa County and the East Bay. A small chapter struggled in Sonoma for a few years and then folded. To facilitate coordination and communications between chapters, a regional steering committee was created sometime in 1987, with representatives from each chapter. A newsletter was published, beginning in the mid 1980s, which initially included news just from San Francisco, and expanded to include regional news as the chapters grew. Eventually each chapter took on the work of producing their own newsletter.

Over the years the individual chapters took on a variety of projects. One of the most successful projects was the BANGLE scholarship, initiated by the Contra Costa Chapter. This \$500 scholarship, now called the Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship, served both to raise consciousness as well as to provide positive publicity for BANGLE. The San Francisco chapter soon followed in the steps of Contra Costa and started a scholarship in 1990. In 1992, the San Francisco Chapter joined with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to offer what are now multiple \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships include the Rob Birle Memorial Scholarship and the George Kronenberger Memorial Scholarship, named after the PG&E employee who initiated the collaboration between BANGLE and PG&E. The East Bay Chapter developed an essay contest that it holds on a yearly basis, with a \$500 first prize. Other successful projects included the Adopt-A-Book Project, where books were bought and donated to schools in San Francisco and Contra Costa; the Anti-Slur Campaign, to try and encourage schools to enforce their rules against the use of homophobic slurs at school; and marching and outreach activities related to the yearly lesbian, gay, bisexual pride parades. One of the most successful moments of political activism was when BANGLE agitated for the development of Support Services for Gay and Lesbian Youth, a program designed to aid gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth, their families and educators in the San Francisco Unified School District. This district-wide program was instituted in 1990, continues to this day in 1998.

BANGLE was absorbed into the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in 1997, a national organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight educators' organizations.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence, minutes from meetings (primarily regional steering committee meetings) some financial records, and sparse news clippings. It also includes documents about various BANGLE projects including youth advocacy, a lesbian and gay parenting forum, Project Empowerment (a weekend workshop designed to empower lesbian, gay and bisexual educators) and the S.F. BANGLE scholarship (for 1994 only). Finally, materials from the Gay and Lesbian United Educators of the United Educators of San Francisco (the local teacher's union) are also included, a group with strong ties to BANGLE and strongly overlapping membership.

Many of the records are incomplete and it is important to remember that the chapters, although linked through the regional steering committee, often functioned quite independently.

Materials Removed from the Collection

Photographs are in the Photo Room.

Related Collections

The Network News (BANGLE Newsletter) National Gay and Lesbian Caucus Newsletter

- Box Box 1 **Correspondence, 1987 - 1993**
- Financial Records (sparse) 1987 - 1994**
- Minutes- S.F. Chapter, 1991 - 1992**
- Minutes- South Bay Chapter, 1988**

Minutes- Regional Steering Committee, 1987 - 1990

News Clippings, 1985 - 1989

Outreach/Support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Youth, 1992

Parenting Forum

Poster/Handouts

Project Empowerment, 1991

Projects

Project Empowerment, 1991

PG & E Scholarship, 1992

PG & E Scholarship, 1993

PG & E Scholarship, 1994

Union, 1987 - 1989

Union Legal Rights Booklet

Union, 1987 - 1989

Correspondence, 1987 - 1993

Financial Records (sparse) 1987 - 1994

Minutes- S.F. Chapter, 1991 - 1992

Minutes- South Bay Chapter, 1988

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Scholarship (1992 - 1994)

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Union Legal Rights Booklet