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Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Allen Roskoff papers

1972-2004

MssCol 17765

Compiled by Lea Jordan, February 2011

Summary

Creator: Roskoff, Allen

Title: Allen Roskoff papers, 1972-2004

Size: 2.81 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Donated by Allen Roskoff, 2007

Abstract: Alan Roskoff is a gay rights activist living and working in New York City. The Allen Roskoff papers consist of subject files which document his interest in political and social activism from 1972 to 2004.

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Related collections

Gay Activists Alliance records, 1970-1983. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

International Gay Information Center collection. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator history

Alan Roskoff is a gay rights activist living and working in New York City. He began his activism in the early 1970's after joining the Gay Activists Alliance. While there he was chief lobbyist for the nation's first gay rights bill, which he co-authored. In 1973, Roskoff and his partner Jim Owles formed the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats. In 2004, along with other liberal gay Democratic activists Roskoff formed the Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club in Owles' memory. Roskoff was also the first openly gay appointed official in New York City, having served on the executive staff of the New York City Comptroller, and appointments in the offices of Governor Mario Cuomo, Mayor David Dinkins, Public Advocate Mark Green, and State Senate Democratic Minority Leaders Martin Connor and David Paterson. He has also written regular political columns for various publications, including *The New York Native*, *Outweek*, *QW* and the *New York Blade*.

Scope and content note

The Allen Roskoff papers consist of his subject files which document his interest in political and social gay rights activism from 1972 to 2004. Included are organizational materials, flyers, copies of articles and interviews by Roskoff, and some correspondence (primarily incoming). Files are arranged by subject with the bulk of the material concerning Roskoff's support of political candidates during election years (1972-1996) and attempts to pass gay rights legislature – primarily anti-discrimination in employment laws. Other subject files concern prominent activists and gay events and organizations. Topics range from protests against Anita Bryant's Dade County "Save Our Children" campaign in 1977 to correspondence from pro-gay religious groups and leaders and documentation of protests against the movie, *Cruising* - complete with a screenplay. Roskoff often retained the literature and handouts of the opposing parties, particularly with the "Save Our Children" materials and election materials. Also included are several oversized gay rights and campaign posters, as well as a mounted proclamation from Governor Mario Cuomo declaring Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, and the pen used by to sign New York's Executive Order Number 28, which states that no State department or agency may discriminate when employing on the basis of sexual orientation.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

Gay activists -- United States
Gay liberation movement -- United States
Gay men -- Political activity
Gay rights

Names

Roskoff, Allen

Special formats

Posters

Places

New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 1951-
New York (State) -- Politics and government --
1951-

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Americans for Democratic Action , 1975-1981
- b.1 f.2 Anti-Gay, undated
- b.1 f.3 Anti-Nazis, undated
- b.1 f.4 Campaign Stickers, undated
- b.1 f.5 City Council, 1979-1990
- b.1 f.6 Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, 1985-1987
- b.1 f.7 *Cruising*, 1979
- b.1 f.8 Congress, 1972-1974
- b.2 f.1 Cuomo, Governor Mario, 1984-1986
- b.7 f.1 Cuomo, Governor Mario, 1984
- b.2 f.2 Dade County, 1977
Elections, 1972-1996
- b.2 f.3 1972
- b.2 f.4 1973
- b.2 f.5 1976
- b.2 f.6 1980
- b.2 f.7 1984
- b.2 f.8 1985
- b.2 f.9 1986
- b.3 f.1 1988
- b.3 f.2 1989
- b.3 f.3 1996
- b.3 f.4 FBI, 1972
- b.3 f.5 Gay Activists Alliance, 1972-2004
- b.3 f.6 Gay Ceremonies, 1994-1996
- b.4 f.1 Gay Groups, undated
- b.4 f.2 Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, 1979-1988
- b.4 f.3 Gay Pride Sculptures, 1981
- b.4 f.4 Green, Mark, 2001
Legislation
- b.4 f.5 Intro 1, 1983
- b.5 f.1 Intro 2, 1974
- b.5 f.2 Intro 2, 1986
- b.5 f.3 Intro 384, 1978
- b.5 f.4 Intro 475, 1971
- b.5 f.5 Intro 554, 1975
- b.5 f.6 Intro 1017, 1981
- b.5 f.7 Letters of recommendation, 1993
- b.5 f.8 National Gay Task Force, 1976-1985
- b.6 f.1 Owles, Jim, 1993
- b.6 f.2 P-Flag, 1995
- b.6 f.3 Palestine Activist Forum of New York, 1979

- b.7 f.2 Posters, undated
- b.6 f.4 Pro-Gay Professionals, 1972-1987
- b.6 f.5 Pro-Gay Religious Groups, 1974-1986
- b.6 f.6 Roskoff vs. The City of New York, 1990 (Transcript of court statement.)
- b.6 f.7 State Affairs, 1979-1985
- b.6 f.8 State Position, 1982-1983
- b.6 f.9 Study Group, 1977-1980
- b.6 f.10 Village Independent Democrats, 1977-1992
 - Writings and Interviews
- b.6 f.11 MID DAY LIVE, 1986
- b.6 f.12 OUTWEEK, 1990-1991
- b.6 f.13 QW, 1992-1995
- b.6 f.14 THE STANLEY SEIGEL SHOW, undated
- b.6 f.15 Unsorted