Steve Berman Papers Coll2012.141

Finding aid prepared by Erick Hawkins
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Title: Steve Berman Papers
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Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet. 1 archive box + 2 archive cartons + 1 shoebox
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1980-1983
Date (inclusive): 1964-1983
Abstract: The Steve Berman papers are a collection of notes, correspondence, and personal information created and maintained by the psychologist and activist in the 1970s and 1980s. The bulk of the collection, from 1980-83, chronicles Berman’s life during and after college as he pursued his career in psychology and worked for greater rights and recognition for the gay and Jewish communities.
creator: Berman, Steve, 1946-1983
Arrangement
This collection is arranged in the following series:
Series 1. Community Service and Activism
Series 2. Personal Life, Academics, and Medical Beliefs
Biography
Steven Phillip Berman was born August 21, 1946 in Illinois and grew up in the greater Chicago area. After graduation from high school, Berman obtained a B.A. in psychology from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1970. Relocating later that year, Berman began work on his M.A. in psychology at California State University, Long Beach. While at CSULB, Berman founded the Gay Students Union and the Gay Students Council of Southern California, often speaking at local colleges and universities. As a graduate student, Berman focused his studies on personality and ability testing, working with prominent lesbian psychologist Betty Berzon. In 1973, prior to completion of his degree, Berman underwent neurosurgery for removal of an arteriovenous malformation. This surgery left Berman with seizures and other neurological conditions that would plague him the rest of his life.
During his schooling and for some time after, Berman worked for several Southern California agencies involved with general mental health and gay support services, including the newly founded Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center where he worked with parolees reentering the workforce. Berman moved to the San Francisco Bay area around 1981, continuing his social services work and becoming increasingly involved with Jewish organizations and congregations. As a member of Jews for Social Responsibility and later the Jewish Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Berman lobbied the San Francisco community for increased awareness of Middle East conflicts and for greater rights for lesbians and gays in the Bay Area.
Berman’s most notable work was as a case manager for North of Market Multipurpose Senior Services in the early 1980s. Berman worked with gay seniors, frequently referencing them to gay and lesbian organizations in the area for specialized attention and support. He also worked with San Francisco City Hall to clarify policy for city employees, seeking (and winning) grievance rights for same-sex partners of city and county employees.
Berman died on July 17, 1983, collapsing after completing a race to raise funds for HIV/AIDS research.
Sources: Steve Berman Papers, Coll2012-141, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California
Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are limited access restrictions.
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Acquisition Information
Date of acquisition unknown.
Preferred Citation
Box #, folder #, Steve Berman Papers, Coll2012.141, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Processing Information
Scope and Content
The bulk of the collection, from 1980-1983, chronicles Berman’s life during and after college as he pursued his career in psychology and social services. The specific areas of his work involve gay and lesbian senior services, Jewish community groups, and psychological studies of the homosexual population. The collection includes personal and professional correspondence, medical records, newspaper and magazine articles and photographs.

Separated Materials Note
Removed to newsletter collection: Center News, circa 1980; Center News Volume 2, Issue 1, 1982
Removed to poster collection: Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center Now We Need You Even More

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay activists--United States--California
Gay and lesbian rights--United States--California
Homosexuality--Psychological aspects
Jewish gays
Social work with gays

Scope and Contents Note
This series documents Berman’s work with the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Los Angeles and gay and Jewish support services in the San Francisco Bay Area, with specific emphasis on care and rights for gay seniors, domestic partnership, and Jews for Social Responsibility. Included are correspondence, personal notes, news clippings, and formal papers on gay psychology. Folders contain subject file information unless otherwise specified.

Arrangement
The files are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1 Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, correspondence 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 2 Association of Gay Psychologists, correspondence 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 3 Association of Gay Psychologists, newsletters 1973-1975
Box 2, Folder 1 Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, correspondence 1975
    Physical Description: [3 folders]
Box 2, Folder 5 The Lost Tribe 1978
Box 2, Folder 6-7 Clippings, Israel-Palestian conflict 1978-1982
    Physical Description: [2 folders]
Box 3, Folder 1 Clippings, Jewish issues 1978, undated
Box 1, Folder 4 Tribute to Ivy Bottini 1980
Box 1, Folder 5 Carl’s Jr. protest 1980
Box 1, Folder 6 Jewish organizations, correspondence 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 7 North of Market Senior Services 1981-1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 8 North of Market Senior Services 1981-1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 9 Brochures 1981-1983, undated
Box 1, Folder 8 Congregation Sha’ar Zahav 1982
Box 2, Folder 9 Board of Supervisors, San Francisco 1982
Box 1, Folder 9 Lesbian and Gay Jewish Activities 1982
Box 1, Folder 10 Domestic partnership, Morris Kight 1982
Box 1, Folder 11 Domestic partnership, opposition 1982
Box 2, Folder 10 Seniors’ rights 1982, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Jews for Social Responsibility 1982, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>Judaism, general 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Gay and lesbian senior lover grievance 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>Pride Center 1982-1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Tenderloin outreach project 1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Jewish Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
<td>Congregation Ahavat Shalom 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
<td>Gay and lesbian elders 1983, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
<td>Domestic partnership legislation, drafts 1983, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18</td>
<td>Project confrontation youth undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Gay services case conference undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
<td>A Night at the Olympics, photographs undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Characteristics Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) 3x5&quot; photographs, one typewritten note on context.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents Note</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs are external views of the Headlines Theater marquee.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Scope and Contents Note
The bulk of this series comprises transcripts, papers, and tests from Berman's school years; personal medical records from his hospital visits; and personal correspondence, resumes, financial information, and job applications. The series also contains clippings and articles from trade papers regarding the rights of patients. Along with these clippings are his personal notes, professional correspondence, and psychological case studies.

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<th>Box and Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
<td>The Fox and Farmer Jones, poem 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
<td>Checkbook registers Bulk, 1964-1980 1964-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
<td>Probation officer, correspondence 1968-1970, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 23</td>
<td>California State University Long Beach, coursework 1970-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
<td>Academic transcripts 1971-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 26-27</td>
<td>California State University Long Beach, coursework 1972-1973, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 28</td>
<td>Tax records Bulk, 1972-1977 1972-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Day planners 1972-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) day planners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 29</td>
<td>Hospital records 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 30</td>
<td>M.A. and Ph.D applications 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 31</td>
<td>Association of Humanistic Psychology, correspondence 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 32</td>
<td>Department of Motor Vehicles, correspondence 1976-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td>Financial management 1979-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 33</td>
<td>Collection case, Mr. and Mrs. Martinez 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 34</td>
<td>Patients notes 1980-1983, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: Contains restricted material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 35</td>
<td>Patients' rights, general 1980-1983, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 36-37</td>
<td>Hospital records 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, Folder 38  Resumes 1981, undated
Box 2, Folder 13  Job applications 1981-1983, undated
Box 1, Folder 40  Personal greeting cards 1981-1983, undated
    Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note
    Contains (1) metallic butterfly lapel pin from G.S. Brisson.

Box 1, Folder 41  Photographs 1981-1983
    Physical Characteristics Note
    (85) 3x5" photographs, (6) 4x6" photograph, (5) 5x7" photographs, (1) wallet-sized
    photograph, (1) cardboard montage of four wallet-sized photographs, and (25) strips of
    negatives.
    Scope and Contents Note
    Photographs and negatives contain portraits of individuals and groups. Titles of
    photograph envelopes include "Winter 82-83," "NOM Retreat 5/83," "Israeli Independence
    Day, 5/2/82," and "Halloween at NOM, 10/30/81" along with unlabeled photographs.

Box 2, Folder 14  Patients' rights, electroshock 1982, undated
Box 2, Folder 15  Professional memos and correspondence 1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 16  General social services 1983, undated
Box 1, Folder 42  Psychiatry and mental health notes undated
Box 1, Folder 43-44  Growth Group Plus undated
    Physical Description: [2 folders]

Box 2, Folder 17  Psychiatry and mental health notes undated
Box 2, Folder 18  Gay growth groups undated
Box 3, Folder 9  Death and funeral 1983
Box 3, Folder 10  HIV/AIDS documents 1983, undated