Peter J. Tenney papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Peter J. Tenney papers
Dates: circa 1979-1995
Collection Number: 1997-22
Creator/Collector:
Extent: .2 linear feet
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
Peter J. Tenney papers. GLBT Historical Society
Acquisition Information
Gift of David Steinberg on June 28, 1997.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Peter J. Tenney papers contain writings by this labor activist and poet. Tenney (1956-1996) formed a dissident gay caucus of Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union Local 2 in San Francisco in 1978 and co-founded the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network in New York in 1987. After several psychiatric incarcerations he organized other survivors in a poetry performance, “Breaking Up is Hard to Do,” and later formed “Literally Committed,” open poetry readings for current and former psychiatric patients. Tenny died after a 10-year battle with AIDS. The collection includes a copy and an audiotape of his poetry chapbook, “Slow for a Mania, Fast for a Waltz” (1995); recordings of, and a photograph of “Breaking Up” (1982); his “Mad Letters Series”; prose, poetry and journal entries; photographs from the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network; and a copy of “Dishrag,” a labor journal for lesbian and gay hotel, bar and restaurant employees.
Indexing Terms
Literature
Mental health
Labor