



Finding Aid to Ginny Knuth Papers (1999-46)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Ginny Knuth papers

Collection Number: 1999-46

Physical Description: 3 linear feet (3 oversized boxes)

Creator:

Knuth, Ginny and Jamie Faye Fenton

Date (inclusive): circa 1930s-2006

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Ginny Knuth (1934-1997) was a cisgender woman who volunteered extensively with San Francisco transgender organizations from 1983 until her death. The collection includes photographs, an oral history, a small amount of biographical information, and a large number of awards and plaques.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Ginny Knuth Papers (1999-46), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

Copyright to material created by Jamie Faye Fenton has been transferred to the GLBT Historical Society; copyright to material created and compiled by Ginny Knuth has not. No release form was signed for the oral history, which was taken shortly before Knuth's death. All requests for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material must be submitted in writing to the GLBT Historical Society Archivist. Permission for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material is given on behalf of the GLBT Historical Society as the owner of

the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Acquisition Information:

The audiovisual material was donated to the GLBT Historical Society in 1999 by Jamie Faye Fenton. Other material was donated by unknown parties.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2019.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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 / Organizational Information:

Ginny Knuth (1934-1997) was a cisgender woman who volunteered extensively with San Francisco transgender organizations from 1983 until her death. She first became involved with Educational TV Channel (ETVC) – which later became TransGender SF – and later with the Significant-Others Support Group and the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE).

Knuth was married to Don Aviani, who identified when they met as a straight man who cross-dressed, and who was known in the San Francisco transgender community as Nancy Ann Martine. The couple were very active members of ETVC; Knuth arranged social events ranging from a baby shower, to poker nights, to a game-show party in which guests parodied the Newlywed Game. She helped to organize the ETVC library, answered its hotline, managed its office, handled the door at its meetings, wrote a column in its newsletter (“Ginny’s Tales from the Other Side”), and was known for her support of both people on the transfeminine spectrum and their partners.

Scope and Content:

The Ginny Knuth papers include a videotaped interview and an oral history taken by Jamie Faye Fenton; numerous awards and plaques for Knuth and Martine from various organizations, including ETVC, IFGE, and the Imperial Court of San Francisco; a biographical sketch and obituary of Knuth; and photographs, including a number of images of a person having makeup applied, Halloween and Christmas snapshots, other photographs presumably of Knuth and Martine, and Knuth’s childhood photo album (circa late 1930s-1950s).

Arrangement: This collection is arranged without series.

Indexing Terms

Transgender people