

# **Finding Aid to the Kevin Brew Journals**

**(#1993-17)**

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** Kevin Brew journals

**Collection Number:** 1993-17

**Physical Description:** .5 linear feet (1/2 manuscript box)

**Creator:** Kevin Brew

**Date (inclusive):** 1970-1992

**Language of Material:** English

**Abstract:** Kevin Brew (1950-1993) was a gay man from Queens, New York who moved to San Francisco in 1975 and was diagnosed with HIV in 1988, dying of AIDS complications five years later. Brew's diaries describe his relationships, as well as the great pleasure he took in film and hippie subculture. They also chronicle his struggle to reconcile himself with his difficulty with human connection, his disappointment in the gay community, and later his AIDS diagnosis.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], Kevin Brew Journals (#1993-17), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:**

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**Acquisition Information:**

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Marie Grabec in 1993.

**Processing Information:**

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2019, based partly on earlier work by Susan Stryker and Brandon Crosby.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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 History Note:** Kevin Brew (1950-1993) was a gay man from Queens, New York who moved to San Francisco in 1975 and was diagnosed with HIV in 1988, dying of AIDS complications five years later. His *Bay Area Reporter* obituary describes an intelligent, temperamental, sometimes difficult person with a passion for beauty and design, which he often expressed through the collages and decorated envelopes he created for his friends. The diaries and obituary do not indicate Brew's job or how he supported himself.

**Scope and Content:** Brew's diaries – kept in six books and one folder of loose material – describe his relationships, as well as the great pleasure he took in film and hippie subculture. They also chronicle his struggle to reconcile himself with his difficulty with human connection, his disappointment in the gay community, and later his AIDS diagnosis. The diaries provide insight into an ordinary, if unusually articulate, man's experience of living with a terminal illness.

**Indexing Terms:**

Gay men

AIDS (Disease)