

# The Rainbow History Project

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## Guide to the David L Aiken Papers

1945 -1986

Collection Number: 2

Contact Information	Compiled by	Date completed
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### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

**Title:** David L Aiken papers 1945 -1986  
**Collection:** 1  
**Creator:** David Aiken, donated by Bruce Pennington  
**Quantity:**  
**Forms of Material:** topical files, interview notes, photographs

The David Lewis Aiken papers include topical files, drafts of news articles and research, interview notes, and photographs covering events in the local LGBTQ community in the 1970s and early 1980s.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David L. Aiken was born in Mt. Tabor, NJ and educated at Parsippany High School and the University of Chicago. Aiken arrived in Washington, DC in 1968 as a reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. He worked as an editor and a journalist for the Joint Center for Political Studies, Editorial Experts, Princeton University, and the Advocate. He also edited the newsletter of the DC chapter of Black and White Men Together in the 1980s. Aiken was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front - DC and of Stonewall Nation Media Collective (SNMC). He was well known as a broadcaster for SNMC's Friend's Radio program from 1973 to 1982. In 1974, he helped form the Washington Area Gay Community Council (WAGCC), which he served as president and as editor of *Just Us*, WAGCC's guide to the local gay community. David Aiken died of AIDS on December 31, 1986.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

**Series I** of the David L. Aiken collection consists of topical files, including interview notes, drafts of articles, and clippings on:

- APA – (1975) materials re: APA position on gays and lesbians
- Cinema Follies Fire (1977)
- DC Council – (1973 – 1978) including custody issues, foster parenting, campaign to cut spending for SLIP squad in Metropolitan Police, council campaigns
- Dialog for Human Rights – (1977) pamphlet
- Discrimination – (1971 – 1976) bars, etc. (including documentation of the discrimination suit against the disco Grand Central)
- FCC – (1977–1978) re: access to broadcast time to rebut Anita Bryant et al.
- Federal Government & Civil Rights Commission (1976 –1978), including issues of *Come Out Fighting* and *The Political Perspective of the Lavender & Red Union*
- Gay Liberation Front – DC (1970 – 1974), including newsletters, organizing papers from the 1972 Gay Pride,
- Human Rights Law – Fairfax County, VA (1974)
- Iwo Jima cruising area attacks (1972 – 1978)
- Legal Cases – Acanfora (1973–1974), case of Maryland teacher fired for homosexuality
- Legal Cases – Donald Turner, VA (1974)
- Legal Cases – Virginia suit, Doe vs. USA (1973–1976)
- Legal Cases– Regency Club (1976 ), case of police raid on local gay bathhouse
- Lesbians – (1973 – 1979) containing child custody, lesbian resources, NGTF/lesbian issues
- March on Washington – organizing papers for 1979 march on Washington, program notes, program book, & including materials relating to the 1973 planning for a march that didn't happen

**Series II** consists of a file of photographs, some of them taken by Aiken, focusing largely on activities and members of the Gay Liberation Front – DC.

## SUBJECTS

### Names:

Gay Liberation Front–DC  
Human Rights Commission  
Stonewall Nation Media Collective  
Friends Radio  
Black and White Men Together–DC  
Names Project  
Rainbow History Project  
The Advocate

## **INFORMATION FOR USERS**

### **Cite as:**

David L. Aiken Papers, #2, The Rainbow History Project.

### **Provenance:**

Gift of Bruce C. Pennington and of the estate of Bruce C. Pennington

## **SERIES LIST**

Series I: Aiken topical files

Series II: Photographs

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series I**

### **Series II**

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