Lilli Vincenz Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2013085786

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014015

Prepared by Laura J. Kells with the assistance of Tammi Taylor

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Collection Summary

Title: Lilli Vincenz Papers
Span Dates: 1879-2013
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1953-2013)
ID No.: MSS85786
Creator: Vincenz, Lilli
Extent: 10,500 items
Extent: 32 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 12.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English with some French and German
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2013085786

Summary: Gay rights activist, psychotherapist, and documentary film maker. Correspondence, journals, organizational files, speeches, writings, surveys and questionnaires, press clippings, printed matter, academic files, and other papers relating to Lilli Vincenz's life as a gay civil rights activist, her work to support and empower lesbians and gay men, and her documentation of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Davis, Nancy Ruth.
Kameny, Frank, 1925-2011.
Vincenz family.
Vincenz, Lilli.

Organizations
Community for Creative Self-Development.
Gay Women's Open House.
Program for Creative Self-Development.
Whitman-Walker Clinic. Empowerment Group for People Living with AIDS.

Subjects
Civil rights movements.
Civil rights.
Dating (Social customs)
Gay couples.
Gay men.
Gay newspapers--New York (State)--New York.
Gay rights.
Homophobia.
Homosexuality--Societies, etc.
Homosexuality.
Lesbians.
Political campaigns--Washington (D.C.)

Titles
GAY (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations
Documentary fimmakers.
Gay rights activists.
Psychotherapists.
Provenance
The papers of Lilli Vincenz, gay rights activist, psychotherapist, and documentary film maker, were given to the Library of Congress by Vincenz via donor representative Charles C. Francis in 2013.

Transfers
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Audiovisual materials have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified as part of the Lilli Vincenz Papers.

Related Material
Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the Frank Kameny Papers.

Copyright Status
Copyright status in the unpublished writings of Lilli Vincenz in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions
Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Lilli Vincenz Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937, Sept. 26</td>
<td>Born, Hamburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Immigrated to the United States with her mother and sister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>B.A., Douglass College, New Brunswick, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>M.A. in English, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>Private, medical corpsman, Womens Army Corps, Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Received a general discharge under honorable conditions because of her homosexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Joined Mattachine Society of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Participated in homophile pickets at the White House, Pentagon, State Department, and U.S. Civil Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1971</td>
<td>Wrote biweekly column for <em>Gay</em> magazine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1970  Produced *Gay and Proud*, a short documentary film of the first Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York, N.Y.


1971  Helped launch Frank Kameny's campaign for nonvoting delegate from the District of Columbia to the U.S. Congress

1976  M.A. in psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.


1986  Married Nancy Ruth Davis, Key West, Fla.

1990  Ph.D. in human development, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

1992-2004  Founder and director with Nancy Ruth Davis, Program for Creative Self-Development, later called Community for Creative Self-Development

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**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Lilli Marie Vincenz (1937- ) span the years 1879-2013, with the bulk of the material dating from 1953 to 2013. While documenting Vincenz's work for gay civil rights and her efforts to support and empower gay men and women, they also chronicle the larger gay and lesbian civil rights movement. The papers are grouped by type of material into correspondence and journals; Community for Creative Self-Development file; films; interviews; speeches, writings and engagements; subject file; academic file; miscellany; and oversize. They are primarily written in English, but some German and French is present.

Among the correspondence and journals is a grouping of personal correspondence that includes letters received from friends and family and some letters written by Vincenz. The correspondence between Lilli Vincenz and her parents is written in German. Special correspondence is comprised of letters relating to Vincenz's work in the gay community, her educational outreach on topics relating to homosexuality, her films, and her role as a pioneer in the gay rights movement. Similar correspondence can be found in files relating to her films and speaking engagements. The journals section is comprised of loose pages of notes from various periods in the 1960s and 1970s. Some of the most descriptive entries date from 1961 when Vincenz traveled to Provincetown, Massachusetts, and visited a gay bar for the first time. The entries from the 1970s are dream journals.

Files relating to the Community for Creative Self-Development, an empowerment group for gay men and women that Lilli Vincenz founded and directed with her partner, Nancy Ruth Davis, are some of the most comprehensive. Documents include meeting minutes, event flyers, and materials relating to conferences, retreats, courses, and workshops with titles such as "Lovefreeing: A New Approach to Wholeness," "Loneliness and You," and "Shedding Light on the Shadow Side of Relationships," and covering topics such as gay dating, gay history, homophobia, and psychic development.

Vincenz made two 16-millimeter films that recorded early gay rights events. *The Second Largest Minority* documents the "Reminder Day Picket" at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, on July 4, 1968, and *Gay and Proud* records the first Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York, held on June 28, 1970, to commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Files concerning these films pertain to the rentals of the film by various groups and the use of the footage in numerous documentaries on aspects of the gay rights movement.

Vincenz's thoughts and experiences are recorded in interviews, in the texts and remarks given at meetings and receptions, and in speeches with titles such as "Visibility, Empowerment, Liberation, and Self Actualization," and "The Love that Celebrates its Name." Among her writings are typescripts of the column she wrote for *GAY* newspaper in New York. In the 1960s she often wrote under the pseudonym Lily Hansen. Her efforts to advocate for homosexuals and educate the public through guest lectures at universities, television and radio appearances, and participation in panel discussions at meetings and public events are also represented. Among this material is a transcript of a panel discussion on the "Lifestyle of Non-Patient Homosexual" conducted at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in 1971.

Subject files document the work and concerns of early homophile organizations and the empowerment groups founded by Vincenz. Others feature press coverage of homosexuality and the experiences of gays and lesbians spanning roughly fifty years. Files concerning pioneers in the gay rights movement include those relating to Frank Kameny and the Kameny.
for Congress Campaign that Vincenz helped launch in 1971. Files relating to the Gay Women's Open House, which Vincenz held in her home to provide a social gathering place for lesbians every Wednesday from 1971 to 1977, include advertisements, lists of discussion topics, and notes from attendees. Among the materials relating to the Whitman-Walker Clinic Empowerment Group for People Living with AIDS, founded by Vincenz and Nancy Ruth Davis in the mid-1980s, are notes on interviews with new members and issues of their newsletter written by and for people living with AIDS.

The academic file contains material relating to Lilli Vincenz's education and training from high school through postgraduate continuing education. Among the material relating to her studies in psychology and human development are questionnaires completed as part of a survey she conducted in 1972 on the attitudes and aspirations of lesbians and research for her study, "Personality Profiles of Psychologically Adjusted Lesbian and Heterosexual Women".

Among a group of miscellany are curriculum vitae and other biographical information on Lilli Vincenz and family papers relating to her parents and extended family in Romania. The latter includes documents pertaining to her efforts to assist a cousin trying to immigrate to the United States from Romania.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material, and alphabetically and chronologically therein.
## Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Correspondence and journals</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Personal correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1953-1956  (5 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1957-1963  (9 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1964-1972  (10 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Special correspondence, 1964-2011, undated  (17 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Community for Creative Self-Development file</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Calendars, 1992-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Conferences and workshops, 1992-2000  See also Oversize  (7 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Courses, 1992-2000  (10 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Flyers, 1992-2013</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Agendas, 1991-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Minutes, 1991-2003  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1992-2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Membership, 1999-2003  (2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1991-2010  (2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>(4 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>Retreats, 1991-2003  (3 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>Résumés, 1992-1996  (5 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>Reunions and parties, 2002-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>Web site, 1997-2000  (2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>Films  Gay and Proud and Second Largest Minority</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1969-1980s  (2 folders)</td>
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| BOX 11 | Rentals and purchases, 1970-2011  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 11 | Vincenz v. Bono Films and Video, 2005-2006 |
| BOX 11 | *Gay Pioneers*, 2001-2005  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 11 | *Gay USA*, 1977-1978 |
| BOX 11 | Miscellany, 1969-2010 |
| BOX 12 | Interviews  
(2 folders)  
With others, and related material from *Gay Today*, 1997-2003  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 12 | Speeches, writings, and engagements |
| BOX 13 | Panel discussions, speaking engagements, and workshops, 1971-2011  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 14 | Writings |
| BOX 14 | *GAY* newspaper, New York, N.Y., 1969-1973  
(3 folders) |
(2 folders) |
| BOX 14 | Subject file |
| BOX 14 | American Psychiatric Association, 1971-1974 |
| BOX 14 | Anthroposophy, 1904-1945, 1981-2013  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 14 | Art, 1960s |
| BOX 15 | Books and literature, 1958-1982  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 15 | East Coast Homophile Organizations, 1963-1965 |
| BOX 15 | Empowerment Group for People Living with AIDS, 1987-1991  
(4 folders) |
(2 folders) |
(3 folders) |
| BOX 16 | Gittings, Barbara, 1960s, 1976, 1997-2005 |
| BOX 16 | Homosexuality and gay life, 1957-2009  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 17 | Kameny, Frank |
| BOX 17 | Campaign for United States Congress, 1971 |
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 17    | *The Ladder*, 1963-1968  
(3 folders) |
(2 folders) |
| BOX 18    | Mattachine Society of New York, 1965 |
| BOX 18    | Mattachine Society of Washington |
| BOX 18    | *The Homosexual Citizen*  
Correspondence, 1965-1967  
Issues, 1966-1967  
| BOX 18    | Music  
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Performances by Vincenz, 1972-1976, 2003-2010 |
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| BOX 18    | Nichols, Jack, 1975, 1997, 2005 |
| BOX 18    | Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay Men of the Washington Metropolitan Area, 1991-1997 |
| BOX 18    | Rainbow History Project, 2007-2008 |
(2 folders) |
| BOX 19    | Sex education, sexuality, and family life, 1955-1984  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 19    | Whitman-Walker Clinic Empowerment Group for People Living with AIDS *See Container 15, Empowerment Group for People Living with AIDS* |
| BOX 19    | Women, 1960-2005  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 20    | Academic file  
Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1960  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 20    | Continuing education, 1979-2008  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 21    |  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 22    | Douglass College, New Brunswick, N.J., 1955-1959  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 23    | Famous Writers School, Westport, Conn., 1964-1967  
(4 folders) |
(3 folders) |
| BOX 24    | George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. |

Lilli Vincenz Papers 8
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</table>
| BOX 24    | Course work, 1972-1983  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 25    | Miscellany, 1973-1980  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 26    | Graduate school applications, 1977-1982  
Northern Virginia Community College, Northern Virginia, survey, "Attitudes and Aspirations of Lesbians," 1972  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 27    | United States Army, Women's Army Corps training, 1962  
University of Maryland, College Park, Md.  
Course work, 1982-1987  
(5 folders) |
(1 folder) |
| BOX 29    | (4 folders) |
| BOX 30    | (1 folder) |
| BOX 30    | Miscellany  
Biographical material, circa 1940-2012  
(3 folders)  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 30    | Family papers  
Miscellany, circa 1895, 1928-1982, undated  
Vincenz, Gustav (father), 1879-1939  
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| BOX 31    | Vincenz family in Romania  
Miscellaneous, 2007-2008  
Vincenz, Andrei (cousin), 1966-1980  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 32    | Westhoff, Johanna (mother)  
Condolence letters and related correspondence, 1999  
Estate, 1982, 1999  
Miscellany, 1928, 1957  
Horoscopes, 1966-1971  
Jungian type inventory, undated  
Oddments, 1928-2012  
(2 folders) |
| BOX OV1   | Oversize  
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