

Paul Kuntzler Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018002>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2018
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Collection Summary

Title: Paul Kuntzler Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1941-2017

Bulk Dates: 1959-2017

ID No.: MSS86196

Creator: Kuntzler, Paul

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 5 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2017086196>

Summary: Gay rights and LGBT activist. Correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and printed matter related to different moments in Kuntzler's life as a gay rights and political activist.

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

Catania, David A., 1968-

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination.

Kuntzler, Paul, 1941-

Miller, Stephen B. (Stephen Brent), 1942-2004.

Willhoite, Michael, 1946-

Zais, James P.

Organizations

Democratic National Convention (1980 : New York, N.Y.)

Democratic Party (U.S.)

East Coast Homophile Organizations.

Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, DC.

Mattachine Society of Washington.

Subjects

Conspiracy theories--United States.

Gay liberation movement--United States.

Gay people--Political activity--United States.

Gay people--Political activity--Washington (D.C.)

Gay people--United States--Societies, etc.

Gay people--United States.

Gay people--Washington (D.C.)--Societies, etc.

Gay rights--United States.

Homosexuality--Congresses.

Homosexuality--United States--Societies, etc.

Homosexuality--United States.

Social action--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--21st century.

United States--Social conditions--1945-

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government.

Washington (D.C.)--Social conditions.

Occupations

Gay rights activists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Paul Kuntzler were given to the Library of Congress in 2017 and 2018.

Processing History

The papers of Paul Kuntzler were arranged and described by Michael Folkerts in 2018. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Related Material

Additional correspondence by Paul Kuntzler can be found in the [Frank Kameny papers](#).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Paul Kuntzler is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Paul Kuntzler are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. 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, Paul Kuntzler Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1941, Dec. 6	Born, Detroit, Mich.
1960	Graduated, Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods, Mich.
1961	Moved to Washington, D.C.
1962	Member, Mattachine Society of Washington
1962	Domestic partnership with Stephen Brent Miller (died 2004)
1963	Co-planner and delegate, East Coast Homophile Organizations conference, Philadelphia, Pa.
1971	Campaign manager, Frank Kameny for Congress, Washington, D.C.
1971	Co-founder, Gay Activist Alliance of Washington, D.C.
1973-2005	Advertising Director, National Science Teachers Association
1976	Co-founder, Gertrude Stein Democratic Club
1977	Volunteer, Marion Barry for Mayor, Washington D.C.
1989-1996	Vice Chair, Washington D.C. Lottery and Charitable Games Board

2005 President, Miller Reporting Company
2014 Volunteer, David Catania for Mayor, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Paul Kuntzler span the years of 1941-2017, with the bulk of the material ranging from 1959 to 2017. The collection contains a [Subject File](#) consisting of correspondence, news clippings, printed matter, photographs, and other material documenting Paul Kuntzler's personal life and his role as an advocate for gay rights. Arriving in Washington D.C. in 1961, Kuntzler soon befriended gay rights activist Frank Kameny, and either joined or helped co-found several organizations, including the Mattachine Society of Washington and the Gay Activist Alliance of Washington D.C., and helped plan the first East Coast Homophile Organizations (ECHO) conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1963. Featured prominently in the [Subject File](#) series are personal documents related to both Paul and his partner Stephen B. Miller, whose death in 2004 culminated a forty-two year relationship. Other highlights in the [Subject File](#) series include documents relating to Kuntzler's activism and involvement in local and national political campaigns; notably his role in David Catania's Washington D.C. mayoral bid and James P. Zais' campaign for Washington D.C. councilmember. Additionally, Paul focused his later years on the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy, going so far as to pay for a two-page advertisement in the New York Times detailing his theories. This advertisement can be found in the [Oversize](#) series, along with a poster from the 1965 ECHO conference, a 1980 Democratic primary poster urging Washington D.C. citizens to vote for gay delegates to represent at the Democratic National Convention, and a small print by Michael Willhoite given to Paul on behalf of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Subject File, 1941-2017](#)
- [Oversize, 1965-2007](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-5

Series

Subject File, 1941-2017

Correspondence, news clippings, photographs, printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

OV 1

Oversize, 1965-2007

East Coast Homophile Organization (ECHO) conference poster, 1980 Washington D.C.
Democratic primary poster, New York Times advertisement, and a small print by Michael Willhoite.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5	Subject File, 1941-2017 Correspondence, news clippings, photographs, printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 1	Activism
BOX 1	Fundraising, 1987-1988
BOX 1	Marches, 1967, 1970, 2015
BOX 1	Photographs, 1980, 1988-1989, 2004-2007, 2012-2016
BOX 1	Pins, 1979-1980, 2016, undated
BOX 1	John F. Kennedy assassination
BOX 1	Conferences and lectures, 2006-2014
BOX 1	Correspondence, 2005-2016
BOX 1	(3 folders)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1960, 1999, 2006-2007, 2017
BOX 2	New Orleans, La., 2008
BOX 2	News clippings, 1968, 1981, 2006-2015 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Press releases, 2007-2010
BOX 2	Research, 1964-1966, 2002
BOX 2	Kameny, Frank, 1971, 2007-2015
BOX 2	Kuntzler, Paul
BOX 2	Awards, 1980-1981
BOX 2	Bowie State University presentation, 2017
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1953, 1960, 1971, 1988, 1996, 2002-2017
BOX 2	Family, 1968, 1989, 1996, 2004-2017
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1941, 1960, 1966-1970
BOX 3	Notre Dame High School, 1991-1997, 2010
BOX 3	Passports and identification, 1972-2006
BOX 3	Photographs, 1978, 1986-1997, 2004-2015 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Travel, 1967, 1972, 1989, 1994-1996, 2003-2015
BOX 3	Writings about, 2013-2017
BOX 3	Writings by, 1959, 1973, 1978, 2013, undated
BOX 3	Miller Reporting Company, 1974, 2004-2009
BOX 4	Miller, Stephen
BOX 4	Anniversaries, 1987-1992, 2002
BOX 4	Celebration of life, 2004
BOX 4	Death, 2004
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1960-1961, 1967, 1987, 1998, 2004
BOX 4	Photographs, circa 1974, 1980-1982, 1988-1991, 1999, 2004
BOX 4	Tribute, 2005
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1960, 1991-1995, 2001-2002, 2013-2017, undated

Subject File, 1941-2017

Container	Contents
BOX 4	National Science Teacher's Association, 1973-1979, 1994-1998, 2003-2004
BOX 4	Organizations
BOX 4	East Coast Homophile Organization, 1963-1965 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 4	Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance, 2001, 2010, 2013-2016
BOX 4	Gay Men's Chorus, 2005-2008, 2015
BOX 4	Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, 1984, 2008-2009 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 4	Human Rights Campaign, 2005-2006
BOX 4	Mattachine Society, 1986
BOX 4	Rainbow History Project, 2007-2009, 2015-2016
BOX 4	Political Campaigns
BOX 4	Catania, David, 2014
BOX 5	Clark, Wesley, 2004
BOX 5	Clinton, Bill, 1992-1998
BOX 5	McCarthy, Eugene, 1968
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1988-1990, 2006-2007
BOX 5	Pins, 1968, 1984, 2004-2008, 2014
BOX 5	Washington D.C. delegations, 1980, 1984 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 5	Zais, James P., 1991
BOX 5	Washington D.C. Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board, 1989-1996
OV 1	Oversize, 1965-2007
	East Coast Homophile Organization (ECHO) conference poster, 1980 Washington D.C. Democratic primary poster, New York Times advertisement, and a small print by Michael Willhoite.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
	Subject File
	John F. Kennedy assassination
OV 1	News clippings, 2007 (Container 2)
	Organizations
OV 1	East Coast Homophile Organization, 1965 (Container 4)
OV 1	Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, 1984 (Container 4)
	Political campaigns
OV 1	Washington D.C. delegations, 1980 (Container 5)