



Archives and Research

Finding Aid

Collection No.: #086
Collection Name: Fran's Place Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): Pat Gozemba, The History Project
Title: Fran's Place Collection
Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)
Date Span: 1983-1987

Administrative Information:

Provenance: This collection was donated by (Pat Gozemba, et al..., 2016)

Processing Note: Finding aid prepared for The History Project, by William Holden, July 2017.

Terms of Use: Materials described in the finding aid are available for research at The History Project. Contact info@historyproject.org to make an appointment.

Digital Repository: Not Applicable.

Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

Contact The History Project for further information.
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RELATED COLLECTIONS:

#118: Pat Gozemba Collection
#037: The History Project Bar Collection

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

One of the oldest bars in Massachusetts, Fran's place had a long and vibrant life in the city of Lynn. John Collin's opened the tavern in sometime in the 1920's (the exact date is not known). In 1940 the business was passed on to John's parents, Fran and Robert and was relocated to its current location on Washington Street. After the death of Robert, Fran and her children renamed it Fran's place.

The bar was a gathering place for the local LGBTQ Community, drawing a large lesbian crowd from the bowling alley next door. It is known as the first bar to host a fundraiser for HIV/AIDS research, the first bar to have a float in the Boston Gay Pride Parade, and the first to host gay weddings.

Fran's place closed in September 2016.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The materials in the collection are not of the operational records of the bar, nor does it contain memorabilia from its events and fundraisers. What is in the collection are photographs from a lesbian wedding in 1987, and many transcripts and interviews with women who frequented the bar.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES:

FOLDER LIST:

- Folder 1: Photographs: Wedding Reception, April 1987
- Folder 2: Photographs: Unknown, n.d.
- Folder 3: Transcript: Dolly Stamopoulos Interview, December 1983
- Folder 4: Transcript: Ann Maguire Interview, May 1987
- Folder 5: Transcript: Joanne Patrizzi MacDonald Interview, May 1987
- Folder 6: Transcripts: Unknown [5 ¼ inch Floppy Disks]
- Folder 7: Presentation: In and Around the Lighthouse: Working Class Lesbian Bar Culture in the 1950's and 1960's, 1987 by Janet Kahn and Patricia Gozemba.