



Arnold H. Rosenberg letters, 1977-1988 : Ms.Coll.50

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Summary Information

Repository:	John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
Creator:	Rosenberg, Arnold H., 1935-2007
Title:	Arnold H. Rosenberg letters
ID:	Ms.Coll.50
Date [inclusive]:	1977-1988
Physical Description:	.2 Linear feet (1 document box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Arnold H. Rosenberg (July 12, 1935-September 12, 2007) was an openly gay baker, entrepreneur, attorney, and administrator. In these letters addressed to his daughter Amy Rosenberg, Arnold Rosenberg describes his attempts to grow his small pastry business, his relationship with Joel Prybutok and Joel's daughter Sonya, and his everyday life as a wealthy resident of Center City, Philadelphia, and later San Francisco, going to dinners and enjoying films and museum trips.

Preferred Citation

Arnold H. Rosenberg letters, 1977-1988, Ms. Coll. 50, John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA.

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Biographical / Historical

Arnold H. Rosenberg (July 12, 1935-September 12, 2007) was an openly gay baker, entrepreneur, attorney, and administrator. He was born in Camden, New Jersey and attended Woodrow Wilson High School. He later graduated from Lehigh University and received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960. With his family in Philadelphia, he lived at several Washington Square West locations including Clinton Street, Iseminger Street, and 318 South Camac Street, and from 1968-1978 he and his family lived at 2131 Delancey Street. After moving out on his own, he resided at the 2601 Parkway apartments, the Dorchester apartments, the Wanamaker House at 2020 Walnut Street, and

finally a townhouse at 2031 South Street. He also took up residence in San Francisco, California, and later in life he lived in the Boca Raton/West Palm Beach, Florida, region.

He worked at the small firm Charen, Palitz, and Rosenberg in the Lewis Tower building at 15th and Locust for nearly twenty years. In the late 1980s and early 1990s he served as an academic dean at the Institute for Paralegal Training (later renamed the Philadelphia Institute), where he had formerly been an Estates and Trusts instructor. In the mid 1980s, he began to operate a small pastry business (Rosenberg's Apple Pies) out of his apartment in San Francisco, offering samples to various local restaurants, catering businesses, and social clubs such as the Racquet Club of San Francisco. Before beginning his baked-goods business, he set up and operated a San Francisco savings and loan.

Notably, he was a prolific member of the Center City Residents Association, where he helped develop the Ball on the Square, an annual fundraising event held by the Friends of Rittenhouse Square. He was married once to Nancy Herbach Nance, and later had a long-term relationship with Joel Prybutok. He had two children, Amy Cohen and Linda McGuire, and seven grandchildren.

Toward the end of his life, he worked as a doorman at the President Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. He died of HIV-related lymphoma at the home of his daughter Linda in Woodstock, Connecticut.

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Scope and Contents

In these letters addressed to his daughter Amy Rosenberg, Arnold Rosenberg describes his attempts to grow his small pastry business, his relationship with Joel Prybutok and Joel's daughter Sonya, and his everyday life as a wealthy resident of Center City and later San Francisco, going to dinners and enjoying films and museum trips.

He works with his food broker, Kay Meadows, to distribute samples of his pies to local restaurants, catering businesses, and social clubs, eventually winning the approval of the Racquet Club of San Francisco (though he was unable to secure an agreement with the social club due to his high prices).

The letters coincide with several of daughter Amy's important life milestones including her summer away at Wellesley College Exploration Summer Program (1980), her college years at Brown University (1982-1983), time abroad in Avignon, France (1985), and time spent in Salinas, Puerto Rico, training for the Peace Corps (1987).

In addition to the letters, the collection contains newspaper clippings about Rosenberg and his baking business, a recipe for "Arnold Rosenberg and Joel Prybutok's Date-Nut Brownies" which appeared in a holiday issue of *Redbook* magazine, and material from Rosenberg's memorial service in 2007. A selection of the letters have been transcribed by daughter Amy Cohen.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift, Amy Cohen, 2017

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Controlled Access Headings

- Bakers and bakeries
- Correspondence
- Gay fathers
- Gay men
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Rittenhouse Square (Philadelphial, Pa.)
- San Francisco (Calif.)
- Rosenberg, Arnold H., 1935-2007

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Overview of the collection by Amy Rosenberg Cohen, 2017	box 1	folder 1
Obituaries, memorial program, and eulogies, 2007	box 1	folder 2
Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1984-1985, undated	box 1	folder 3
Transcripts of selected letters (1982-1987), 2017	box 1	folder 4
Letters from Arnold Rosenberg to Amy Rosenberg, 1980 July 3-1980 August 11, undated	box 1	folder 5
Letters from Arnold Rosenberg to Amy Rosenberg, 1982 June 24-1983 April 15	box 1	folder 6
Letters from Arnold Rosenberg to Amy Rosenberg, 1985 January 2-1985 July 16	box 1	folder 7
Letters from Arnold Rosenberg to Amy Rosenberg, 1987 January 26-1987 March 4	box 1	folder 8
Miscellaneous postcards, greeting cards, and letters from Arnold Rosenberg to Amy Rosenberg, 1977 May 23-1987 January 25, undated	box 1	folder 9