



Guide to the Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Raben, Barbara, 1945-
Contributor:	Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada
Contributor:	Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Southern Nevada Chapter
Title:	Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community
ID:	MS-00655
Date [inclusive]:	1976 to 2018
Physical Description:	2.45 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, and 1 folder (shared box))
Physical Description:	3.89 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community (1976-2018) is comprised of materials collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas, Nevada Jewish community, specifically the Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Hadassah and JFSA records consist of photographs and programs from events held by the organizations. Materials also document Raben's business, The Candy Factory, and her connections to the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

Preferred Citation

Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community, 1976-2018. MS-00655. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Barbara (Shulman) Raben (1945-) is a leader in the Las Vegas, Nevada Jewish community. She moved to Las Vegas in 1991 and was a member of Temple Beth Sholom before joining Midbar Kodesh Temple shortly after its establishment in 1995. Raben became involved with the Southern Nevada Chapter of Hadassah in 2003 when she participated in the Hadassah Leadership Academy program. She later served as President of the Chapter. She is also involved with the Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada. Raben began her service on the Agency's Board as a Liaison to the Food Pantry, then served as Secretary, and in 2014 took over as President of the Board. From 2014 to 2015, she also served as Interim Executive Director. Raben owned a candy making business called The Candy Factory in Los Angeles, California from 1981 to 1991. After moving to Las Vegas, she reopened The Candy Factory from 1998 to 2001.

Source:

Raben, Barbara. Interview, 2015 February 24. OH-02278. Transcript. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA), founded in 1977, provides professional social services including counseling, senior services, adoption, a food pantry, and emergency financial aid. Its focus is on the Jewish community, but the JFSA serves families and individuals regardless of their religion, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. Services are provided in a confidential setting, and many are offered free of charge or on a sliding scale. The JFSA is inspired by the Jewish principle "Tikkun Olam," or "repairing the world one life at a time."

During the tenure of director Mitchell Gilbert (2003-2006), the JFSA split from the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, fearing a loss of autonomy after the federation affiliated with the United Jewish Communities. As of 2015, the JFSA is once again affiliated with the Jewish Federation.

Sources:

"About Us." *Jewish Family Service Agency*. Accessed February 5, 2015. <http://www.jfsalv.org/about/>.
Marschall, John P. *Jews in Nevada: a history*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2008.

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Historical Background

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that focuses on Jewish continuity through healthcare, advocacy, and community. It fundraises for the Hadassah Medical Center, a research hospital in Jerusalem that provides care to all religions and races, and also for other health, education, and community programs. In the United States, Hadassah advocates for issues such as women's rights, human rights, health care, affordable child care, and U.S.-Israel diplomacy. The first chapter of Hadassah in Southern Nevada was founded in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1963, and is now known as Hadassah Southern Nevada. The organization holds events and educational programs, hosts speakers, and participates in advocacy initiatives and fundraising.

Hadassah Southern Nevada has over 900 members, one leadership board, and various special interest groups. In the 1990s, the Las Vegas chapter groups included Aviva of Summerlin, Tikvah, Shoshanim, and Rishona.

Around 2003, the Hadassah Leadership Academy (HLA) came to Las Vegas and held a two-year leadership training program for fifteen local women. HLA was so successful that it was held twice more, making Las Vegas the only city to benefit from three instances of the program. This program spurred a revival of the organization in the city, and the older Las Vegas chapter, which was relatively inactive by the 2000s, was assimilated into the new Hadassah Southern Nevada chapter.

Source:

"About Hadassah." *Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America*. Accessed February 11, 2015. <http://www.hadassah.org/about/#mission>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community (1976-2018) is comprised of materials collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas Jewish community, specifically the Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Materials include scrapbooks, photograph albums, programs, invitations, newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters, and ephemera and focus on events and activities hosted by the organization.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

Series I. Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976-2018;

Series II. Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015;

Series III. Barbara Raben personal papers, 1998-2014.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digitized and are available online at UNLV.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2014 and 2015 by Barbara Raben and in 2019 by Barbara Tabach; accession numbers 2014-048, 2015-056, 2021-061.

Additions

Further additions are anticipated.

Processing Note

In 2015, Emily Lapworth processed the collection. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Billy Marino rehoused and arranged the materials and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2021, Tammi Kim accessioned the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Some issues of newspapers and magazines (mostly the *Las Vegas Israelite*) were added to Special Collections and Archives' periodicals collection.

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Jewish Family Service Agency Records, 1954, 1977-2013. MS-00386. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community, 1964-2006. MS-00426. Special Collections and Archives, UNLV Libraries, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Raben, Barbara. Interview, 2015 February 24. OH-02278. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Community organization -- Nevada -- 20th century
- Women
- Jews -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Jews -- Societies, etc.
- photographs

Collection Inventory

Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976 to 2018

Physical Description: 1.66 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, and 1 folder (shared box))

Physical Description: 2.81 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Haddassah of Southern Nevada Chapter records series (1976-2018) is comprised of records created by Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter (formerly known as the Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah) and collected by Barbara Raben. Materials include scrapbooks documenting the chapter from 1976 to 1979, and a scrapbook documenting one of the chapter's sub-units, Aviva Hadassah of

Summerlin, from its founding in 1995 to 2009. Also included in this series are articles related to Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter, photographs of the Gala of Giving in 2007, event programs and invitations, and several issues of the *Hadassah Happenings* newsletter.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1976-1977	oversized box 02
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1977-1978	oversized box 03
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1978-1979	oversized box 03
Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin certificate, 1995	oversized box 02
Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin scrapbook, 1995-2009 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Hadassah magazine articles related to Southern Nevada Chapter, 2004-2011	box 04
Event photographs, 2007, undated	box 04
Event invitations and programs, 2009-2014	box 04
Hadassah Happenings newsletter, 2012-2014	box 04
Newspaper and magazine clippings about Haddasah Southern Nevada Chapter, 2009-2015	box 04
"Spirit of Hadassah" gala program, 2018	box SH-051

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Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015

Physical Description: 0.67 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)

Physical Description: 0.99 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada records series (1977-2015) is comprised of records created by the Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada and collected by Barbara Raben. Materials include legal certificates and certificates of recognition; event invitations, programs, and ephemera; an annual report providing an overview of the agency and its activities; and undated photographs of events.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Certificates, 1977, 2000-2012, undated	box 04
Proclamation of recognition from the Board of Commissioners of Clark County, Nevada, plaque, 1988	oversized box 02
Newspaper and magazine clippings about the JFSA, 2008-2015	box 04

Event invitations, programs, and ephemera, 2012-2015	box 04
"Overview" report, 2013-2014	box 04
JFSA event photographs from poster board collage, undated	box 01
Photograph album, undated	box 01
Photograph album sheets, undated	oversized box 02

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Barbara Raben personal papers, 1998-2014

Physical Description: 0.11 Cubic Feet (1 box)

Physical Description: 0.10 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Barbara Raben personal papers series (1998-2014) consists of newspaper clippings and other materials documenting Barbara Raben's personal life and business, The Candy Factory. Materials include newspaper clippings about The Candy Factory, graduation ceremony invitations and programs for The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, and Terry Raben's (Barbara's husband) graduation certificate.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Newspaper clippings about The Candy Factory, 1998	box 04
The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning graduation programs, invitation, and certificate, 2013-2014	box 04

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