



## Guide to the Dennis and Roberta Sabbath Papers

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## Summary Information

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| <b>Repository:</b>               | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.   |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Sabbath, Dennis, 1943-2000   |
| <b>Contributor:</b>              | Sabbath, Roberta Serman  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Dennis and Roberta Sabbath Papers  |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | MS-00731   |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | approximately 1970 to 1991   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 17 Digital Files (transferred electronically; no physical carrier)   |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | The Dennis and Roberta Sabbath papers are comprised of photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera created and collected by Dennis and Roberta Sabbath. Photographs and ephemera document the Sabbaths' personal and social lives and their involvement in the Jewish community in Las Vegas, Nevada. Newspaper clippings document the law career of Dennis Sabbath and his campaign for Nevada State Senate in 1986. |

### Preferred Citation

Dennis and Roberta Sabbath Papers, 1970s-1991. MS-00731. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note for Dennis Sabbath

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Dennis Sabbath (1943-2000) was a prominent lawyer and community leader in Las Vegas, Nevada. Born July 17, 1943 in New York City, he grew up in Washington, D.C. He attended the University of Maryland and the University of Chicago Law School. In 1967 he married Roberta Serman. The couple moved to Kodiak, Alaska in 1969 where Dennis performed legal services such as marriages, guardianships, and adoptions through the programs Legal Aid and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). After about two years in Alaska, the Sabbaths moved to Las Vegas. Dennis Sabbath was a lifelong Democrat and actively involved in politics. He ran for Nevada State Senate in District 5 in 1986, but lost to Republican Bill O'Donnell. He was member of the Jewish Federation Young Leadership group and was chairman of the board of the Hebrew Academy.

He also practiced law, representing the Culinary Workers Union, and later, the Musicians Union and the Steelworkers Union. In 1991 he co-authored the Chemical Catastrophe Prevention Act after several chemical accidents occurred in Henderson, Nevada in the late 1980s and early 1990s, including the PEPCON explosion in 1988.

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## Biographical Note for Roberta Sabbath

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Roberta Serman Sabbath is an Assistant Professor of English in Residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and an active member of the Las Vegas, Nevada Jewish community. Sabbath was born on December 23, 1943 in Richmond, Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree in French from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1965 and married Dennis Sabbath in 1967. The couple spent two years in Chicago before moving to Kodiak, Alaska in 1969, where she started an adult basic education program and a youth program. After about two years in Alaska, Sabbath and her husband moved to Las Vegas. They both became involved with the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, and she was president of the Federation's Women's Division from 1982 to 1984. Roberta Sabbath founded the UNLV chapter of Hillel in 1976 and was administrator of the Hebrew Academy for three years in the late 1990s. She also served on the board of the Las Vegas Anti-Defamation League. Sabbath received two master's degrees from UNLV, one in Educational Counseling in 1976 and one in Theater in 1990. She earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Riverside in 1994. *Sacred Tropes: Tanakh, New Testament, and Qur'an as Literature and Culture*, edited by Sabbath, was published in 2009.

Source:

"Roberta Sabbath." *Women's Research Institute of Nevada*. Accessed June 11, 2015. <http://wrinunlv.org/new-leadership-nevada/voices-of-new-leadership-nevada/roberta-sabbath/>.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Dennis and Roberta Sabbath papers are comprised of photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera created and collected by Dennis and Roberta Sabbath. Photographs and ephemera document the Sabbaths' personal and social lives and their involvement in the Jewish community in Las Vegas, Nevada. Newspaper clippings document the law career of Dennis Sabbath and his campaign for Nevada State Senate in 1986.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Some collection material has been digitized and is [available online](#).

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

In 2015 Roberta Sabbath donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2015-058.

### Processing Note

Material was processed by Emily Lapworth and Meghan Gross in 2015.

### Existence and Location of Originals

This collection is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Jews -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Lawyers -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Biography

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## Collection Inventory

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| Title/Description   | Containers |
|---|------------|
| Photographs of Dennis and Roberta Sabbath at events, 1970s-1980s  |            |
| Photographs of Dennis Sabbath with elected officials, 1970s-1980s   |            |
| Certificates issued to Dennis and Roberta Sabbath, 1982-1984  |            |
| Dennis Sabbath State Senate campaign newspaper clipping, Nevada Votes supplement, Las Vegas Review-Journal, 1986 November 2 |            |
| Newspaper clippings referring to Dennis Sabbath's career as an attorney in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1988-1990                     |            |
| Clipping and legal papers related to the Chemical Catastrophe Prevention Act co-authored by Dennis Sabbath, 1991            |            |