



Guide to the Maurice Halfon Behar Papers

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | Behar, Maurice Halfon, 1938- |
| Title: | Maurice Halfon Behar Papers |
| ID: | MS-00801 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1920 to 2015 |
| Physical Description: | 41 Digital Files (Files are digital surrogates.) Transferred electronically; no physical carrier |
| Language of the Material: | Most of the materials in the collection are in French; some are in English and German. |
| Abstract: | Collection is comprised of photographs, correspondence, and other documents created by Holocaust survivor Maurice Halfon Behar and his family from the 1920s to 2015. The photographs depict the Behar, Bally, and Halfon families from the 1920s to the 1950s. They show Maurice Behar as a child with his mother in France, and his parents' families in Istanbul, Turkey, and Biarritz, France. The documents and correspondence to and from the family of Maurice Halfon Behar regard reparations from the French and German governments for the displacement of the Halfon family during the German occupation of France. |

Preferred Citation

Maurice Halfon Behar Papers, 1920s-2015. MS-00801. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Maurice "Maury" Halfon Behar was born in Biarritz, France in 1938 and spent his early childhood in Bayonne, France. On January 12, 1944 the Nazis took his parents from their home, but Behar was left behind due to a bout with measles. He was then cared for by his neighbor, Marie Cazous, passing as her son, until he was adopted by relatives from the United States and moved to New York City in 1947.

Behar spent the next decade in New York City, spending his adolescent years in the South Bronx, and then studying business and prelaw at New York University. After graduation, Behar served in

the United States Army, and soon after, took his first job as a welfare investigator for the City of New York. Ten months later, he started his sales career entering a trainee program at Playtex, and continued with various sales positions, eventually ending up in Los Angeles. Behar later received his real estate broker's license and started his own company, Northridge Equity, with a partner. After closing a large real estate sale in Las Vegas, Behar moved with his son, Brett, to the city in 1990, as did his business partner. After struggling with ventures alongside his partner, Behar finally started a new career in hotel security, first with a position at the Boardwalk Hotel and Casino. He later moved to a position at the New York New York Hotel and Casino soon after it opened in 1997.

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Scope and Contents Note

Collection is comprised of photographs, correspondence, and other documents created by Holocaust survivor Maurice Halfon Behar and his family from the 1920s to 2015. The photographs depict the Behar, Bally, and Halfon families from the 1920s to the 1950s. They show Maurice Behar as a child with his mother in France, and his parents' families in Istanbul, Turkey, and Biarritz, France. The documents and correspondence to and from the family of Maurice Halfon Behar regard reparations from the French and German governments for the displacement of the Halfon family during the German occupation of France.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

In 2016, Maurice Behar donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2016-017.

Processing Note

Materials were processed in 2016 by Meghan Gross.

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

- World War, 1939-1945
- photographs
- Holocaust survivors

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Containers |
|--|------------|
| Photographs, 1920s-1950s | |
| Fortunee Behar holding Maurice Behar, approximately 1939 | |
| Behar family in Istanbul, 1952 July 30 | |
| Fortunee Halfon and Maise Salti in Biarritz in front of Bally's shop, 1932 | |
| Behar (?) family portrait, 1930s | |
| Fortunee Halfon, Rose Ajuelo and Marie Bally in Istanbul, approximately 1922 | |
| Maurice Behar a bicycle, 1942 August 27 | |
| Fortunee and Elise in front of Bally's stocking shop in Biarritz, 1932 | |

Brother and sister Harry and Fortune Halfon in Biarritz, 1921 November 20

Photograph of a couple, 1920s

Photograph of a group, 1930s

Isaac Halfon, Mareo Behar and Dane Bally in Hendaye, Bas Pyrneeese, 1932

Group portrait, 1920s

Group portrait, 1910s

Photograph of plaque or tombstone with names of Bally and Halfon family members who died in the Holocaust, undated

Correspondence and documents from and about Maurice Halfon Behar, 1947-2015

Letter from Maurice Halfon Behar (Boca Raton, Fla.) to Pierre Sezille (Caen, France) regarding birth certificate, 2001 January 13

Birth certificate for Maurice Behar, 1938

Letter from Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS - FRANCE) Bureau de Bordeaux to David Bally (Bayonne, France), 1947 September 26

Letter to Monsieur David Bally (Bayonne, France), 1947 January 24

Letter from Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Bordeaux, France) to David Bally (Bayonne, France), 1948 February 09

Letter from Fonds Social Juif (Paris, France) to David Bally (Bayonne, France), 1959 November 15

Letter from Fonds Social Juif Unifie (Paris, FR) to Maurice Halfon (Bronx, New York), 1962 June 28

Form from Fonds Social Juif Unifie (Paris, France) for David Bally, 1962 April 05

Letter to Maurice Halfon (Bronx, New York) regarding the reparations from the German government, 1963 April 05

Letter from Fonds Social Juif Unifie (Paris, France) to David Bally (Bayonne, France), 1962 June 28

Letter from J. Fortis (Fonds Social Juif Unifie) to David Bally, 1963 April 22

Letter from J. Sanuel (Fonds Social Juif Unifie) to Maurice Behar, 1963 April 22

Certificate of Residence for Maurice Halfon (Behar) issued by Le Consul General de France, 1965 January 26

Registration for reparations (?) from Germany, document for David Bally, Isaac Halfon, and Maurice Halfon, 1957 July 19

Certificate of Naturalization for Maurice Behar, 1956 May

Letter from Marco Behar (Land Lakes, Florida) to Maurice Behar (Northridge, Calif.), 1982 July 12

Letter from Gloria Behar Gottsegen (Boca Raton, Fla.) to Dr. Pierre E. Chanover (Boca Raton, Fla.) and fliers from the Child Survivors group, 1996 September 06

Letter from Gloria Behar Gottsegen to Mr. Draï (Paris), regarding request for reparations for Maurice Halfon Behar, 2000 January 26

Letter from Gloria Behar Gottsegen to Jean Pierre Masseret, Secretary of State, Ministère des Anciens Combattants (Paris), regarding reparations for Maurice Halfon Behar, 2000 January 26

Letter from Vivette Bally (nee Cittone) to Maurice Behar, 2014 June 18

Copy of marriage certificate for Isaac Halfon and Fourtouni (Fortunee) Salti, 1930 September 17

Letter from Irena Steinfeldt to Maurice Halfon-Behar, recognition for Marie Cazaux by Yad Vashem, 2015 November 03