



Guide to the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Background	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project
Title:	Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection
ID:	MS-00790
Date [inclusive]:	1941 to 2017
Physical Description:	1.28 Cubic Feet (2 boxes and 1 oversized box (2 shared boxes))
Physical Description:	1.87 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	225 Digital Files (16.450 GB) BMP, JPG, MP4, MPG, MTS, PDF, TIF, ZIP
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection is comprised of organizational records, photographs, event programs, and ephemera donated by members of the Southern Nevada Jewish community as part of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas University Libraries' Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project. Materials document the history of the Jewish community and Southern Nevada from 1941 to 2017. The collection provides information about family life, religious rituals, community events, and local businesses and organizations.

Preferred Citation

Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection, 1941-2017. MS-00790. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f12k6v>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Background

The Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project at the UNLV University Libraries is a multi-year initiative to collect, preserve, and provide access to primary sources documenting the history of

the Jewish community of Southern Nevada. The project's goals are to conduct oral histories that capture first-hand testimony about Jewish life in Las Vegas; to seek personal and organizational archives about the community and ensure their preservation; to provide online access to selected historical resources that support research, teaching, and learning; and to engage the Jewish and Las Vegas communities in appreciation of this rich history.

The Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project launched in July 2014 when the UNLV University Libraries received a one-year grant through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the Nevada State Library and Archives. Within the first year, the UNLV University Libraries worked with community partners to collect and digitize oral histories and historical documents pertaining to the Jewish community. In subsequent years of the project (2015-2017), the UNLV University Libraries continued to collect oral histories and historical items, digitize materials for online access, and build the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project portal, a website that acts as a gateway to primary sources about the Southern Nevada Jewish experience and includes oral history transcripts, audio clips, newspapers, historical documents, photographs, scrapbooks, videos, and more. To provide additional context about these sources, the site also features biographies, organizational histories, descriptions of themes, blog posts, and a timeline.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection is comprised of organizational records, photographs, event programs, and ephemera donated by members of the Southern Nevada Jewish community as part of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas University Libraries' Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project. Materials document the history of the Jewish community and Southern Nevada from the 1940s to 2017. The collection provides information about family life, religious rituals, community events, and local businesses and organizations. Organizations represented include B'nai B'rith, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Am (and its merge with Adat Ari El to form Temple Sinai), the Jewish Federation (now called Jewish Nevada), the Jewish Community Center of Southern Nevada, and Congregation Ner Tamid. Individuals documented in the collection include Ben Rosenfeld, Meera Kamegai, Sharon Sigismund Pierce, Wendy Kraft, Laura Sussman, Lori Chenin-Frankl, Ruth Urban, Roberta Kane, Paul and Sari Aizley, David and Iris Torjman, and Valerie and Louis Wiener.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are arranged by accession.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digital and available online. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by members of the Southern Nevada Jewish community between 2015-2025, accession numbers 2016-004, 2016-006, 2016-007, 2016-008, 2016-009, 2016-014, 2016-015, 2016-016, 2016-026, 2017-018, 2017-026, 2017-138, 2018-016, 2025-017.

Processing Note

Emily Lapworth processed the materials and created the finding aid from 2015 to 2017. In 2021, Tammi Kim accessioned the 2018 addition and updated the finding aid. In 2025, Landon Paljusaj processed the 2025 addition and updated the finding aid.

Existence and Location of Originals

Some items in this collection are digital surrogates, with the original items retained by the donor.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Jews -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Jews -- Societies, etc.
- Synagogues
- photographs
- Jewish Nevada
- Congregation Ner Tamid (Henderson, Nev.)
- Temple Beth Sholom (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Rosenfeld, Ben, 1904-1996
- Rudiak, Richard, 1952-
- Kamegai, Meera
- Sigismund Pierce, Sherry, 1938-
- Kraft, Wendy, 1960-
- Sussman, Laura A., 1956-
- Chenin-Frankl, Lori
- Pearson Urban, Ruth, 1948-
- Aizley, Paul, 1936-
- Aizley, Sari, 1934-2017
- Torjman, David
- Torjman, Iris Schwartz (1947 June 22-)
- Dahan, David, 1957-
- Fine, Fran Ventura
- Wiener, Valerie
- Wanderer, John
- Goodman, Oscar Baylin, 1939-
- Kane, Roberta Gordon, 1932-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
<p>Ben Rosenfeld photographs and ephemera, approximately 1943 to 1989</p> <p>Contributor: Rosenfeld, Ben, 1904-1996</p> <p>Physical Description: 51 Digital Files (0.083 GB) JPG, PDF.</p> <p>Physical Description: 6 Files</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Digital surrogates were created and donated to UNLV Special Collections by Carole Rosenfeld in 2015; accession number 2016-007. Physical materials were donated by Carole Rosenfeld in 2025; accession number 2025-017.</p>	

Existence and Location of Originals: Some items in this file are digital surrogates, with the original items retained by the donor.

Publication Rights: This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Carole Rosenfeld, acknowledged that they held no copyrights in the donated material when they transferred ownership of the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Community Collection (MS-00790) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Ben Rosenfeld's United States certificate of citizenship, Nevada Blind and Floor Company stock certificate, and photocopies of Rosenfeld's birth certificate, approximately 1943 to 1954	box 03
Ben Rosenfeld, Rosenfeld family and friends, and views of Las Vegas hotels and casinos: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1989	box 03
Newspaper clippings featuring the Rosenfelds, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 03
Las Vegas hotel and casino event programs, postcards, and souvenirs, approximately 1950 to 1969	box 03
B'nai B'rith installation program and newsletter, 1954	box 03
Issues of <i>Panorama Magazine</i> and Desert Inn Country Club Newsletter, 1954 to 1978	oversized box SH-036

Richard Rudiak photographs, approximately approximately 1951, 1985

Contributor: Rudiak, Richard, 1952-

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier) Files are digital surrogates.

Acquisition Note: Digital surrogates were created and donated to UNLV Special Collections by Richard Rudiak in 2015; accession number 2016-008.

Existence and Location of Originals: This file is composed entirely of digital surrogates created by the donor. The donor retained the original items.

Photograph of children at Temple Beth Sholom, approximately 1951

Scope and Contents Note: Description from donor: "ORIGINAL TEMPLE BETH SHALOM PHOTO: Little Boy in suspenders, front row is David Rudiak, boy in middle row with "cowboy?" shirt on is Andrew Rudiak. Behind Andrew (on his left) in the back row, is Geri Rudiak-Renchler. Tall boy in back row I believe is Brian Greenspun."

Photograph of Dani Rentchler-Ramage's Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom, approximately 1985

Scope and Contents Note: Dani Rentchler-Ramage's Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom at 17th and Oakey. From left to right: Gertrude

Rightman-Rudiak, Geri Rudiak-Rentchler, Dani Rentchler-Ramage,
John Rentchler, George Rudiak and (Rabbi Lederman?)

Meera Kamegai Temple Beth Am records, 2003-2014	
Contributor: Kamegai, Meera	
Physical Description: 1 Files	
Physical Description: 7 Digital Files	
Acquisition Note: Materials were donated in 2015 by former president of Temple Beth Am Meera M. Kamegai; accession number 2016-006.	
Statement for Temple Beth Am time capsule, 2014	box SH-035
Biography of Rabbi Mel Hecht, written for a brochure, probably approximately 2004	box SH-035
Letter to the Temple Beth Am board of directors from first vice president Meera Kamegai, 2004 July 12	box SH-035
Executive Committee meeting agenda and notes, 2006 June 28	box SH-035
Observation on office procedure in Temple Beth Am, 2006 June	box SH-035
Letter to the Temple Beth Am board of directors from president Meera Kamegai, 2007 January 17	box SH-035
Letter to the Temple Beth Am board of directors from president Meera Kamegai, approximately approximately 2007 February	box SH-035
Clark County, Nevada District Court document, Meera Kamegai, president of Temple Beth Am, plaintiff, vs. Temple Beth Am and Roe Corporations, defendants, 2007 April	box SH-035
Plan and agreement of merger between Adat Ari El and Temple Beth Am, 2007 Spring	box SH-035
Letter to Congregation of Temple Beth Am from president Meera Kamegai, 2007 May 9	box SH-035
Letter to Congregation of Temple Beth Am from president Meera Kamegai, 2007 June 4	box SH-035
Reform Congregation of Las Vegas board of trustees meeting minutes, 2007 June 5	box SH-035
Correspondence, 2006-2007	box SH-035
"Welcome to Temple Beth Am" CD, approximately 2003	box SH-035
Sharon Sigismund Pierce scrapbook and photographs, 1977-2006	
Contributor: Sigismund Pierce, Sherry, 1938-	
Physical Description: 34 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	
Physical Description: 1 Items (1 scrapbook)	

Acquisition Note: Some physical materials and some digital surrogates (donor retained original items) were donated in 2016 by Sharon Sigismund Pierce; accession number 2016-009.

Existence and Location of Originals: Some items in this file are digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

Silver Meadows Chapter 1580 B'nai B'rith Women scrapbook, 1977	oversized box SH-036
Loose materials from Silver Meadows Chapter 1580 B'nai B'rith Women scrapbook, 1977	box SH-035
Sharon Sigismund Pierce photographs and albums, 1984-2006	
Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.	
International Lion of Judah Conference photo album, 2006 September 10-12	
Opening and dedication of Temple Beth Sholom, Summerlin campus building photo album, 2000	
Jewish community events photo album (includes dedication of Sigismund Center for Jewish Federation), 1990s	
Photographs of Sharon Sigismund Pierce at philanthropy events, 2000s	
Photograph of Sharon Sigismund Pierce at her bat Mitzvah as an adult, 1984 March 16	
Photographs of Temple Beth Sholom construction celebration, approximately 1996	
Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.	
Jewish Federation of Las Vegas Champions of Freedom Dinner Gala programs, 2003-2007	box SH-035
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Wendy Kraft and Laura Sussman papers, 1997-2013	
Contributor: Kraft, Wendy, 1960-	
Contributor: Sussman, Laura A., 1956-	
Physical Description: 9 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	
Physical Description: 5 Files	
Acquisition Note: Materials were donated in 2016 by Wendy Kraft and Laura Sussman; accession number 2016-014.	
Existence and Location of Originals: Some items in this file are digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.	
Jewish Community Center of Southern Nevada publications, 1997-2004	box SH-035
Scope and Contents Note: Jewish Community Center of Southern Nevada (JCC) publications file contains annual reports, event invitations and programs, and other publications created by the JCC from 1997 to 2004.	

Business Plan to Build Phase 1 of a Jewish Community Center, 2003	box SH-035
Temple Beth Sholom publications, 2004-2007 Scope and Contents Note: This file consists of annual reports, bulletins, event invitations and programs, and brochures from 2004 to 2007.	box SH-035
Temple Beth Sholom Level 1 Reserve Study, 2008	box SH-035
Temple Beth Sholom Abbie and David Friedman Multi Generational Pavilion brochure and booklet of plans, approximately 2000s	oversized box SH-036
Kraft-Sussman Funeral Home business ephemera and clippings, 2009-2013 Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.	
Lori Chenin-Frankl papers, 1964-1978, 2016 Contributor: Chenin-Frankl, Lori Physical Description: 1 Files Scope and Contents Note: The Lori Chenin-Frankl papers consist of Chenin-Frankl's Jewish Community Preschool report card from 1964 to 1965; three photographs of her Bat Mitzvah in 1973; her certificate of confirmation from Temple Beth Sholom on June 10, 1977; a Temple Beth Sholom Confirmation Exercises event program from 1978; two undated news clippings about the Temple Beth Sholom Junior Choir; and her panelist name tag from a 2016 UNLV University Libraries Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project event. Acquisition Note: Materials were donated in 2016 by Lori Chenin-Frankl; accession number 2016-004.	box SH-035
Ruth Urban photographs and program, 1940s-2015 Contributor: Pearson Urban, Ruth, 1948- Physical Description: 12 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates. Acquisition Note: In 2016, Ruth Urban donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2016-015. Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.	
Paul and Sari Aizley publications, 1977-2000 Contributor: Aizley, Paul, 1936- Contributor: Aizley, Sari, 1934-2017 Physical Description: 2 Files Acquisition Note: Materials were donated by Paul and Sari Aizley in 2016; accession number 2016-016.	
Choices: Exploring the lifestyles of Nevada women, booklet published for the Nevada State Women's Conference, 1977 June 17-19	box SH-035

The Nevadan Today newspaper, profile of "Sari Aizley, ACLU head says agenda is guarding Bill of Rights" (The Las Vegas Review-Journal, Vol. 27, No. 3), 1988 January 17	oversized box SH-036
The Stars and Stripes newspaper, authorized official publication for Jewish Family Service Agency, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1988 November 12	oversized box SH-036
I Never Saw Another Butterfly (Children of the Holocaust) booklet of art and poetry, probably 1990s	box SH-035
"And now, a word from our censor," newspaper clipping from CityLife featuring Sari Aizley, editor of CLASS! newspaper, 2000 March 2	oversized box SH-036
The Nevadan Today newspaper, profile of "George Rudiak, civil rights pioneer" (The Las Vegas Review-Journal, Vol. 27, No. 32), 1988 August 7	oversized box SH-036
Photograph of Danny Kolod Youth Center at Temple Beth Sholom, 1960s Physical Description: 1 Files Acquisition Note: The photograph was donated by Shelley Berkley in 2016.	box SH-035
Congregation Ner Tamid Champions Gala event program, 2016 March 05 Physical Description: 1 Files	box SH-035
David and Iris Torjman photographs, 1950s-1993 Contributor: Torjman, David Contributor: Torjman, Iris Schwartz (1947 June 22-) Physical Description: 16 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates. Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items. Acquisition Note: In 2016, David and Iris Torjman donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2016-026.	
Photograph of David Dahan with his wife and two daughters, 2017 Contributor: Dahan, David, 1957- Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier) Acquisition Note: Donated by David Dahan in 2017; accession number 2017-026.	
Fran Fine-Ventura portraits, 2016 Contributor: Fine, Fran Ventura Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier) Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated by Fran Fine in 2017; accession number 2017-026.	
Valerie Wiener photographs, 1941-2016 Contributor: Wiener, Valerie Physical Description: 13 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	

Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: In 2017, Valerie Wiener donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2017-018.

<p>Photograph of John P. Wanderer, approximately 1990s</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Files</p>	<p>box SH-035</p>
<p>Video of Jewish University inaugural event "Kosher Nostra, A Conversation with Mayor Oscar Goodman", January 7, 2016</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier)</p> <p>Access Note: Video is accessible online at http://d.library.unlv.edu/cdm/ref/collection/jhp/id/5348</p>	
<p>Photographs, videos, and transcript of "Jewish Las Vegas" bus tour, May 17, 2015</p> <p>Physical Description: 77 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier)</p> <p>Scope and Contents: Temple Beth Sholom organized and led a bus tour of parts of Las Vegas that are significant in local Jewish history. UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff took photos and video on this tour, and the video was later transcribed. Stops on the tour included Woodlawn Cemetery and the former Temple Beth Sholom campus on Oakey Boulevard. Narrator Arlene Blut gives the overview of the Jewish community, and Rabbi Felipe Goodman talks to tour participants at the cemetery. Former Las Vegas mayor Oscar Goodman speaks at the old synagogue along with Josh Abbey, whose mother created the stained glass windows at the temple.</p>	
<p>Life & Style magazine, 2004-2007</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Files</p>	<p>box 03</p>
<p>Life & Style: A Las Vegas Jewish Magazine, Spring 2004</p>	
<p>Life & Style: The Las Vegas Jewish Magazine, November/December 2004</p>	
<p>Jewish Life & Style, May 2006</p>	
<p>Jewish Life & Style, April 2007</p>	
<p>Congregation Ner Tamid records, 2013-2017</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 Files</p> <p>Scope and Contents Note: Programs, newspaper clippings, and audio CD of Cantor Jessica Hutchings, "A Taste of Shabbat."</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Materials were donated by Barbara Tabach (Project Manager of the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project) in 2017.</p>	<p>box 03</p>
<p>"Who in the World is Roberta Kane" presentation, 2017</p> <p>Creator: Kane, Roberta Gordon, 1932-</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (8.000 GB) MP4</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Materials were donated by Roberta Kane in 2017; accession number 2018-016.</p>	<p>digital file 00</p>