



Guide to the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project Community Collection

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

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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]:	1941-2017
Physical Description:	1.28 Cubic Feet (2 boxes and 1 oversized box (2 shared boxes))
Physical Description:	1.87 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	193 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.

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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.

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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 Shalom, 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.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by accession.

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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 2015-2018, 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.

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.

Existence and Location of Originals

Some items in this collection are digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

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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
- 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, 1950s-1978</p> <p>Contributor: Rosenfeld, Ben, 1904-1996</p> <p>Physical Description: 19 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier) Files are digital surrogates.</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Digital surrogates were created and donated to UNLV Special Collections by Carole Rosenfeld in 2015; accession number 2016-007.</p> <p>Existence and Location of Originals: This file is comprised exclusively of digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.</p>	
<p>Hotel ephemera, 1950s-1960s</p>	
<p>Photographs of Ben Rosenfeld and Las Vegas hotels and buildings, 1950s-1977</p>	
<p>B'nai B'rith installation program, 1954 January 24</p>	
<p>B'nai B'rith newsletter, September 1954</p>	

Newspaper clippings, 1955-1977

Desert Inn Country Club Newsletter, Volume XVI, 1978 spring

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-Renchler, 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
<p>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.</p>	
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
<p>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.</p>	
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 box
SH-035

Scope and Contents Note: This file consists of annual reports, bulletins, event invitations and programs, and brochures from 2004 to 2007.

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 box
SH-035

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.

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

box
SH-035

Acquisition Note: The photograph was donated by Shelley Berkley in 2016.

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

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.

Photograph of John P. Wanderer, approximately 1990s

Physical Description: 1 Files

box
SH-035

Video of Jewish University inaugural event "Kosher Nostra, A Conversation with Mayor Oscar Goodman", January 7, 2016

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier)

Access Note: Video is accessible online at <http://d.library.unlv.edu/cdm/ref/collection/jhp/id/5348>

Photographs, videos, and transcript of "Jewish Las Vegas" bus tour, May 17, 2015

Physical Description: 77 Digital Files (Transferred electronically; no physical carrier)

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.

Life & Style magazine, 2004-2007

box 03

Physical Description: 1 Files

Life & Style: A Las Vegas Jewish Magazine, Spring 2004

Life & Style: The Las Vegas Jewish Magazine, November/December 2004

Jewish Life & Style, May 2006

Jewish Life & Style, April 2007

Congregation Ner Tamid records, 2013-2017

box 03

Physical Description: 2 Files

Scope and Contents Note: Programs, newspaper clippings, and audio CD of Cantor Jessica Hutchings, "A Taste of Shabbat."

Acquisition Note: Materials were donated by Barbara Tabach (Project Manager of the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project) in 2017.

"Who in the World is Roberta Kane" presentation, 2017

digital

Creator: Kane, Roberta Gordon, 1932-

file 00

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (8.000 GB) MP4

Acquisition Note: Materials were donated by Roberta Kane in 2017; accession number 2018-016.