Southern Nevada Jewish Community Digital Heritage Project

Envisioned as a three-year project, the UNLV Libraries will:

❖ initiate a strategic collecting initiative to ensure the preservation of and access to historical primary sources (e.g., photographs, documents, newspapers, and more) about the Southern Nevada Jewish community

❖ conduct oral histories to capture first hand testimony about Jewish life in Las Vegas

❖ create a digital collection to provide online access to these historical resources and support research, teaching, and learning

Project timeline

2013 December	• Apply for a one-year, $100,000 grant through the Library Services and Technology Act • Raise awareness about the project and begin fundraising
2014 January-2014 June	• Develop charges for boards and community stakeholder groups to encourage broad participation in the project • Apply to UNLV's Office of Research Integrity on Human Subjects for approval on oral history questions • Gather information about individuals and organizations to approach for their histories • Identify community stakeholders and experts to approach for participation in the project • Identify materials in the University Libraries for digitization in the project • Conduct oral histories strategically
2014 July	• Receive grant funds • Hire project personnel • Invite individuals to join the Board of Advocates
2014 August	• Invite individuals to join the Community Advisory Board, the Scholarly Expert Group, and the Holocaust Advisory Group • Invite Southern Nevada rabbis to a summit to learn about the project and invite them to participate further
2014 August-2015 June	• Convene meetings for the Community Advisory Board, the Scholarly Expert Group, and the Holocaust Advisory Group • Identify and collect historical materials from the community to preserve in Special Collections and/or to digitize for the project. Organize, preserve, and catalog newly acquired materials. • Record and transcribe approximately 25 oral histories • Host and video record two or three community roundtable discussions • Conduct research and write biographies, histories, and timelines about key individuals, organizations, themes, events, and issues • Digitize the University Libraries' historical materials about the Jewish community. Digitize newly acquired materials. Host "Scanning Days" days in the community. • Build the website. Seek continual feedback from stakeholders • Raise private funds to sustain the project. Identify additional grant opportunities
2015 January	• Host event to promote the project and celebrate contributions
2015 June	• Launch website

2015 August-2016 June	• Continue to engage and support the work of the Community Advisory Board, the Scholarly Expert Group, and the Holocaust Advisory Group • Continue to work throughout the Jewish community to identify historical materials to collect, organize, preserve, and digitize • Digitize Jewish newspapers • Record and transcribe an additional 25 oral histories • Investigate and implement additional bells and whistles for the website to improve user experience • Continue to conduct research and write biographies, histories, and timelines about key individuals, organizations, themes, events, and issues
2016 June	• Launch additional functionality to the website to highlight relationships and narrative threads • Host celebratory event to publicize the project and the website
2016 June – 2017 August	• Work to be determined based on an assessment of progress to date and feedback from the Board of Advocates, the Community Advisory Group, the Scholarly Experts Group, members of the Jewish community, and other educational users.

Key UNLV Libraries Project Staff

Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean of the UNLV University Libraries

Tamara Michel Josserand
Director of Development

Michelle Light
Director of Special Collections and Co-Principal Investigator

Cory Lampert
Head, Digital Collections and Co-Principal Investigator

Barbara Tabach
Project Coordinator (beginning August 2014)

Claytee White
Director of the Oral History Research Center

Meghan Gross
Digital Collections Specialist (beginning August 2014)

To Be Hired
Project Archivist (beginning Fall 2014)