

Katz, (Edythe and Lloyd) Papers

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.
Creator:	Katz-Yarchever, Edythe
Creator:	Katz, Lloyd
Title:	Edythe and Lloyd Katz Papers
ID:	MS-00376
Date [inclusive]:	1934-2002
Physical Description:	5.50 Linear Feet 5 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, and one flat file
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Edythe and Lloyd Katz papers (1934-2002) provide a glimpse of the social, religious, and educational contributions that they made to the community of Las Vegas, Nevada. Materials include photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and awards dating from 1934 to 2002.

Preferred Citation Note

Edythe and Lloyd Katz Papers, MS-00376. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note on Edythe Katz Yarchever

Edythe Katz-Yarchever (née Sperling; 1920-) is the founding chairperson of the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center in Las Vegas, Nevada and the Nevada Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust. She came to Las Vegas with her husband Lloyd Katz in 1951 to manage three of the four movie theaters in the city, which they desegregated at a time when the rest of the city was still racially divided. Edythe opened the city's first Jewish gift shop, served as Sisterhood president at Temple Beth Sholom, and established the Temple Preschool and the *Jewish Reporter*. She initiated programs with the Clark County School District to bring understanding of the Holocaust throughout the State of Nevada, and participated in the establishment of the Clark County School District

Curriculum Guide in Holocaust Education. In 1992, the Clark County School District named a school, The Edythe and Lloyd Katz Elementary School, after her and her husband.

Edythe Sperling was born in Boston, Massachusetts and spent her formative years there. After high school graduation, she attended the Charles School in Cambridge where she began to develop an interest in politics. One of her earliest memories was walking behind Franklin Roosevelt's town car at the Boston Gardens.

During the early years of World War II, she was a member of the Massachusetts National Guard and drove an ambulance. Edythe then worked for the United States Army Medical Corps as an executive secretary at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. Later, she was transferred to Cushing General Hospital in Framingham, MA, as a secretary of the Neurological Division, and then to the Hawaiian Islands.

She returned home to Boston in 1946 and shortly thereafter moved to Los Angeles. Edythe was first employed at MGM Picture Studios in Culver City and, a year later, at the Harold Hecht Agency, working with many well-known Hollywood celebrities of the time. In 1948 she met and married Lloyd Katz, who was employed as a manager for the Eagle-Lion film Distribution office in San Francisco, CA.

In October of 1951, a business opportunity arose in Las Vegas, NV. At that time, there were only four movie houses in the town and Lloyd took over the operation of three of them. They needed a great deal of improvement and updating, but Lloyd had years of experience in the field and made them first class theaters. The first thing Lloyd did was to integrate. His employees were instructed to "let everyone sit wherever he chooses."

Almost immediately upon their arrival in Las Vegas, they joined the Jewish Community Center, which was the first and only Jewish congregation in the city. They became active on the Board, Lloyd becoming its President, and Edythe with the Sisterhood, where she served as President and founded the first Judaic Gift Shop in Las Vegas. It was during Lloyd's term as President that the plans were drawn and initiated for Temple Beth Shalom.

Both Edythe and Lloyd worked toward civil rights and inter-faith relationships in the community, opening their theaters to every church of every denomination for fund-raisers. The Huntridge Theater, in particular, was considered "the family theater." Edythe developed the Temple Preschool, the only preschool recommended by the Clark County School District, for which they offered scholarships to underprivileged children of other races and religions.

In 1980 the Katzes founded the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center in memory of Edythe's parents Gertrude and Hyman Sperling. Edythe Katz-Yarchever was the founding chairperson of both the Holocaust Resource Center and the Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust, which was established by the Nevada Legislature in 1989. According to Katz-Yarchever, the Holocaust Resource Center's "main purpose is, and always has been, to educate the community through the lessons of the Holocaust, by teaching respect for human dignity and the value of cultural and ethnic differences." The Governor's Advisory Council develops educational programs and provides guidance and advice about Holocaust education throughout the state. Beginning in 2004 Katz-Yarchever co-chaired both organizations with Doug Unger, who later took over as she transitioned into the position of honorary chairperson.

After 38 years of happy marriage, Lloyd Katz passed away in 1986 with his wife and two sons by his side. In 1995, Edythe married retired Federal Appeals Judge Gilbert Yarchever. Gilbert Yarchever passed away in 2010.

Source:

"Edythe Katz-Yarchever Biography." *Women's Research Institute of Nevada at UNLV*. Accessed January 15, 2015. <http://wrinunlv.org/research/our-history-profiles-of-nevada-women/edythe-katz-yarchever/>.

Activities and Awards

- 1 Chairperson for Board of Directors, Temple Beth Sholom
- 2 Board of Directors, University Center for Religion and Life, UNLV
- 3 Founding member of the Jewish Family Service Agency
- 4 Founder of the Jewish Reporter, a Jewish Federation Newspaper
- 5 Organizer and Director of "Volunteers for Education" program, Clark County School District
- 6 Appointed by Governor Grant Sawyer to "Operation Independence Committee" for Clark County
- 7 Appointed by Governor Michael O'Callaghan to the "State Health Facilities Advisory Council"
- 8 Founder and organizer of Junior Art League – children's auxiliary of the Las Vegas Art League
- 9 One of the founders and organizers of FOCUS Youth Services
- 10 Executive board member of Las Vegas Jewish Federation
- 11 Nevada Liaison of the President's Holocaust Memorial Council, Washington, D.C.
- 12 Member, Board of Directors, Anne Frank Institute, Philadelphia, PA
- 13 Initiated programs with the Clark County School District to bring understanding of the Holocaust throughout the State of Nevada
- 14 Participation in the establishment of the Clark County School District Curriculum Guide in Holocaust Education currently being used
- 15 Instrumental in bringing the "Anne Frank in the World, 1929-1945" exhibit to the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV
- 16 In 1992 the Clark County School District named a school, The Edythe and Lloyd Katz Elementary School, in honor of their contributions to the community..

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Biographical Note on Lloyd Katz

Lloyd Katz (1919-1986) was a prominent member of the Jewish community of Las Vegas and president of the Nevada Theater Corporation. He and his wife Edythe supported a wide range of social and community causes, including civil rights and the Fair Housing Act of Nevada. At a time when the rest of the city was still racially divided, Katz was the first to desegregate his theaters. He also opened them up to religious organizations of any denomination for fundraising events. Katz helped organize the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas (serving as president twice), was a founder of the Jewish Family Services, and was president of Temple Beth Sholom during the planning stages of its synagogue. In 1992, the Edythe

and Lloyd Katz Elementary School was named after the couple in recognition of their contributions to the Las Vegas community.

Katz was born in the Bronx, New York on February 10, 1919. He attended City College of New York but did not earn a degree. After living in Arizona for a few years during the 1940s, he moved to Los Angeles and found success in the film industry. He worked in the sales and booking department of Columbia Pictures, and then was a manager for Eagle-Lion Productions in San Francisco. During this time he met his future wife Edythe Sperling; they were married in 1948 and had two sons, Jeffrey and Barry.

In 1951 Lloyd and Edythe moved to Las Vegas to manage three of the four movie theaters in the city: the Huntridge, the Fremont, and the Palace (later called the Guild). He brought first-class premieres to the city, including the original *Ocean's 11*, and the Huntridge was known as "the best Disney movie theater in the Southwest." In Hollywood Katz was referred to as "the P.T. Barnum of Las Vegas."

Katz was also involved in organizations such as the Focus Program (addressing teen drug and alcohol abuse), Young Audiences (for classical music in public schools), and the Bluecoats (assisting families of firefighters and police officers killed during active duty). Lloyd Katz passed away in April 1986.

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Scope and Contents note

This collection provides a glimpse of the social, religious, and educational contributions that Lloyd and Edythe Katz made to the community of Las Vegas, Nevada. Materials include photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and awards dating from 1934 to 2002. Edythe and Lloyd Katz were prominent members of the Las Vegas Jewish community and also owners of the Nevada Theater Corporation. The collection contains many photographs and a scrapbook about the theaters they owned and managed in Las Vegas (Fremont Theatre, Huntridge Theatre, and Guild Theatre, and Cinemas 1, 2, 3). The Nevada Theater Corporation records contain legal papers, photographs, correspondence, and various documentation for all the theaters owned by the Katz family, including architectural plans for Cinemas 1, 2, 3.

The personal papers include school records, photographs, correspondence, family records, awards and certificates. The papers about the Katz's community involvement focus on educational activities, the Jewish Community Center, and the many other organizations that Edythe and Lloyd Katz supported.

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Arrangement

The collection is organized into three sets of material: personal papers, Nevada Theater Corporation, and community involvement and philanthropy papers.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Joyce Moore and Dallas Reiber to bring it into compliance with DACS. 2014

Access

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online at <http://d.library.unlv.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/MS-00376>

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1996 by Edythe Katz-Yarchever. Accession number 1996-17.

Processing Note

Processed by Joyce Moore, 2006. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Dallas Reiber and Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Dallas Reiber entered the inventory into ArchiveSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

Edythe and Lloyd Katz Photo Collection, PH-00250

Gil Yarchever and Edythe Katz-Yarchever interview: "I Remember When: recollections from Las Vegas Jewish Leaders," 2006 (video recording). F850.J5.K37 2006.

UNLV Special Collections also holds two additional oral histories conducted with Edythe Katz-Yarchever. Transcripts and audio recordings are available through the reference desk in Special Collections.

Separation note

This collection contains numerous photographs, some of which were removed and placed in a separate Special Collections photograph collection PH-00250.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Jews -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Societies,
- Katz-Yarchever, Edythe
- Katz, Lloyd
- Nevada Theater Corporation

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal Papers, undated		
Bar Mitzvahs, Barry and Jeffrey Katz, 1965	Box 01	Folder 01
Biographical information about Edythe, 1995-2005	Box 01	Folder 02
Correspondence, articles re: Jeffrey and Barry, 1956-1994	Box 01	Folder 03
Correspondence from Lloyd to Edythe, 1948-1969	Box 01	Folder 04
Memorial cards and correspondence, Lloyd Katz, April 1986	Box 01	Folder 06
Memorial cards, articles, correspondence, Benjamin Katz, 1969-1970	Box 01	Folder 07
School records, Lloyd Katz, 1927-1935	Box 01	Folder 09
Photograph duplicates, 1957-1992	Box 01	Folder 08
Sperling, Edythe Katz, 1937-1946	Box 01	Folder 10
Writings, Lloyd Katz, 1979-1984	Box 01	Folder 11
House plans, undated		
Awards and certificates, Edythe Katz, 1968-2001	Box 02	Folder 01
Awards and certificates, Lloyd Katz, 1965-1988	Box 02	Folder 02
Correspondence from Edythe Katz, 1988-2003	Box 02	Folder 03
Correspondence to Edythe Katz, 1948-2002	Box 02	Folder 04
Correspondence to Lloyd Katz, 1971-1986	Box 02	Folder 05
Correspondence to Sanders, Jacqueline and Rudi, 1989-2002	Box 02	Folder 06
Stationery, undated		
Invitations and programs, 1994-2003	Box 02	Folder 07
Newspaper articles, 1964-2003	Box 02	Folder 08
Nevada Theatre Corporation, undated		
Christmas Card, 1949	Box 03	Folder 01
Cinemas 1, 2, 3, 1972-1989	Box 03	Folder 02
The Exhibitor, 1948 July 7	Box 03	Folder 03
Fabulous Las Vegas, 1955-1956	Box 03	Folder 04
Guild (Palace) Theater, 1960-1992	Box 03	Folder 05
Huntridge Theater, 1944-2000	Box 03	Folder 06

Legal papers and correspondence, 1951-1997	Box 03	Folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1966-2002	Box 03	Folder 08
Movie Reel Can, empty, undated	Box 03	Folder 09
Nevada Theater Corporation stamp, undated	Box 03	Folder 10
Scrapbook, clippings about theaters, undated	Oversized box 04	
Blueprints for Cinemas, 1, 2, 3, undated	Oversized box 04	
Plaques and awards, 1965-1987	Oversized box 05	
Photograph collages, 1952-1971	Flat file 1	
Community involvement and philanthropy, undated		
Conferences and newsletters, 1973-1980	Box 06	Folder 01
Katz Elementary School news clippings, 1992-1994	Box 06	Folder 02
Katz Elementary School get well cards, undated	Box 06	Folder 03
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Honors Lounge, 1987	Box 06	Folder 04
UNLV Honors Lounge, 2002	Box 06	Folder 05
King of Romania visit, 1993	Box 06	Folder 06
Scrapbook, 1955	Box 06	Folder 07
Scrapbook, 1987-1990	Box 06	Folder 08
Jewish Community Center, 1955-1997		
Correspondence, 1967-2001	Box 07	Folder 01
Holocaust Education Conference, 1997	Box 07	Folder 03
The Jewish Reporter, 1976-2003	Box 07	Folder 06
Tribute to Jack Entratter, undated	Box 07	Folder 10
Jewish Family Services Agency Picnic , May 1967	Box 07	Folder 05
Newsletters, 1988-1991	Box 07	Folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1961-2007	Box 07	Folder 08
"East Lynne" play script, 1955 March 19	Box 07	Folder 02
Jewish Federation of Las Vegas papers, 1984-2003	Box 07	Folder 04
Temple Beth Sholom Crystal Ball, 1994	Box 07	Folder 09