Guide to the Eileen Brookman Papers

This finding aid was created by Joyce Marshall Moore, Su Kim Chung, and Hana Gutierrez on September 25, 2017.
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# Table of Contents

Summary Information ................................................................. 3  
Biographical Note ................................................................. 3  
Scope and Contents Note .......................................................... 4  
Arrangement ............................................................................. 5  
Administrative Information ....................................................... 5  
Related Materials .................................................................... 6  
Names and Subjects .................................................................. 6  
Collection Inventory ................................................................. 7  
   Series I. Personal Papers .......................................................... 7  
   Series II. Political Materials ................................................... 8  
   Series III. Scrapbook Materials ............................................. 11  
   Series IV. Materials added in 2005 .......................................... 11
Summary Information

Creator: Brookman, Eileen
Title: Eileen Brookman Papers
ID: MS-00620
Date [inclusive]: 1941-2002
Physical Description: 9.6 Linear Feet (17 boxes, 1 oversized box)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The materials in this collection document the political career of Assemblywoman Eileen Brookman, a Nevada Democratic legislator. Materials span from 1941 to 2002 and include Brookman's speeches, research material, constituent correspondence, bumper stickers, election returns, and other campaign material; clippings and programs from Jewish service organization B'nai B'rith; documents reflecting Brookman's legislative committee and conference work; correspondence; clippings; pamphlets; invitations; photographs; and scrapbook materials.

Preferred Citation


Biographical Note

Eileen (Milstein) Brookman (1921-2004) was member of the Nevada Assembly from 1967-1977 and 1987-1990. Small in stature but nicknamed "Queenie" by her admirers, she advocated passionately for the rights of persons with disabilities, minorities, people of low incomes, women, and especially the elderly. Brookman entered state politics in 1962 when she was appointed Indian Commissioner by Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer. She was also active in many organizations, including the NAACP, the Senior Citizen Resource Center Advisory Board, the Clark County Association on Mental Health, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She served as Anti-Defamation League (ADL) chairman of the Las Vegas, Nevada chapter of B'nai B'rith, and was also a lifetime member of Hadassah and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom. In 1982 Brookman was chairman of the Nevada delegation to the White House
Conference on Aging, and was subsequently appointed to the Nevada Commission on Aging. She received many local and regional awards, including Clark County Humanitarian Mother of the Year, Outstanding Woman of the West, Nevada Distinguished Citizen, and B’nai B’rith Outstanding Woman of the Year. Eileen B. Brookman Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada is named in her honor.

Eileen Milstein was born on October 25, 1921, in Denver, Colorado. The Milstein family relocated to Southern California and Eileen attended Eagle Rock High School in Los Angeles and Los Angeles City College. She married George Brookman in 1941, while he was in the US Army. After the birth of their two children the family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where George became a general contractor and Eileen entered the political arena.

During her 16 years in the legislature Brookman served on some of the most important Assembly committees, including Government Affairs, Health and Welfare, and Education. She was the vice-chairman of the Legislative Functions and Assembly Ways and Means committees, and she co-chaired the Clark County Assembly Delegation. In her last term, she served on the interim committee studying the Youth Services Division and the Juvenile Justice System, and was the Assembly Representative to the State Commission on Aging.

Brookman sponsored such legislative milestones as the reorganization of the Nevada National Guard, the adoption of the Nevada Code of Military Justice, the passage of the "hate crimes" bill for Nevada, and the creation of the Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust. During the 1975 legislative session, Brookman introduced a bill to eliminate pay toilets, which were a national issue of gender inequality at the time.

Brookman was a consistent supporter of legislation to establish and improve senior citizen programs. She sponsored the Older Americans Act, which created the State Division of Aging Services and secured funding for senior citizen benefits such as reduced transportation fares and the "Meals on Wheels" program. She also sponsored the creation of the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Resources, the prohibition of discrimination in private employment on the basis of age, and the entitlement of senior citizens to vote by absentee ballot.

In 1990, Brookman ended her political career to attend to family matters. Eileen Brookman passed away in her Las Vegas home on July 1, 2004, after a battle with cancer; her husband died only a few weeks later. Both are survived by their daughter Deborah.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Scope and Contents Note

The Eileen Brookman papers includes speeches and research materials, letters of support and gratitude, plus bumper stickers, endorsements, and other campaign materials. The election returns from each of her campaigns are also included. There is extensive information on B'nai B'rith, including a scrapbook, clippings, programs, and correspondence.

The Political papers (1949-1990) contain more general information about state government and outlines the committees and functions that Brookman was involved with. There is extensive coverage of the 1982
White House Conference on Aging and the work she did in Nevada as a result of the conference. Her other involvements are outlined in folders on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Women's Democratic Club, Nike House, Campus Security, American Business Women, and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Also included are correspondence, clippings, pamphlets, invitations, and photographs.

The scrapbooks (1941-1989), are primarily composed of materials related to Eileen Brookman's political career and personal life. An oversized box contains many of Brookman's awards and certificates. There are two scrapbooks entitled "Gemco Student Scholarship Awards" and one about her husband George.


Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series:
Series I. Personal Papers, 1950-1995;
Series II. Political Materials, 1949-1990;
Series III. Scrapbook Materials, 1941-1989;

Administrative Information

Access Note

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-00620

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Reproductions and Use on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.
**Acquisition Note**
Materials were donated in 1995 by Eileen Brookman and in 2005 by the Brookman Estate; accession number 95-14.

**Processing Note**
Materials were processed by Joyce Marshall Moore, in 1997, February. In 2005 Su Kim Chung processed an addition that was donated by Brookman's estate. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

**Revision Description**
The finding aid was revised and enhanced by Hana Gutierrez to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. 2015 July

^ Return to Table of Contents

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**Related Materials**

**Separated Materials**
Several photographs from both the 1995 and 2005 accessions, including photographs of Brookman with Nevada dignitaries, were relocated to the UNLV Special Collections Photo Collections, PH-00303.
In addition, books on Senate and Assembly history and some legislative manuals have been separated and described individually in the University Libraries' catalog.

**Related Materials**
The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

^ Return to Table of Contents

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**Names and Subjects**

- Businesswomen—Nevada -- Las Vegas--Biography
- Women – Nevada – Las Vegas – Biography
- Las Vegas – Nevada -- Politics and government
- White House Conference on Aging
• Photographs
• Nevada. Legislature. Assembly

Collection Inventory

Series I. Personal Papers, 1950-1995

Physical Description: 2.1 Linear Feet (5 boxes)

Scope and Contents Note: The Personal Papers series dates from 1950 to 1995 and consists of information about Eileen Brookman's personal life, family, community involvement, and political career. The series includes photographs, family papers, and records of Brookman's work with B'nai B'rith, the Jewish community service organization. Personal materials from her political career include speech drafts, election returns, and business cards.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary inventories (handwritten), 1995</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arvey, Lawrence: criminal case clippings, 1978</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman biographical information, 1972, 1987, 1990</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>B'nai B'rith, scrapbook pages, 1957</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>B'nai B'rith, clippings, 1960-1975</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<td>B'nai B'rith, correspondence, 1960-1974</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<td>Brookman, Michael file, 1976</td>
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<td>Brookman Motel, 1972</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<td>Personal correspondence, 1965-1978</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<td>High School diplomas, 1940, 1934</td>
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<td>Jewelry appraisal, 1968</td>
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<td>Oriental design post cards, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs, 1960s-1980</td>
<td>box 02</td>
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<td>Photographs, mostly candid, 1948-1960s</td>
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<td>Programs, miscellaneous, 1950-1987</td>
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<td>UNLV football programs, 1973</td>
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<td>Temple Beth Shalom, Family Album program, 1988 April 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Career Papers, 1963-1993</td>
<td>box 02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign: bumper stickers, posters, and business cards, 1987, 1985, undated</td>
<td>box 03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign: endorsements, 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign: endorsement thank you letters, 1988</td>
<td>box 03</td>
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</table>
Series II. Political Materials, 1949-1990

Physical Description: 2.9 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

Scope and Contents Note: The Political Materials series dates from 1949 to 1990 and documents Eileen Brookman's political work. It contains a map of the Nevada voting districts, information about governor's conferences, and various studies of political issues related to Nevada such as Indian Affairs, brothels, and the state health plan. The series also contains materials about the White House Conference on Aging and information about the aging adult population in Nevada.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biennial message of Gov. Richard Bryan, 1987 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booklets and pamphlets, 1955-1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brothels in Nevada, 1985-1988</td>
<td>box 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Professional Women Roster, 1987-1988</td>
<td>box 06</td>
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^ Return to Table of Contents
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Document Title</th>
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<td>Campus Security Bill, 1988</td>
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<td>Certificates and awards, 1968-1988</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1970-1989</td>
<td>06</td>
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<td>Date book, 1988</td>
<td>06</td>
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<td>10 Directory Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.R.A. pamphlets and clippings, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Annual N.A.A.C.P. Freedom Fund Banquet, 1972</td>
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<td>Governor's Conference, 1973</td>
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<td>Governor's Conference, Houston, Texas, 1972</td>
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<td>Governor's Conference: Dinner hosted by Alaska, 1977</td>
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<td>Governor Mike O'Callahan file, 1970s</td>
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<td>Inaugural invitations, 1964-1993</td>
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<td>Indian Affairs, 1969-1970s</td>
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<td>Key to the Constitution (booklet), 1949</td>
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<td>Lobbyist listing, 1989 January</td>
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<td>N.A.A.C.P., 1960-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Conference of Christians and Jews-dinner, 1988</td>
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<td>Nevada P.T.A., member plaque, 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Public Affairs Review, 1987</td>
<td>08</td>
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<td>Nevada State Educational Association Handbook, 1988</td>
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<td>Nevada State Health Plan, 1988</td>
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<td>Nevada Wage Survey, 1988</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings featuring Nevada issues or Eileen Brookman, 1968-1988</td>
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<td>Nike House, 1987</td>
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<td>Northern Nevada Information, 1970-1977</td>
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<td>Orientation to Older Americans, 1983</td>
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<td>Political History of Nevada, 1965</td>
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<td>Political History of Nevada, 1979</td>
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<td>Presidential Inauguration, 1976-1977</td>
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<td>Pyramid Lake Task Force, 1971</td>
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<td>Questions and Answers on Government, 1969</td>
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<td>Technical Report on American elections, 1988</td>
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<td>U.S. Governors list booklet, 1975</td>
<td>09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vintage Views and News, 1974-1977</td>
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<td>Voting district plat map, undated</td>
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<td>Women in politics, 1985-1987</td>
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<td>Women's Democratic Club roster, 1977-1987</td>
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<td>Clippings and Correspondence, 1980-1981</td>
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<td>Correspondence: seniors, 1975-1991</td>
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<td>White House Engineering work tape (cassette), 1981</td>
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<td>Final Reports and profiles on aging people, 1981</td>
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<td>White House Conference on Aging Americans materials, 1977-1988</td>
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<td>Aging Conference material and other information on aging Americans,</td>
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<td>1981-1993</td>
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<td>White House Conference on Aging handbook, 1981</td>
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<td>Grant information booklet, undated</td>
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<td>White House Conference seminar booklets, 1981</td>
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<td>Photographs of the Las Vegas senior citizen center, undated</td>
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<td>Committees' recommendations from the White House Conference on Aging,</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
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<td>Scrapbook materials, 1981</td>
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<td>Photographs, Reno, 1981</td>
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<td>Materials for Reno scrapbook, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials for Senior Citizen Center scrapbook, 1981</td>
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<td>Assembly history, Nevada legislature, 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biographies of members of the Nevada Legislature, 1979</td>
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<td>National Directory of Elected Women Officials, 1987</td>
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<td>Nevada Legislative Handbook, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Legislature, 1973</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Legislature, 1989-1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Legislative Council, letter, 1988</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Sometime Governments: A Critical Study of the 50 American Legislatures, 1971  
Women in Congress, 1976  
Physical Description: (pamphlet)  
Senate History, 1967

Series III. Scrapbook Materials, 1941-1989

Physical Description: 2.2 Linear Feet (2 boxes, 1 oversized box)

Scope and Contents Note: The Scrapbook Materials series dates from 1941 to 1989 and consists of folders filled with newspaper clippings, photographs, and completed scrapbook pages related to Eileen Brookman. There is also a folder of awards and certificates. It is unclear if each folder represents an individual scrapbook or holds material that was intended for assembly into a scrapbook. There are neither bound nor completed scrapbooks in this series.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description | Containers
--- | ---
Scrapbook materials, 1960-1961 | box 13
Scrapbook materials, 1972-1974 | box 13
Scrapbook materials for Gemco Charitable and Scholarship Foundation, 1980-1981 | box 13
Scrapbook materials for George Brookman, 1941-1977 | box 13
Scrapbook materials for unidentified scrapbook, 1964-1976 | box 14
Scrapbook materials, 1968-1978 | box 14
Photographs of Brookman and other government officials at various events, 1975-1979 | box 14
Scrapbook materials, 1970-1978 | box 14
Awards and certificates, 1973-1988 | oversized box 15


Physical Description: 2.5 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents Note: The Materials added in 2005 series consists of materials added to the collection from the Brookman Estate after Eileen Brookman's death in July 2004. This series includes Assembly bills Brookman worked on, bills she sponsored, and her state Assembly vehicle license plates.
<table>
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<th>Title/Description</th>
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<td>Appointment book, 1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman sponsored bills, 1971</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman sponsored bills, 1973</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman sponsored bills, 1977</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman sponsored bills, 1987</td>
<td>box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookman sponsored bills, 1989</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman bills: drafts and miscellaneous, 1987, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookman bills pending: drafts and related documents, 1973</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<td>Brookman school naming, 1999-2000</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<td>Candidate declarations of expenditures and campaign, 1987</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1972-1977</td>
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<td>Ethics Review Board: City of Las Vegas, 1993-2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Congratulations for Eileen and George Brookman</td>
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<tr>
<td>(various correspondence, including with government officials), 1991</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous memos and correspondence, 1972-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Legislature, 1975</td>
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<td>Nevada Legislature, 1989</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings, 1970-1971</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings, 1974-1987</td>
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<td>Photographs, 1960s</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<td>Second Wind (organ transplant organization), 1967-1999</td>
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<td>Women's Democratic Club of Clark County: rosters, constitution, and bylaws, 1994-1995</td>
<td>box 16</td>
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<td>Plaque: Life Member of Hadassah, 1986</td>
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<td>Plaques: Vice Chairman, Committee on Legislative Functions; Las Vegas B’Nai B’rith Women, 1989, 1965</td>
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<td>Plaque: Nevada Outstanding Citizen Award for Meritorious Service, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plaques: Worst tie and Delegate to White House Conference on Aging, 1981,1987</td>
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<td>Assembly Bills, 1969</td>
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<td>Physical Description: (bound volumes annotated by Brookman)</td>
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<td>Assembly Bills, 1973</td>
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<td>Item</td>
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<td>Assembly Bills, 1977</td>
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<td>Physical Description: (Assembly bills, senate bills concurrent resolutions)</td>
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<td>Assembly Bills, 1987</td>
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<td>Physical Description: (Assembly bills, senate bills concurrent resolutions)</td>
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<td>Eileen Brookman biography (blank), undated</td>
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<td>Assembly Bills, Senate Bills, and concurrent resolutions, 1977</td>
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<td>Nevada legislature manual, 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada license plates for Nevada Assemblywoman Brookman, undated</td>
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^ Return to Table of Contents