Guide to the Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community

This finding aid was created by Emily Lapworth, Billy Marino, and Tammi Kim. This copy was published on June 11, 2021.
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Summary Information


Creator: Raben, Barbara, 1945-

Contributor: Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada

Contributor: Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Southern Nevada Chapter

Title: Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community

ID: MS-00655

Date [inclusive]: 1976 to 2018

Physical Description: 2.45 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, and 1 folder (shared box))

Abstract: The Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community (1976-2018) is comprised of materials collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas, Nevada Jewish community, specifically the Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Hadassah and JFSA records consist of photographs and programs from events held by the organizations. Materials also document Raben's business, The Candy Factory, and her connections to the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

Preferred Citation


Biographical Note

Barbara (Shulman) Raben (1945- ) is a leader in the Las Vegas, Nevada Jewish community. She moved to Las Vegas in 1991 and was a member of Temple Beth Sholom before joining Midbar Kodesh Temple shortly after its establishment in 1995. Raben became involved with the Southern Nevada Chapter of Hadassah in 2003 when she participated in the Hadassah Leadership Academy program. She later served as President of the Chapter. She is also involved with the Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada. Raben began her service on the Agency's Board as a Liaison to the Food Pantry, then served as Secretary, and in 2014 took over as President of the Board. From 2014 to 2015, she also served as Interim

Source:

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**Historical Background**

The Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA), founded in 1977, provides professional social services including counseling, senior services, adoption, a food pantry, and emergency financial aid. Its focus is on the Jewish community, but the JFSA serves families and individuals regardless of their religion, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. Services are provided in a confidential setting, and many are offered free of charge or on a sliding scale. The JFSA is inspired by the Jewish principle "Tikkun Olam," or "repairing the world one life at a time."

During the tenure of director Mitchell Gilbert (2003-2006), the JFSA split from the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, fearing a loss of autonomy after the federation affiliated with the United Jewish Communities. As of 2015, the JFSA is once again affiliated with the Jewish Federation.

Sources:

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**Historical Background**

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that focuses on Jewish continuity through healthcare, advocacy, and community. It fundsraise for the Hadassah Medical Center, a research hospital in Jerusalem that provides care to all religions and races, and also for other health, education, and community programs. In the United States, Hadassah advocates for issues such as women's rights, human rights, health care, affordable child care, and U.S.-Israel diplomacy. The first chapter of Hadassah in Southern Nevada was founded in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1963, and is now known as Hadassah Southern Nevada. The organization holds events and educational programs, hosts speakers, and participates in advocacy initiatives and fundraising.
Hadassah Southern Nevada has over 900 members, one leadership board, and various special interest groups. In the 1990s, the Las Vegas chapter groups included Aviva of Summerlin, Tikvah, Shoshanim, and Rishona.

Around 2003, the Hadassah Leadership Academy (HLA) came to Las Vegas and held a two-year leadership training program for fifteen local women. HLA was so successful that it was held twice more, making Las Vegas the only city to benefit from three instances of the program. This program spurred a revival of the organization in the city, and the older Las Vegas chapter, which was relatively inactive by the 2000s, was assimilated into the new Hadassah Southern Nevada chapter.

Source:

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**Scope and Contents Note**

The Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community (1976-2018) is comprised of materials collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas Jewish community, specifically the Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Materials include scrapbooks, photograph albums, programs, invitations, newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters, and ephemera and focus on events and activities hosted by the organization.

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**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into three series:
Series I. Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976-2018;
Series II. Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015;
Administrative Information

Access Note
Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digitized and are available online at UNLV.

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 in 2014 and 2015 by Barbara Raben and in 2019 by Barbara Tabach; accession numbers 2014-048, 2015-056, 2021-061.

Additions
Further additions are anticipated.

Processing Note
In 2015, Emily Lapworth processed the collection. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Billy Marino rehoused and arranged the materials and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2021, Tammi Kim accessioned the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid.

Related Materials

Separated Materials
Some issues of newspapers and magazines (mostly the Las Vegas Israelite) were added to Special Collections and Archives' periodicals collection.

Related Collections
The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection: Jewish Family Service Agency Records, 1954, 1977-2013. MS-00386. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.
Names and Subjects

- Community organization -- Nevada -- 20th century
- Women
- Jews -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Jews -- Societies, etc.
- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976 to 2018

Physical Description: 1.66 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, and 1 folder (shared box))
Physical Description: 2.81 Linear Feet
Scope and Contents Note: The Haddassah of Southern Nevada Chapter records series (1976-2018) is comprised of records created by Haddassah Southern Nevada Chapter (formerly known as the Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah) and collected by Barbara Raben. Materials include scrapbooks documenting the chapter from 1976 to 1979, and a scrapbook documenting one of the chapter's sub-units, Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin, from its founding in 1995 to 2009. Also included in this series are articles related to Haddassah Southern Nevada Chapter, photographs of the Gala of Giving in 2007, event programs and invitations, and several issues of the Hadassah Happenings newsletter.
Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1976-1977</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1977-1978</td>
<td>oversized box 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1978-1979</td>
<td>oversized box 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin certificate, 1995</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin scrapbook, 1995-2009</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah magazine articles related to Southern Nevada Chapter, 2004-2011</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event photographs, 2007, undated</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015

- Physical Description: 0.67 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
- Physical Description: 0.99 Linear Feet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificates, 1977, 2000-2012, undated</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proclamation of recognition from the Board of Commissioners of Clark County, Nevada, plaque, 1988</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper and magazine clippings about the JFSA, 2008-2015</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event invitations, programs, and ephemera, 2012-2015</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Overview&quot; report, 2013-2014</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFSA event photographs from poster board collage, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph album, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph album sheets, undated</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Barbara Raben personal papers, 1998-2014

- Physical Description: 0.11 Cubic Feet (1 box)
- Physical Description: 0.10 Linear Feet

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper and magazine clippings about Haddasah Southern Nevada Chapter, 2009-2015</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Spirit of Hadassah&quot; gala program, 2018</td>
<td>box SH-051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings about The Candy Factory, 1998</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning graduation programs, invitation, and certificate, 2013-2014</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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