

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Raben, Barbara
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]:	1976-2015
Physical Description:	4.8 Linear Feet (2 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, and 1 flat file.)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Collection is comprised of materials (1976-2015) collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas Jewish community, specifically Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Hadassah and JFSA records make up the bulk of the collection and mainly consist of photographs and programs from events held by the organizations. Four Hadassah scrapbooks document the group's activities and events during the 1970s, 1990s, and first decade of the 21st century. A JFSA report provides an overview of the organization from 2013 to 2014. A small amount of personal papers document Raben's store The Candy Factory and her graduation from the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning in 2013.

Preferred Citation

Barbara Raben Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community, 1976-2015. MS-00655. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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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 Executive Director. Raben owned a candy making business called The Candy Factory in Los Angeles, California from 1981 to 1991. After moving to Las Vegas, she reopened The Candy Factory there from 1998 to 2001.

Source: Raben, Barbara. Interview, 2015 February 24. OH-02278. Transcript. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Jewish Family Service Agency Organizational History

The Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA), founded in 1977, provides professional social services to clients in need, 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 a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation, and the president of the board is Barbara Raben.

Sources:

"About Us." *Jewish Family Service Agency*. Accessed February 5, 2015. <http://www.jfsalv.org/about/>.

Marschall, John P. *Jews in Nevada: a history*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2008.

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Hadassah Southern Nevada Organizational History

The first chapter of Hadassah in Southern Nevada was founded in Las Vegas in 1963. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that is "committed to Jewish continuity and building a better world through medicine and healthcare, advocacy, and communities of women." It fundraises 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 Las Vegas chapter, now known as Hadassah Southern Nevada, holds events and educational programs, hosts speakers, and participates in advocacy initiatives and fundraising.

Hadassah Southern Nevada is the most recent incarnation of the organization in the Las Vegas area. It has over 900 members, one leadership board, and various special interest groups. Previously, the national model for local chapters dictated that a chapter over 500 members should divide into groups with their own boards and treasuries, but this was changed around 2005. 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:

"About Hadassah." *Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America*. Accessed February 11, 2015. <http://www.hadassah.org/about/#mission>.

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Scope and Contents Note

Collection is comprised of materials (1976-2015) collected by Barbara Raben that document her personal life and her involvement with the Las Vegas Jewish community, specifically Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and the Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA) of Clark County, Nevada. Series I consists of records created by Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and its sub-units from 1976 to 2014. Records include scrapbooks documenting the group's activities and events during the 1970s, 1990s, and first decade of the 21st century; photographs, programs, and invitations from events from 2007 to 2014; and articles and newsletters from 2004 to 2014. Series II consists of records created by JFSA from 1977 to 2015. Records include certificates from 1977 to 2012; invitations, programs, and ephemera from events from 2012 to 2015; a report providing an overview of the agency and its activities from 2013 to 2014; and undated photos of events. Series III is comprised of newspaper clippings from 1998 about Raben's business, The Candy Factory, and materials documenting her and her husband's graduation from the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning in 2013 and 2014.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

Series I. Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976-2014;
Series II. Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015;
Series III. Barbara Raben personal papers, 1998-2014.

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Administrative Information

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-00655>

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 2014 and 2015 by Barbara Raben; accession numbers 2014-048 and 2015-056.

Additions

Further additions are anticipated.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Some issues of newspapers and magazines (mostly the Las Vegas Israelite) were added to Special Collections' 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, University Libraries, University of Nevada Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mary Barkan Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community, 1964-2006. MS-00426. Special Collections, UNLV Libraries, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Raben, Barbara. Interview, 2015 February 24. OH-02278. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Community organization -- Nevada -- 20th century
 - Women -- Nevada -- Clark County
 - Jews -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
 - Jews -- Societies, etc.
 - Photographs
-

Collection Inventory

Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter records, 1976-2014

Physical Description: 2.4 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

Scope and Contents Note: This series is comprised of records from 1976 to 2014 that were created by Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter and collected by Barbara Raben. Records include scrapbooks from 1976 to 1979 documenting the chapter (formerly known as the Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah) 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 more recent records of the events and activities of Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter from 2004 to 2014. These include: articles related to Hadassah Southern Nevada Chapter, photos of the Gala of Giving in 2007, event programs and invitations from 2009 to 2014, and several issues of *Hadassah Happenings* newsletter from 2012 to 2014.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1976-1977	box 1
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1977-1978	box 3
Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah scrapbook, 1978-1979	box 3
Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin certificate, 1995	box 2
Aviva Hadassah of Summerlin scrapbook, 1995-2009	box 1
Hadassah magazine articles related to Southern Nevada Chapter, 2004-2011	box 4
Event photos, 2007 and undated	box 4
Event invitations and programs, 2009-2014	box 4
Hadassah Happenings newsletter, 2012-2014	box 4

Newspaper and magazine clippings about Haddasah Southern Nevada Chapter, 2009-2015 box 4

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Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada records, 1977-2015

Physical Description: 2.3 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents Note: This series is comprised of records from 1977 to 2015 that were created by the Jewish Family Service Agency of Clark County, Nevada and collected by Barbara Raben. Records include legal certificates and certificates of recognition from 1977 to 2012; event invitations, programs, and ephemera from 2012 to 2015; a report providing an overview of the agency and its activities from 2013 to 2014; and undated photos of events.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Certificates, 1977, 2000-2012 and undated	box 4
Proclamation of recognition from the Board of Commissioners of Clark County, Nevada, 1988	box 1
Newspaper and magazine clippings about the Jewish Family Service Agency, 2008-2015	box 4
Event invitations, programs, and ephemera, 2012-2015	box 4
"Overview" report, 2013-2014	box 4
Photo collage on poster board, undated	flat file OS 1
Photo album, undated	box 1
Photo album, undated	box 2

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Barbara Raben personal papers, 1998-2014

Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (1 box)

Scope and Contents Note: This series consists of newspaper clippings and other materials from 1998 to 2014 that document Barbara Raben's personal life and business. The newspaper articles from 1998 describe Raben's business, The Candy Factory. Also in this series are materials documenting graduation ceremonies of The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning in 2013 and 2014. Barbara Raben and her husband Terry Raben were both graduates of the program. Terry Raben's certificate is included in this series, along with programs and an invitation.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Newspaper clippings about The Candy Factory, 1998	box 4
The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning graduation programs, invitation, and certificate, 2013-2014	box 4

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