
Guide to the Joshua Rose Papers

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Guide to the Joshua Rose Papers

Collection number: MS 8

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Processed by:

Marianne Carden

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Sean Heyliger

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Joshua Rose papers

Dates: 1924-1987

Collection number: MS 8

Creator: Rose, Joshua

Collection Size: 1 linear foot (2 boxes + 1 oversized box)

Repository: African American Museum and Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612

Abstract: The Joshua Rose Papers document Rose's life and contributions to the Oakland community as an executive for the Oakland YMCA and as a member of the Oakland Recreation Commission and the first African American to serve on the Oakland City Council.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

Access Restrictions

Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish from the Joshua Rose Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum and Library at Oakland.

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Biography / Administrative History

Joshua Rose was born on September 11, 1906 in Lexington, Virginia to George and Mary Charles Rose. The family later moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Joshua attended Schenley High School. He worked his way through the University of Pittsburgh by part-time work at the steel mills and at the Center Ave. YMCA in Pittsburgh. In 1937, he received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Rose's job at the YMCA provided an avenue to his first professional position at the YMCA in Montclair, New Jersey. In 1939, Rose and his family moved to Oakland, where he worked to raise funds for the establishment of a branch of the Oakland YMCA to serve the African American community. The Northwest Branch, as it was eventually called, opened at a temporary location at 36th and San Pablo and then moved to 3265 Market St. in the early 1940s. Rose inaugurated many new programs, including summer day camps which combined the traditional elements of arts and crafts and sports with outdoor excursions and a camping trip to Yosemite. Through the YMCA's programs, Rose worked to provide many Oakland youth with constructive activities and summertime employment. He retired in 1967 as Associate General Secretary of the

Metropolitan Branch.

In 1947, Rose was selected over Claude O. Allen to become the first African American member of the Board of Playground Directors. Later re-named the Oakland Recreation Commission, the board studied the recreation needs of the city and provided recommendations for new developments and improvements to existing facilities. During his tenure as a member between 1947 and 1964, the commission convinced the City of Oakland to establish eight new recreation centers and to improve athletic facilities at ten existing sites. Rose served as chairman of the commission from 1961-62.

On August 27, 1964, Rose achieved another milestone when he was selected by Mayor Houlihan to complete the unexpired term of Robert V. McKeen on the Oakland City Council. As the first African American to sit on the City Council, Rose served the 2nd District, which included North Oakland and a portion of Montclair. He was unanimously appointed over three other candidates, Barney Hilburn, Kenneth F. Smith, and Hampton Barnett, when it was discovered that only Rose actually resided within the 2nd District. Re-elected for three subsequent terms in 1965, 1969, and 1973, Rose played a key role in preventing rioting in Oakland during the late sixties. Public officials commended him for his efforts to find practical solutions to racial discontent and violence. The lasting effects of injuries sustained in a car accident in 1971 prompted Rose to step down from his position on the City Council in 1977. He officially retired on June 30, 1977.

Rose was a member of the Oakland Rotary Club, Men of Tomorrow, Inc., Children's Vision Center of the Eastbay, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and The Free and Accepted Masons, Adonis Lodge. He also served on the Speaker's Bureau of the Community Chest/United Crusade. Rose also served as treasurer and member of the finance committee at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and helped to establish a thrift center at the church to give employment opportunities to youth in the neighborhood. Rose also co-chaired the first school bond passed by the City of Oakland and helped the Oakland Public School system to revise the English curriculum at McClymond's High School.

Rose's wife, Virginia, worked for many years in Oakland as head teacher at Longfellow Child Care Center. His three children, Richard, Virginia, and Mary, remained in California and pursued successful professional careers. Richard worked as an accountant in Los Angeles, Virginia as a school teacher in Los Angeles, and Mary as a reporter in Berkeley and Oakland. Rose died of Parkinson's Disease on April 13, 1987.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Joshua Rose Papers document Rose's life and contributions to the Oakland community as an executive for the Oakland YMCA and as a member of the Oakland Recreation Commission and the Oakland City Council. The biographical series includes newspaper clippings, obituaries, correspondence, and photographs from his youth and of his family. Also included are assorted certificates from athletic events and a history of the Holy Cross Athletic Club in Pittsburgh. Assorted personal correspondence also documents honors Rose received from various organizations for his civic work.

The papers include only one file of correspondence and reports dating from 1966-67 related to his work with the Oakland YMCA. This file regards other branches and their activities and is primarily an exchange of letters between Rose and Wesley Hunter of the Northeast Branch YMCA.

Rose's political activities are more thoroughly documented through clippings, correspondence, photographs, and appointment books. His term on the Board of Playground Directors and its successor, the Oakland Recreation Commission, is outlined in clippings about his appointment and in a citation from the commission regarding his achievements. Letters of congratulation, clippings, and photos document Rose's appointment and subsequent re-election to the Oakland City Council. These reveal how both the public and personal friends reacted to the appointment of the first African American to the council. Other items, such as election flyers, business cards, certificates, and clippings, provide an indication of Rose's subsequent years in this position. Clippings and correspondence prepared upon his retirement offer a summary of some of his principal contributions as a councilman. In addition, a set of appointment books covering the entire span of his terms of office from 1964-1977 offer insight into his daily schedule. Ceremonial events, as well as campaign and community service activities, are documented visually in a series of publicity photos.

Arrangement

Series I. Biographical Series II. Y.M.C.A. Oakland Series III. Political Activities Series IV. Photographs

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Y.M.C.A. Oakland.

Rose, Joshua.

Oakland (Calif.)--History.

Biographical

Physical Description: 3 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes certificates, awards, newspaper clippings, funeral programs, and correspondence that document the life of Joshua Rose.

Arrangement

Arranged by format.

Box 1:1

Assorted certificates, awards, and newspaper clippings 1937-1984

Box 1:2

Funeral program and obituary 1987

Box 1:3

Correspondence 1947-1979

Y.M.C.A. Oakland

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Contains a file of correspondence exchanged between Rose and Wesley Hester of the Northeast Branch YMCA during the 1960s. Topics covered include the activities of the various branches of the YMCA in Oakland and evaluations of programs offered in these branches.

Box 1:4

Correspondence 1966-1967

Political Activities

Physical Description: 16 folders + 1 oversized folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes materials relating to Rose's appointment to the Board of Playground Directors and to the Oakland City Council. Documents about his term on the Board of Playground Directors consist primarily of clippings announcing his appointment. The City Council files are more extensive, encompassing clippings about both the appointment and Rose's subsequent activities as councilman, as well as correspondence and such miscellaneous materials as business cards and certificates. A series of appointment books dating from his appointment in 1964 to his retirement in 1977 provide listings of meetings and appointments for his entire term.

Arrangement

Arranged by name of political office and thereafter by format and by date.

Box 1:5

Board of Playground Directors 1945-1967

Oakland City Council

Box 1:6

Letters of congratulation 1964-1965

Box OM 13

Commendation for public service from the Oakland City Council to Joshua Rose 1964-08-31

Box 1:7

Newspaper clippings 1964-1977

Box 1:8

Certificates of election 1965-1973

Box 1:9

Correspondence 1969-1973

Box 1:9

Inauguration ceremonies program 1969

Box 1:9

An ode to the meter maids undated

Box 1:10

Election flyers 1980

Box 1:11

Retirement 1977

Box 1:12

Boards and commissions 1973

Box 1:13

Appointment books 1964-1978

Box 2:1-5

Appointment books 1965-1978

Photographs

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Consists of photographs documenting Rose's family and his political activities. Includes portraits of Rose and of his family, as well as publicity shots of Rose in City Council meetings and at official functions.

Arrangement

Arranged by photo accession number.

- Box 2:7 **Robert E. Lee Hotel, North Carolina [005] 1932**
 Box 2:7 **Unidentified persons bathing nude, Wheeling, West Virginia [006] 1930**
 Box 2:7 **Two unidentified boys, Camp Indian Head, Connellsville, Pennsylvania [007] 1933**
 Box 2:7 **Three unidentified persons sit in grassy area near water [008] circa 1930s**
 Box 2:7 **Four unidentified boys huddle, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [009] 1932**
 Box 2:7 **Mario Tatum holding a walking staff standing on a path in a wooded area [011] circa 1930s**
- Box 2:7 **Tour bus on dirt road in Wheeling, West Virginia [012] 1930**
 Box 2:7 **Two unidentified boys, Camp Indian Head, Connellsville, Pennsylvania [013] 1933**
 Box 2:7 **Boy standing in front of home-made tent, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [014] 1930**
 Box 2:7 **Four unidentified boys in field next to tents, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [015] 1930**
 Box 2:7 **Twelve unidentified children wearing swim suits pose beside a pool enclosed by a wooden fence [016] undated**
- Box 2:7 **Portrait of Joshua Rose, Holy Cross Club [017] 1928**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose at unidentified meeting [018-022] 1961**
 Box 2:7 **Five unidentified youth flexing their muscles [023] 1961**
 Box 2:7 **Schenly High School portrait of Joshua Rose (print and negative) [024] 1924**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose (right) shaking hands with Leland Sweeney at Jack London Inn [025] 1965**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose (left) shovels dirt around the base of a newly planted tree while one boy scout holds the pole to support tree [026-027] 1968**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose, Oakland City Council portrait [028] 1964**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose and Virginia Rose at left laugh with Eleanor and Wiley Manuel at Lionel Wilson Campaign event [029] 1977**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose seated at the head of a long, oval, wooden table smiling at the camera with unidentified men [030] 1965**
- Box 2:7 **Durant School group photograph, Virginia Rose (third row, far right) [031] 1943**
 Box 2:7 **Unidentified runner stretching for the tape at the finish-line, caption "Mary Ellen's first husband running track" [032] undated**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose at dinner event [033] 1973**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose receiving award, caption (l-r) Rudi, Aponte, Rose, O'Clogough, Simpson [034] 1970**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose with group of unidentified men under the Bay BART tube [035] 1969**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose sitting with three unidentified men [036] undated**
 Box 2:7 **Group holding sign, Aloha from United Air Lines U.S. Conference of Mayors, in front of airplane, Honolulu, Hawaii [037] 1967**
- Box 2:7 **Visit of the Trustees of the National Parks of Tanzania to the United States, left to right, Joshua Rose, Abdiel Shangali, Adam Sapi, Irwin Luckman [038] 1967**
- Box 2:7 **2Charles and Emiline Craft standing in front of house at 202 Calhoun St. Charleston, South Carolina [reproduction] [039] circa 1903**
- Box 2:7 **Photograph of auditorium filled with about 200 people [040] 1945**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose and Virginia Rose in their garden at 560 Kenmore Ave [041] 1973**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose standing outside of house at 560 Kenmore Ave. [042] 1970**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose on horseback in Yosemite National Park with daughters Virginia and Mary [043] 1947**
- Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose next to cake at his 70th birthday party [044] 1976**
 Box 2:7 **Joshua Rose sitting in stands at sporting event [045] undated**

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- Box 2:7 (left-right) William Pittman, Tarea Pittman, Carl Metoyer, Virginia Rose, and Joshua Rose at event [046] undated
- Box 2:7 Virginia Rose (third from the left) with group of unidentified women [047] 1950
- Box 2:7 Alpha Kappa Alpha event, Baule, San Francisco, (left-right) Byron Rumford, Elsie Rumford, Cora Mary, Blanche, Julia Vitero, Helen Cooper, Gladys Jordon, Arnetta Wallace, J. Oscar Williams [048] 1948
- Box 2:7 Opening of Northwest Y.M.C.A., Dr. Tom Browne, Joshua Rose, and unidentified man [049] 1947
- Box 2:7 Joshua and Virginia Rose, meditation and bio-feedback with Peggy [050] 1981
- Box 2:7 Group photograph of high school band [051] 1954
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rosa cutting cake at his 62nd birthday party [052] 1968
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose with unidentified woman, opening of Northwest Oakland Y.M.C.A. [053] 1947
- Box 2:7 Opening of Northwest Y.M.C.A., Dr. Tom Browne, Joshua Rose, and unidentified man [054] 1947
- Box 2:7 Group photograph of Oakland City Council wives, (left-right) Virginia Rose, Chialua [?], Mrs. Eng, Mrs. Ogawa, Mrs. Coto, Elsie Giovanni council secretary [055] undated
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose shaking hands with unidentified man while seated at dinner table, Trade Club, Oakland Chamber of Commerce [056], 1966
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose presenting resolution to Ken Moeller of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce at retirement [057] 1976
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose with five unidentified men [058] undated
- Box 2:7 Oakland City Council members with mayor John Reading [059] circa 1970s
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose with seven unidentified men holding Welcome to Payless tape [060] undated
- Box 2:7 Oakland City Council members with mayor John Reading [061] circa 1970s
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose standing with ten unidentified men next to exhibit, Oakland California the big league city [062] [62] undated
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rosa seated at table with group of unidentified men, U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii [063] 1966
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose with Elks Club officers at groundbreaking ceremony [065] undated
- Box 2:7 Oakland City Council members with mayor John Reading [066] 1973
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose with two unidentified men and woman next to Toastmasters International sign [067] 1967
- Box 2:7 Group photograph of West Oakland Health Center groundbreaking ceremony [068] undated
- Box 2:7 Joshua Rose holding shovel with members of the Salvation Army [069] undated
- Box 2:8 Oakland City Council members with mayor John Reading [070] 1969
- Box 2:8 Contact sheet of eight images of Joshua Rose in his office at downtown Y.M.C.A [071] 1964
- Box 2:8 Group photograph at Tribune Carriers Dinner, District manager, District manager Francis Ar., Joshua Rose, Richard Rose (son), Lewis A. Baskerville, Mr. and Mrs. Tapia, Marshall Tapia, Gil Callies, Mrs. Beal, William Bubbles Beal, unidentified person [072] 1950
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose publicity photograph for city council election 1965
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose at 70th birthday party 1976
- Box 2:8 Portrait of Joshua and Virginia Rose 1935
- Box 2:8 Joshua and Virginia Rose on sidewalk in Riverton, New York City 1958
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose (seated) and Rick 1963
- Box 2:8 Joshua and Virginia Rose in front of antique car at Lake Merritt circa 1960s
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose with Ricky, Virginia, and Mary Rose at Mt. Lassen 1948
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose, Ricky Rose, Virginia Rose, Mary Rose, Nancy Gates, and Judy Gates on the beach at Half Moon Bay 1943
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose at the Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco, California 1939
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose and Richard Rose in Montclair, New Jersey 1937
- Box 2:8 Joshua Rose and Richard Rose in Montclair, New Jersey 1935
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Box 2:8

Joshua Rose standing with five unidentified men in front of High Point Service Station, Coal Center, Pennsylvania [010] 1930