Register of the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles Records, 1945-1980

Collection number: MSS 026

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
Los Angeles, California

Contact Information:
Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
6120 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA, 90044
Phone: (323) 759-6063
Fax: (323) 759-2252
Email: archives@socallib.org
URL: http://www.socallib.org/

Processed by:
Teri Robertson

Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Teri Robertson

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles Records,
Date (inclusive): 1945-1980
Collection number: MSS 026
Creator: Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles
Extent: 4 letter boxes, ½ legal box, 1 map box
2 linear feet
Repository: Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Abstract: This is a collection of the records of the Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles. This organization of secular Jewish women, most active in the 1950's through the 1970's, was dedicated to: promoting secular Jewish culture, advocating for civil rights at the local and national level (in particular Black civil rights campaigns of the 1950's in Los Angeles), peace actions, developing international understanding and peace through education and cultural exchange.

Language: English.

Provenance
There is no accession documentation for the collection. The staff of the library believe the collection was donated by Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles around 1981.

Access
The collection is available for research only at the Library's facility in Los Angeles. The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Researchers are encouraged to call or email the Library indicating the nature of their research query prior to making a visit.

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Organizational History
The Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles (ELJWCLA) were founded in 1951, simultaneously with the national Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs. Inspired by the life of the American Jewish poet Emma Lazarus, the national Federation advanced a progressive Jewish culture to enrich the lives of its members. Activities were focused on a general program of Jewish culture, rights for women, and civic and consumer affairs. More specifically the organization worked on projects in the five areas of: Jewish education and child welfare, Israel, civil rights and peace, rights for women, and consumer affairs. The Federation was committed to working cooperatively with other organizations concerned with the welfare of community, family and the promotion of brotherhood of all through democracy and peace. The national Federation grew out of the Emma Lazarus Division of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order, itself an outgrowth of the United Council of Working Class Housewives (which later became the Progressive Women's Council). In addition to the national organization, local clubs were formed across the United States in New York, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles, among others.

The Los Angeles Clubs coordinated many of their projects with those of the national Federation. However, the major focus of the ELJWCLA were local activities, often in conjunction with other Los Angeles organizations. The interests of the ELJWCLA were wide ranging, covering: anti-Semitism, desegregation, civil rights and voting rights, deportation of the foreign born (Walter-McCarran Act), peace and nuclear disarmament, Jewish culture and children's education, international brotherhood (particularly with the Soviet Union), the arts in general, and the status of women, especially working women. In the mid-fifties the ELJWCLA were particularly concerned with supporting the activities of African-American organizations in Los Angeles with an emphasis on civil rights actions. The ELJWCLA sponsored: plays on the history of Jewish people in the United States; concerts by Jewish and African American performers; election and legislative initiatives on the local, state and national level; senior citizen centers, and International Women's Day commemorations.

The records of the ELJWCLA end in 1980. The activities of the organization ceased during that decade. The national Federation dissolved in 1989.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of records of the ELJWCLA during its operations from 1951 to 1980, with the majority of the material dating from the 1950's and early 1960's. The major portion of produced materials are: correspondence, minutes of meetings (1964-1967), and records of programs. The ELJWCLA assembled a large number of newspaper clippings and some pamphlets relating to the interests and activities of the organization.

The general correspondence gives evidence of the wide range of Jewish and cultural organizations in Los Angeles with which the ELJWCLA maintained relations. The Black-Jewish Cooperation files are a rich source of cooperative activities undertaken by African-American and Jewish women's organizations in the 1950's. The clippings and pamphlets are an indication of the many social justice causes of interest to the ELJWCLA. These materials date from as early as 1942.

Other records of the ELJWCLA are in the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs Records at The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, housed at Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio campus. A finding aid for this collection is on the World Wide web at: (http://www.huc.edu/aja/Lazarus.htm#box). The materials include: Correspondence, 1967-1983; Minutes, 1973-1983; Activities 1953-1980; and Photographs 1952-1955.

One half box of legal-sized materials and one map box of clippings are found at the end of the collection (boxes 5 and 6). Each folder is listed within the appropriate series in the container list.

Arrangement

Separated Material
Pamphlets relating to the Walter-McCarran Act and the status of working women in Latin America, from the U.S. Departments of Labor and State, were removed to the pamphlet collection.

Related Material at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
Jewish Secular Material Collections
Series 1. Administration and Publications, 1945-1951

Physical Description: 14 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series includes correspondence, minutes, annual souvenir journals of the ELJWCLA, and publications of the national Federation. The general correspondence provides an indication of cooperative relations between the ELJWCLA and Jewish and progressive organizations active in Los Angeles in the 1950's.

Box-folder 1/1-2/1
Los Angeles Council

Box-folder 1/1
General Correspondence, 1951-1962, n.d.

Box-folder 1/2

Box-folder 1/3
Financial records, 1957, 1959

Box-folder 1/4
Annual Souvenir Journals, 1956-1960

Box-folder 1/5
Annual Souvenir Journals, 1960-1963

Box-folder 1/6
Annual Souvenir Journals, 1964-1968

Box-folder 1/7

Box-folder 1/8

Box-folder 1/9
Annual Souvenir Journals, 1978-1979

Box-folder 2/1

Box-folder 2/2-2/5
National Federation, New York

Box-folder 2/2
The Torch of the Emma Lazarus Division Jewish People's Fraternal Order, March, 1950

Box-folder 2/3
The Lamp, 1952-1955

Box-folder 2/4
The Lamp, 1956-1960

Box-folder 2/5
The Emma Lazarus Bulletin, April 1945, September 1951

Series 2. Activities, Programs, Projects, 1950-1980

Physical Description: 17 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series includes records of cultural programs produced by the ELJWCLA, and the resources used in planning activities. There are some materials of organizations to which the ELJWCLA made financial contributions.

Box-folder 2/6

Box-folder 2/7
To Dwell Together, 300 years of Jewish Settlement in USA, 1953-1955

Box-folder 2/8

Box-folder 2/9
Valley Peace Center, n.d.

Box-folder 2/10

Box-folder 2/11
Ernestine Rose and the Battle for Human Rights, 1959-1960

Box-folder 2/12

Box-folder 2/13
City Terrace Cultural Center, 1952-1953, 1961

Box-folder 2/14

Box-folder 2/15

Box-folder 6/1
Child Welfare and Education/Textbooks/Progressive Jewish Children's Schools - clippings, 1953, 1955,1956

Box-folder 3/1

Box-folder 3/2

Box-folder 3/3

Box-folder 5/1

Box-folder 3/4

Box-folder 5/2
Series 3. **Black-Jewish Cooperation, 1951-1965**

**Physical Description:** 8 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes correspondence and program materials of African American organizations with which the ELJWCLA worked to promote civil rights and brotherhood in Los Angeles and the United States. Besides the organizations detailed in the folder listing, correspondents in Los Angeles include: Sojourners for Truth and Justice, Los Angeles Negro Labor Council, Woman's Political Study Club of California, Inc., Los Angeles Urban League, NAACP - Los Angeles Branch, Victory Baptist Church, Eastside Settlement House and choral director A.C. Bilbrew. Beyond Los Angeles, the organization corresponded with the Women's Art and Industrial Club, Inc., Regional Council of Negro Leadership, Montgomery Improvement Association, the Mabel V. Gray Progressive Club of Delano, California, and the Southeast Interracial Council. Although spare, the Rosa Lee Ingram file shows the ELJWCLA's participation in a national campaign to demand justice for an African American woman, and two of her sons. The three were accused, in Georgia, of murdering a white man who had made sexual demands on Mrs. Ingram.

**Box-folder 3/5**
General Correspondence, 1952-1959, n.d.

**Box-folder 3/6**
California State Association of Colored Women, 1954-1963

**Box-folder 5/3**
Southwest Region of the National Association of Colored Women, 1955, 1959, 1963

**Box-folder 3/7**
National Association of Colored Women, 1954-1965

**Box-folder 3/8**
Taborian Hospital- Mound Bayou, MS / International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor, 1954-1963, n.d.

**Box-folder 3/9**
Los Angeles Council of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., 1960-1963

**Box-folder 3/10**

**Box-folder 3/11**

Series 4. **Subject files, 1946-1964**

**Physical Description:** 29 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes literature and clippings relating to the many areas of action and campaigning in which the ELJWCLA took part. The series is arranged alphabetically by the subject headings used by the organization.

**Box-folder 4/1**

**Box-folder 4/2**

**Box-folder 6/2**

**Box-folder 5/4**

**Box-folder 6/3**

**Box-folder 6/4**

**Box-folder 5/5**

**Box-folder 6/5**
Civil Rights / Civil Liberties - clippings, 1954-1956, n.d.

**Box-folder 6/6**
Colonialism - clippings, 1955-1956

**Box-folder 6/7**

**Box-folder 6/8**

**Box-folder 6/9**

**Box-folder 4/4**
Desegregation - Schools - clippings, 1954-1956, 1958

**Box-folder 6/10**

**Box-folder 5/6**
Desegregation - Transportation - clippings, 1955-1956

**Box-folder 6/11**

**Box-folder 6/12**

**Box-folder 6/16**

**Box-folder 4/5**
Legislation: 1955-1960

**Box-folder 5/7**

**Box-folder 6/12**

**Box-folder 4/6**
SMOG, 1955, n.d.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 4/8</td>
<td>Universal Military Training, 1955</td>
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