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## 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

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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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## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs of Los Angeles Records, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles, California.

## 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

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The collection is divided into 4 series: 1. Administration and Publications, 1945-1951, 2. Activities, Programs, Projects, 1950-1980, 3. Black-Jewish Cooperation, 1951-1965, 4. Subject files, 1946-1964.

**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 | <b>Los Angeles Council</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/1     | <b>General Correspondence, 1951-1962, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/2     | <b>Minutes, 1964-1967, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 1/3     | <b>Financial records, 1957, 1959</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/4     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1956-1960</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/5     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1960-1963</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/6     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1964-1968</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/7     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1969-1970, 1972</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/8     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1974, 1976-1977</b>  |
| Box-folder 1/9     | <b>Annual Souvenir Journals, 1978-1979</b>  |
| Box-folder 2/1     | <b>Los Angeles Jewish Organizations Publications, 1955, 1959-1960, n.d.</b>                       |
| Box-folder 2/2-2/5 | <b>National Federation, New York</b>  |
| Box-folder 2/2     | <b><i>The Torch of the Emma Lazarus Division Jewish People's Fraternal Order, March, 1950</i></b> |
| Box-folder 2/3     | <b><i>The Lamp, 1952-1955</i></b>   |
| Box-folder 2/4     | <b><i>The Lamp, 1956-1960</i></b>   |
| Box-folder 2/5     | <b><i>The Emma Lazarus Bulletin, April 1945, September 1951</i></b>                               |

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  | <b><i>Freedom's Lamp, 50 years of New Colossus, 1951,1953, n.d.</i></b>   |
| Box-folder 2/7  | <b><i>To Dwell Together, 300 years of Jewish Settlement in USA, 1953-1955</i></b>                               |
| Box-folder 2/8  | <b>Civil War Centennial - Pictorial Panel Highlighting Jewish Participation, 1961-1963, n.d.</b>                |
| Box-folder 2/9  | <b>Valley Peace Center, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 2/10 | <b>Community Affairs Participation, 1956-1958, 1960-1961, 1963, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 2/11 | <b><i>Ernestine Rose and the Battle for Human Rights, 1959-1960</i></b>   |
| Box-folder 2/12 | <b>California Home for the Aged Senior Citizens, 1953, 1955, 1957-1958, 1961, 1963, n.d.</b>                    |
| Box-folder 2/13 | <b>City Terrace Cultural Center, 1952-1953, 1961</b>  |
| Box-folder 2/14 | <b>Jewish Kindershules of Los Angeles / Los Angeles Jewish Children's Schools, 1963-1964, n.d.</b>              |
| Box-folder 2/15 | <b>Child Welfare and Education/Textbooks/Progressive Jewish Children's Schools, 1950-1955, 1958, 1965, n.d</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/1  | <b>Child Welfare and Education/Textbooks/Progressive Jewish Children's Schools - clippings, 1953, 1955,1956</b> |
| Box-folder 3/1  | <b>General, 1959, 1971, 1973, 1979-1980, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 3/2  | <b>Los Angeles Programming materials, 1954-1956, 1961-1962, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 3/3  | <b>Walter - McCarran Petition Campaign, 1960, 1962</b>  |
| Box-folder 5/1  | <b>Walter - McCarran Act, 1952-1953, 1956, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 3/4  | <b>Walter - McCarran Act, 1954-1956, 1958, 1961, 1963-1964, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 5/2  | <b>Cultural Activities, New York, 1950-1951, 1954-1957, 1962, 1966-1968</b>                                     |

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 sparse, 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  | <b>General Correspondence, 1952-1959, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 3/6  | <b>California State Association of Colored Women, 1954-1963</b>   |
| Box-folder 5/3  | <b>Southwest Region of the National Association of Colored Women, 1955, 1959, 1963</b>                                    |
| Box-folder 3/7  | <b>National Association of Colored Women, 1954-1965</b>   |
| Box-folder 3/8  | <b>Taborian Hospital- Mound Bayou, MS / International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor, 1954-1963, n.d.</b> |
| Box-folder 3/9  | <b>Los Angeles Council of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., 1960-1963</b>  |
| Box-folder 3/10 | <b>Eastside Settlement House, 1955, 1957, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 3/11 | <b>Rosa Lee Ingram, 1951, 1954, 1955, 1958, n.d.</b>  |

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  | <b>Anti-Semitism, 1951, 1953-1955, 1960, 1962-1963, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 4/2  | <b>Atoms: For War and Peace, H-Bomb, 1954, 1958-1960, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/2  | <b>Atoms: For War and Peace, H-Bomb - clippings, 1952, 1954-1955, 1960</b>  |
| Box-folder 5/4  | <b>Bill of Rights - Constitution, 1955, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/3  | <b>Black Representation - Ballot - clippings, 1954-1956, 1958, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 6/4  | <b>Brotherhood - Racism - clippings, 1955-1956, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 5/5  | <b>Civil Rights / Civil Liberties, 1954-1955, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/5  | <b>Civil Rights / Civil Liberties - clippings, 1954-1956, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/6  | <b>Colonialism - clippings, 1955-1956</b>   |
| Box-folder 4/3  | <b>Desegregation - Housing, 1961, 1963, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/7  | <b>Desegregation - Housing - clippings, 1952, 1955, 1956</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/8  | <b>Desegregation - Labor - clippings, 1955-1956, 1958, 1963, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 6/9  | <b>Desegregation - Schools - clippings, 1954-1956, 1958</b>   |
| Box-folder 4/4  | <b>Desegregation - Schools, 1955-1956, 1960, 1963-1964</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/10 | <b>Desegregation - Transportation - clippings, 1955-1956</b>  |
| Box-folder 5/6  | <b>Elections, 1952, 1954-1956, 1962</b>   |
| Box-folder 6/11 | <b>Elections - clippings, 1952, 1954,1956, 1964, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 6/16 | <b>General - clippings, 1954-1955, 1957-1958, 1963, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 4/5  | <b>Legislation: 1955-1960</b>   |
| Box-folder 5/7  | <b>Peace - Co Existence: Banjung, Geneva, East-West Trade, 1946, 1953-1955, 1957, 1960, n.d.</b>                                |
| Box-folder 6/12 | <b>Peace - Co Existence: Banjung, Geneva, East-West Trade - clippings, 1954-1956, 1963, n.d.</b>                                |
| Box-folder 4/6  | <b>SMOG, 1955, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 6/13 | <b>SMOG - clippings, 1953-1956, n.d.</b>  |
| Box-folder 4/7  | <b><i>Uncommon Sense</i>, Southern California Council for a SANE Nuclear Policy, KPFK radio scripts, 1962-1963, n.d.</b>        |
| Box-folder 4/8  | <b>Universal Military Training, 1955</b>  |
| Box-folder 6/14 | <b>Universal Military Training - clippings, 1954-1955, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 4/9  | <b>Warsaw Ghetto, 1952, 1954-1955, 1963, n.d.</b>   |
| Box-folder 5/8  | <b>Women: International Women's Day - Suffrage - Trade Unions - Status - Other Countries, 1955, 1963-1964, n.d.</b>             |
| Box-folder 6/15 | <b>Women: International Women's Day - Suffrage - Trade Unions - Status - Other Countries - clippings, 1952-1956, 1963, n.d.</b> |