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# JUD MS 04 Rosalyne S. Bernstein Papers Finding Aid

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**ROSALYNE S. BERNSTEIN PAPERS  
JUD MS 4**

**Total Boxes: 14  
Linear Feet: 7**

**By  
Susannah Clark**

**Portland, Maine  
November 2012  
rev. April 2013**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: The Rosalyn S. Bernstein Papers were created and/or compiled by Rosalyn Bernstein, who donated the material in 2002, with additional materials donated in 2007, 2012, and 2013.

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Cite as: Rosalyn S. Bernstein Papers, Judaica Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: Some materials are restricted until the year 2042.

## **Biographical Sketch**

Rosalyn Spindel Bernstein (b.1928) grew up in the Bronx, N.Y.C, and Fall River, MA. Her parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland. She attended Radcliffe College as an economics major, and there she met her future husband, Sumner Thurman Bernstein, then a law student at Harvard University. In 1949, Rosalyn and Sumner married, and moved to his home town of Portland, Maine, where they raised two children and were both active in the community through a range of professional and volunteer service.

With interests in government, education, art, public health, and the Jewish community, Bernstein provided significant involvement and leadership to numerous local organizations, including but not limited to: the Maine Health Care Finance Commission, the Portland School Committee, the New England Board of Higher Education, the Jewish Community Alliance, the National Council of Jewish Women, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, and the Maine Community Foundation. She was the executive director of the Maine Bicentennial Commission, and was co-founder of the Head Start program in Portland.

Bernstein was a longtime trustee of the Portland Society of Art (and later, as the Portland Museum of Art) and served as president of this organization from 1979-1981. Bernstein's presidency oversaw the development, acquisition of funding, and construction of the Charles Shipman Payson Building of the Portland Museum of Art, turning a small local organization into a nationally recognized visual arts museum for northern New England, and contributed to the revitalization of downtown Portland. She was the first woman overseer and trustee of Bowdoin College, chair of the Board of Visitors for the University of Southern Maine, and a trustee of the Portland School of Art (now Maine College of Art) and the Maine Medical Center.

Bernstein went back to school to earn a law degree in 1986 from University of Maine School of Law. She received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Bowdoin College in 1997, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Southern Maine in 2002.

Active in local Jewish communities throughout her life, Bernstein's interest in foreign affairs in the Middle East and Arab-Israeli conflict also led her to do extensive personal research, political correspondence, and local seminars on the topic. In 1979, she participated in the American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East mission to Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. Bernstein conducted a course on Arab-Israeli conflict for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine in 2003.

### **Description of the Papers**

The Papers document Bernstein's work in the areas of government service, educational service, and general volunteerism and philanthropy. The organization of these papers, including some series and folder names, are to some extent derived directly from Bernstein's own organization of her personal and professional files. The Papers include documents from her work with Governor Baldacci's Transition Advisory Council, as well as her term as president of the Portland Society of Art. Also of note is the Maine Community Foundation folder, which documents the foundation's attempt to address diversity issues in the mid-to-late nineties, and the Maine Management and Cost Survey folder, which is comprised almost entirely of correspondence with James Longley regarding the University of Maine System. The Papers include correspondence and materials regarding awards and honors Bernstein received for her public service in volunteer and professional capacities, including VHS tapes of some of the awards ceremonies that include video clips of Bernstein herself.

The Papers also document her work for the Jewish community through participation in organizations, personal political activism, and work as an instructor. These materials include her political correspondence, particularly regarding U.S. foreign policy as it relates to Israel (with William Cohen, George Mitchell, Tom Andrews, Olympia Snowe, and others), opinion pieces published in the Portland Press Herald, texts of lectures and outlines of seminars (with related research), and notes and reviews for the course she taught for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The Papers also document recognition awards presented to Bernstein by a number of Jewish community organizations.

A final section within the Papers deals with personal documents, including correspondence about/from her years as a Radcliffe student, other family correspondence, and miscellaneous writings and publicity. Significant genealogical documentation about the Spindel, Bernstein, and Thurman (Sumner Bernstein's mother's) families are also present.

The Papers are organized into five series:

#### **Series 1. Community Service**

Rosalyn S. Bernstein Papers  
Judaica Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine,  
University of Southern Maine Libraries

This series is divided into the sub-series of Government, Education, Community and Philanthropy, and Awards and Honors. The material is foldered by organization, and contains papers from Bernstein's work in the general community. It includes planning documents, meeting notes, correspondence, photographs, a VHS tape which features Bernstein speaking in support of scholarships at Bowdoin College, and other VHS footage of Bernstein at the "6 Who Care" award ceremonies in 2000 and 2001. This series includes photographs and negatives from the Bowdoin College commencement ceremony in 1997, when Bernstein received her honorary Doctor of Laws, and the physical honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree conferred by the University of Southern Maine in 2002.

#### Series 2. Jewish Community

This series is divided into the sub-series of Organizations, Seminar Leadership and Lectures, Political Activism, Awards and Honors, and Subject Files. The material for this series was generated by Bernstein's work for Jewish community organizations and personal political activism. It contains research notes and lectures regarding the Middle East and Arab-Israeli conflict, newspaper articles, and correspondence. Folder 73 contains her journal from the AAPME mission to Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. Folder 88 contains the VHS "A Tribute to Rosalyn & Sumner Bernstein," made for and shown at the Jewish Community Alliance "Evening to Honor Sumner and Rosalyn Bernstein." The video features footage and commentary by friends and colleagues as well as their two adult children. This series contains physical awards in the form of a clock and a bust. Folders 90 -135 are research files that Bernstein kept in alphabetical order, by topic.

#### Series 3. Personal Papers

This series is divided into the sub-series of Education, Correspondence, General, and Genealogical Papers. The series contains materials regarding Bernstein's personal education at Radcliffe College, correspondence with family and colleagues, personal writings and ephemera, and genealogical papers and photographs of the Bernstein, Spindel, and Thurman families.

#### Series 4. Restricted

This series consists of materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location. Materials include interview assessments; resumes with personal information; lists of organization members with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses; correspondence with email addresses; and personal and contact information of extended family members.

#### Series 5. Addendum

This series contains additional materials donated to the collection in 2013. Two items are feature length videos on topics related to Jewish History in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The series also contains two interviews with Rosalyn Bernstein, one for the Documenting Maine Jewery Project, and another in the magazine *Maine Seniors*.

**Series 1.1 Community Service. Government (1973-2003)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Maine Management and Cost Survey	1973-1974
1	2	Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston	1974-1985
1	3	Task Force on Home Ownership Some materials are RESTRICTED	1980-1981
1	4	Constitution Bicentennial Commission, Planning Some materials are RESTRICTED	1986 Oct- 1987 Sep 16
1	5	Constitution Bicentennial Commission, "Constitution Day"	1987 Sep 17
1	6	Constitution Bicentennial Commission, Follow Up	1987 Sep 18- 1988 Nov 16
1	7-9	Health Care Finance Commission	1987-2002
1	10	Antitrust in Healthcare Conference	2002
1	11	Maine Health Program Task Force	1991
2	12	Government Restructuring Commission	1991-1993
2	13	Budget Advisory Committee	1992
2	14	Health and Social Services Transition Team Some materials are RESTRICTED	1993-1994
2	15	Maine Educational Loan Authority	1999-2000
2	16	State Ceiling on Tax-exempt Bonds Commission	1999-2000
2	17	Transition Advisory Council: Agendas and Minutes Some materials are RESTRICTED	2002
2	18	Transition Advisory Council: Budgets	2002
		Transition Advisory Council: Contact Information RESTRICTED	[2002]
2	19	Transition Advisory Council: Correspondence Some materials are RESTRICTED	2002-2003
		Transition Advisory Council: Department Listings RESTRICTED	2002 Dec
		Transition Advisory Council: Interview Score Sheets RESTRICTED	2002 Dec
2	20	Transition Advisory Council: Baldacci Inauguration Invitations and Program	2003 Jan 8
2	21	Transition Advisory Council: Meeting & Interview Notes Some materials are RESTRICTED	2002-2003

**Series 1.1 Community Service. Government (1973-2003) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	22	Transition Advisory Council: Press Releases	2002
		Transition Advisory Council: Resumes RESTRICTED	2002

**Series 1.2 Community Service. Education (1966-2007)**

2	23	Headstart Program	1966
2	24	Portland School Committee	1966-1981
2	25	Bowdoin College Board of Overseers	1973-1980
2	26	Bowdoin College Board of Trustees	1981-2002
2	27	Bowdoin College Scholarship Fund, Certificate of Establishment	1995
3	28	VHS, "Bowdoin Scholarships: For Generations Unborn"	1999
3	29	Colby College Art Museum	1973 Sep 15
3	30	Rhodes Scholarship Committee	1976-1978
3	31	Westbrook College, Joan Whitney Payson Gallery of Art Advisory Board	1977-1981
3	32	New England Board of Higher Education	1979-1987
3	33	Portland School of Art / Maine College of Art	1980-1997
3	34	Harvard Alumni Association	1982-1985
3	35	University of Southern Maine President's Council	1986
3	36-39	University of Southern Maine Board of Visitors Some materials are RESTRICTED	1989-2007
3	40	University of Maine System Commission on	1989-1992
3	41	University of Maine School of Law Board of Visitors	1991-2003

**Series 1.3 Community Service. Community and Philanthropy (1950-2006)**

4	42	Maine Medical Center Trustee	1974-2005
4	43	WCBB Board of Trustees	1976-1978
4	44	Citizens Against Higher Local Taxes	1977
4	45	The Center for Video Arts	1978
4	46	Maine Housing Enterprise	1989
4	47	The League of Women Voters	1979-1993
4	48	Portland Society of Art	1970-1980

**Series 1.3 Community Service. Community and Philanthropy (1950-2006) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
4	49	Portland Museum of Art	1980-2006
4	50	Storyworks Interview with Rosalyn S. Bernstein, Portland Museum of Art Oral History Project	2005
4	51	Camp Sunshine Foundation	1985, 1996
4	52	Maine Community Foundation	1992-2005
4	53	Maine Humanities Council	1998
4	54	The Board Network	2000-2003
4	55	Other Community Involvement	1950-1996

**Series 1.4 Community Service. Awards and Honors (1973-2002)**

4	56	Deborah Morton Award	1973,1981,1991
4	57	YWCA Women in Philanthropy Award	1986
4	58	University of Maine School of Law Distinguished Alumna Award	1997
5	59	Bowdoin College Awarding of Honorary Doctor of Laws	1996-1997
5	60	Bowdoin College Commencement Photos and Negatives	1997
5	61	Mary Rines Thompson Award	2001-2002
5	62	VHS, "Six Who Care"	2000, 2001
5	63	University of Southern Maine Awarding of Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters	2002
5	64	USM Doctor of Humane Letters Degree	2002
5	65	The AltMaine Guide	2002

**Series 2.1 Jewish Community. Organizations (1958-2008)**

6	66	National Council of Jewish Women	1958,1972-2007
6	67	A History of the NCJW in Maine 1921-1986	2008
6	68	Temple Beth El Art Festival	1962-1967, 2012
6	69	Jewish Federation / Jewish Community Alliance	1963, 1976-2002
6	70	Jewish Federation Appeal Campaigns	1963, 1973-1995
6	71	Temple Beth El	1973-[2004]
6	72	American Israel Public Affairs Committee	1978-1991, 2002-2004



**Series 2.1 Jewish Community. Organizations (1958-2008) ) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
6	73	American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East "AAAPME" Mission Journal and Notes	1979
6	74	State of Israel Bonds	1980-1983, 1987
6	75	Jewish National Fund	1991-1996

**Series 2.2 Jewish Community. Seminar Leadership and Lectures (1977-2003)**

6	76	Bowdoin College Hillel Initiative	2002-2005
6	77	Lectures on Israel and the Middle East	1977-2001
6	78	Jewish Federation Middle East Seminar Series	1982
7	79	Jewish Community Center "Arab-Israeli Conflict" Series	1992
7	80	World Affairs Council Seminar on the Middle East	1996-1997
7	81	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course on Arab-Israeli Conflict	2002-2003

**Series 2.3 Jewish Community. Political Activism (1973-2002)**

7	82	Newspaper Opinion Pieces	1973-2002
7	83	Election Activity	1976-2002
7	84	Correspondence with Elected Officials	1977-2002

**Series 2.4 Jewish Community. Awards and Honors (1966-2001)**

12		Hannah Solomon Award (Bust)	1966
7	85	National Council of Jewish Women Award	1976
7	86	State of Israel Bonds Award	1985
7	87	Jewish Community Alliance, Evening to Honor Sumner and Rosalyne Bernstein	2000
7	88	VHS, "A Tribute to Rosalyne & Sumner Bernstein"	2000
7	89	Jewish Community Alliance Karen M. Lerman Award	2001
12		Karen M. Lerman Award (Clock)	2001

**Series 2.5 Jewish Community. Subject Files (1967-1997, undated)**

7	90	Aid	undated
7	91	Asia and Israel	1998
7	92	Arms Sales to Arabs	1988-2001
7	93	Arab Lobby	1985-1991

**Series 2.5 Jewish Community. Subject Files (1967-1997, undated) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
7	94	Boycott (Arab)	1988-1993
7	95	Bush Administration	1989-1992
7	96	Churches	1987-1997
8	97	Clinton Administration	1993
8	98	Congress	1992
8	99	Counter-Terrorism	1987
8	100	Diplomacy	1989-1990
8	101	Economy (Israel)	1986
8	102	Egypt	1988-1997
8	103	Ethiopian Jews	1987-1988
8	104	Expulsion Orders	1993
8	105	France	1996
8	106	The Gulf War	1990-1992
8	107	Hamas	1992-1994
8	108-109	History of Israel & Middle East	1967-1995
8	110	Human Rights	1968, 1988-1989
8	111	India	1988
8	112	Intifada	1989-1990
8	113	Iran	1989
8	114	Iraq	1990-1992
8	115	Jerusalem	1984, 1988-1997
8	116	Jewish Resistance, World War II	1988-1989
8	117	Jordan	1988-1995
8	118	Lebanon	1988, 1991
8	119	Legal Basis of Zionism and Settlement	1970, 1991
8	120	Loan Guarantees	1991-1994
8	121-123	Media	1988-1997, undated
9	124	The Middle East Review	1989
9	125	Oil	1984-1990
9	126	Oslo	1997

**Series 2.5 Jewish Community. Subject Files (1967-1997, undated) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
9	127	Palestinian Liberation Organization	1978-1994
9	128	Political System, Israel	1988-1992
9	129	Saudi Arabia	1987, 1989, 1991
9	130	South Africa	1985, 1987, 1988
9	131	Syria	1985-1997
9	132	Terrorism	1993-1995
9	133	United Nations	1968, 1988-1995
9	134	West Bank and Gaza	1985, 1997-1991
9	135	Water	1989, 1995

**Series 3.1 Personal Papers. Education (1946-2002)**

10	136	Radcliffe College	1946-1948, 1957, 1973-1997
10	137	Radcliffe College Paper [original]	1950
10	138	Radcliffe College Paper [copy]	1950
10	139	University of Maine School of Law	1982-2002

**Series 3.2 Personal Papers. Correspondence (1932-2006, undated)**

10	140	Andy Bernstein	2001, undated
10	141	Beth Bernstein Schneider and Michael Schneider	1958, 1971, 1973, undated
10	142	Rosalynne Bernstein	1948-1961
10	143	Sumner Bernstein	1932-2000
10	144	Sumner to Rosalynne	1944-2002
10	145-146	Other Correspondence	1949-2006, undated

**Series 3.3 Personal Papers. General (1945-2005, undated)**

11	147	Poetry, Prose, and Doggerel	1949-2003
11	148	Essays and Presentations	1960-2001
11	149	Newspaper Articles	1945-2003
11	150	American Contract Bridge League Award	1982, 2001
11	151	"Sumner Thurman Bernstein," by Louis Bernstein	undated
11	152	Poem by Israel Bernstein	1949
11	153	Rosalynne and Sumner's Wedding Invitations	1949

**Series 3.3 Personal Papers. General (1945-2005, undated) (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
11	154	Program for "The Hasty Heart"	1951
11	155	Wedding Anniversary Speech by Andy Bernstein	1989
11	156	Rosalynne's Account of Relationship with Sumner	2002
11	157	Jewelry Receipt with Note by Rosalynne	2002
11	158	Curriculum Vitae	2003
11	159	"Postwar America," Oral History Paper by Betsy Griffin	2005

**Series 3.4 Personal Papers. Genealogical Papers (1904-2002)**

11	160	Bernstein Family Some materials are RESTRICTED	1907, 1923, 1968, 1982-2002
11	161	Spindel Family Some materials are RESTRICTED	1925-2002
11	162	Thurman Family Some materials are RESTRICTED	1905, 1909, 1952- 1990
11	163	Saved Original Documents	1904, 1925, 1928,

**Series 4 Restricted**

13	164	Item removed from Task Force on Home Ownership (Series 1.1, Folder 3)	1980-1981
13	165	Item removed from Constitution Bicentennial Commission, Planning (Series 1.1, Folder 4)	1986 Oct- 1987 Sep 16
13	166	Item removed from Health and Social Services Transition Team (Series 1.1, Folder 14)	1993-1994
13	167	Items removed from Transition Advisory Council: Agendas and Minutes (Series 1.1, Folder 17)	2002
13	168	Transition Advisory Council: Contact Information (Series 1.1)	[2002]
13	169	Items removed from Transition Advisory Council: Correspondence (Series 1.1, Folder 19)	2002-2003
13	170	Transition Advisory Council: Department Listings (Series 1.1)	2002 Dec
13	171	Transition Advisory Council: Interview Score Sheets (Series 1.1)	2002 Dec
13	172	Items removed from Transition Advisory Council: Meeting and Interview Notes (Series 1.1, Folder 21)	2002-2003
13	173-176	Transition Advisory Council: Resumes (Series 1.1)	2002

**Series 4 Restricted (cont.)**

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
13	177	Items removed from University of Southern Maine Board of Visitors (Series 1.2, Folder 39)	2006-2007
13	178	Items removed from Bernstein Family (Series 3.4, Folder 144)	1907, 1923, 1968, 1982-2002
13	179	Item removed from Spindel Family (Series 3.4, Folder 145)	1925-2002
13	180	Items removed from Thurman Family (Series 3.4, Folder 146)	1905, 1909, 1952-1990

**Series 5 Addendum (1991, 1998, 2009, 2013)**

14	181	VHS, "The Yiddish Cinema: A documentary narrated by David Mamet"	1991
14	182	VHS, "In Our Own Hands: The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in World War II"	1998
14	183	CD, Interview with Rosalyne by Judy Halpert for the Documenting Maine Jewery Project	2009
14	184	Interview with Rosalyne in Maine Seniors magazine (Winter 2013)	2013