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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Creator: Harris, Raymond, 1919-1989
Creator: Harris, Sara, 1921-
Title: Raymond and Sara Harris Papers
ID: apap378
Date [inclusive]: 1942-2016
Physical Description: 20 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: This collection documents the personal and professional lives of Dr. Raymond and Sara Harris and their involvement in the Albany, N.Y. community.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Raymond and Sara Harris Papers, 1960-2007. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Harris Papers).

Biographical / Historical

Dr. Raymond and Sara Harris were active members of the Albany, N.Y. community. In 1957, the couple co-founded the Center for the Study of Aging of Albany, N.Y.

Dr. Raymond Harris was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on June 26, 1919. A graduate of Cornell University and Albany Medical College, Harris also served in the Army Medical Corps at the Walter Reed Hospital
during the Second World War. Dr. Harris, a published author and seasoned lecturer, was the chief of the sub-department of Cardiovascular Medicine at St. Peters Hospital in Albany N.Y. and sat on various medical boards throughout his medical career including Albany Med and the Ann Lee Home. Dr. Harris was also involved in the general field of gerontology and hosted many programs and events. Elected president of the Albany Jewish Community Center, Dr. Harris was an active member of the Albany community until his death on August 25, 1989.

Sara Harris was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1921. After attending the Girls Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts, Harris went on to study at the University of Chicago and the Arts Students League in New York City. An active member in the Albany community, Harris was the executive director of the Center for the Study of Aging of Albany, N.Y. as well as a member of the board of directors for the Albany Inter-racial Council. Sara Harris was also a prominent artist in the area and nominated for awards for her skills in painting in drawing. Harris also enjoyed writing poetry and published a book on exercise for people over 50. Sara Harris died on May 15, 2016.

Both Dr. Raymond and Sara Harris are survived by their children and grandchildren.

Content Description

This collection documents the professional and personal lives of Dr. Raymond and Sara Harris and their work in the Albany community through St. Peters Hospital, Albany Medical Hospital, the Center for the Study of Aging of Albany N.Y., the Albany Inter-racial Council, and the Albany Jewish Community Center. Materials consist of published articles, books, correspondence, hospital records, lecture notes, various council meeting minutes, studies on gerontology, newsletters, and family history. The collection also contains audio and visual material related to the field of gerontology.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Processing Information

This collection is currently unprocessed.
Immediate Source of Acquisition

The children of Raymond and Sara Harris donated all materials in the collection to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 2018.

Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted except for some folders that contain personally identifiable information. Please contact an archivist for more information.

Copyright

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The Department of Special Collections and Archives is eager to hear from any copyright owners who are not properly identified so that appropriate information may be provided in the future.

Controlled Access Headings

- Medical care
- Albany (N.Y.)
- Gerontology
- Harris, Raymond, 1919-1989
- Medicine and Health Care
- Harris, Sara, 1921-
Collection Inventory

Biographical, 1942-2016

Date [inclusive]: 1942-2016

Physical Description: .83 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically

Scope and Contents

This series contains personal correspondence, personal documents, and photographs of Raymond and Sara Harris. Included in the correspondence are letters to their children, their friends, and other members of their immediate family. Included in the correspondence are family updates and poetry written by Sara Harris. The series also includes information on the leisure activities enjoyed by the Harris family including tennis games and country clubs. The series also features documents related to the couples involvement in the Albany Jewish Community Center and their temple. The series also features information on Raymond Harris's time in the army, as well as records of the art shows Sara Harris participated in.

Medical Papers, 1942-1990

Date [inclusive]: 1942-1990

Physical Description: 3.0 cubic ft.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains the medical files and publications of Raymond Harris during his time in the medical community. Raymond Harris was a cardiologist at St. Peters Hospital in Albany, N.Y. and sat on a variety of committees and boards. Harris also was on staff at Albany Medical Hospital and the Ann Lee Home. Raymond Harris also worked at a psychiatric hospital and was a consultant on various medical cases. Included in this series are medical publications, documents related to the various hospitals and other institutions that Raymond Harris worked at, and correspondence between colleagues. Some files are restricted due to patient information.

Conferences/Lectures, 1950-1996

Date [inclusive]: 1950-1996

Physical Description: 2.33 cubic ft.
# Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

## Scope and Contents

This series contains the conferences and lectures that Raymond and Sara Harris participated in and attended. The conferences and lectures focused on gerontology and cardiovascular health. Both Raymond and Sara Harris gave lectures to members of the medical community, the Gerontological Society of America, and members of the Albany area. Included in the series are documents from conferences in Japan, China, Italy, and Israel. These records include travel itineraries, postcards, and souvenirs.

- Center for the Study of Aging, 1950-2015
  
  **Date [inclusive]:** 1950-2015  
  **Physical Description:** 2.17 cubic ft.

  **Arrangement**  
  This series is arranged alphabetically.

  **Scope and Contents**  
  This series contains documents related to the Center for the Study of Aging opened by Raymond and Sara Harris. Sara Harris, who was the executive director of the center, was active in the elderly community in Albany, N.Y. Located on Madison Avenue, the Center for the Study of Aging provided programs, lectures, and a community space for the elderly community. Included in the series are documents related to the founding of the center, program events, correspondence related to the center, information about its non-profit status, and articles and news clips related to the events that the center hosted. The series also includes published books written by Sara Harris and other members of the gerontology community, as well as publications relating to the center's findings and activities.

- Albany Activism, 1950-1990
  
  **Date [inclusive]:** 1950-1990  
  **Physical Description:** 3.0 cubic ft.

  **Arrangement**  
  This series is arranged alphabetically.

  **Scope and Contents**  
  This series contains documents related to the Harris's involvement in the Albany Community. Both Raymond and Sara Harris were active in the Albany Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Democratic Party in Albany. Sara Harris also sat on the Board of the Directors of the Albany Interracial Council which provided services like a day care center, a pool, and a community center to the people in the Arbor Hill community. Included in the series is correspondence with members of these organizations, documents showing the racial injustices that the Interracial
Publications, 1950-2011

Date [inclusive]: 1950-2011
Physical Description: 2.0 cubic ft.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains publications related to gerontology and cardiovascular health. These publications speak to the interests of Raymond and Sara Harris who subscribed to newsletters and journals to keep updated on the various discoveries in their fields.