

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Helman-Victor family  
Papers, 1895-2015**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, contact the Collections Department.

Size of Collection:

5 cubic feet, 1 wrapped volume, 1 oversize folder

Location Number:

Mss. A H478a

## **Helman-Victor family Papers, 1895-2015**

### **Scope and Content Note**

The bulk of this collection documents the volunteer work of Helen (Segal) Helman and her daughter Roanne Victor with Jewish and community organizations in Louisville, Kentucky. Included are family business records, personal papers, organizational records, correspondence, handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, and publications from 1895-2015.

Folders 1-13 contain business and personal papers from 1895 through the 1970s for the Segal and Helman families. Included are financial records of the Segal Fish and Poultry Market; records relating to Carl Helman's association with Bradford Woolen Mills buildings; and various Standard Country Club, Atherton High School, and St. George Lodge items. Materials disassembled from a scrapbook consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera documenting Helen and Carl Helman's community involvement, with a few items about Helen's father George Segal and her brother Herbert Segal's World War II military service.

Folders 14-40 consist of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) papers, documenting Helen Helman's involvement in the Louisville Section as president, vice president, and treasurer. National, regional, and Louisville Section NCJW papers include correspondence, publications, meeting minutes, and materials relating to education projects, fundraising, training, conferences, and the Louisville Section's centennial celebration. Also included are advertisements, budgets, handwritten notes, and correspondence relating to the Nearly New Shop, a nonprofit thrift shop opened in 1956 by the NCJW Louisville Section.

Folders 41-70 contain papers documenting Helen Helman's involvement with Jewish organizations and Louisville social service programs. Correspondence, newspaper clippings, publications, and meeting minutes relate to the United Jewish Campaign, a trip to Israel in 1963, Louisville's Shawnee Elementary School Project, the "Crisis in our City" Institute sponsored by the Conference of Jewish Organizations in 1968, a volunteer probation officer training program, Senior House West, the Center for Women and Families, and Four Courts Louisville Hebrew Home for the Aged, which Carl Helman helped to establish in 1949.

Folders 71-74 contain papers relating to the Victor family and to Roanne Helman before her marriage to Karl Victor. Included are Adath Israel publications and programs, items documenting the volunteer work of Julia Victor (Karl's mother) with the Jewish Hospital Women's Guild, and ephemera of Roanne's from Atherton High School and Sigma Theta Pi.

Folders 75-152 document Roanne Victor's involvement in the arts and as a community booster in Louisville from the mid-1960s through the early 2000s. Materials relate to Actors Theatre of Louisville, Louisville's celebrations of the country's Bicentennial, the Foreign Diplomats program, the City Walls project, Leadership Louisville, and the Cathedral Heritage Foundation.

These records include newspaper clippings, financial information, meeting minutes, schedules, handwritten notes, correspondence, articles, programs, and ephemera.

Folders 154-174 contain various materials documenting Roanne and Karl Victor's community involvement during the 1950s-early 2000s. Newspaper articles, correspondence, handwritten notes, certificates, programs, brochures, and publications relate to the following: Louisville tourism, the 1975 National Democratic Issues Convention in Louisville, NCJW, Kentucky Opera Association, National Trust for Historical Preservation, Arbor Day, the 1979 National Governors' Association meeting in Louisville, suicide awareness, the Kentucky Cultural Complex that became the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Louisville Bicentennial, and the Festival of Faiths. A wrapped volume consists of a City Walls scrapbook, and an oversize folder contains certificates for members of the Segal, Helman, and Victor family members.

*Related Collections:*

Helman-Victor family photograph collection (020PC20)

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**Biographical Note**

Helen (Segal) Helman (1912-1998) was the daughter of Hannah and George Segal, who owned Segal Fish and Poultry Market in Louisville. George was born in Kentucky to Russian Jewish parents, and Hannah was born in Russia and immigrated with her family to the U.S. In 1933, Helen married Carl K. "Kelly" Helman (1908-1989), an attorney born in Louisville to Russian Jewish parents Max and Goldie (Needleman) Helman. Helen Helman was active in the Louisville Section of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal. Helen's brother Herbert Segal served in the 95th Infantry Division of the United States Army during World War II and became a labor lawyer.

Helen and Carl Helman's daughter Roanne Helman (1937-2017) married Louisville attorney Karl "Buzzy" N. Victor, Jr. (1933-2014) in 1956. Buzz's parents were Dr. Karl and Julia (Felsenthal) Victor. Dr. Karl Victor, Sr. was born in Missouri to German Jewish immigrants Meier and Emily Victor; he became an ear, nose, and throat physician who had an office practice and served on the medical staff of Jewish Hospital and Norton Infirmary. Julia Victor was active in the Women's Guild of Louisville's Jewish Hospital. Roanne Victor volunteered as the art curator of Actors Theatre of Louisville and with the City Walls project, and as a community booster with the Louisville Bicentennial celebrations, the National Council on Foreign Diplomats, and the Cathedral Heritage Foundation. She was chosen as a community leader to participate in the Louisville Leadership program.

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- Folder 4: Standard Country Club, 1925-1973
- Folder 5: Helen Helman: Atherton High School and personal correspondence, 1927-1930
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- Folder 7: Wedding Greetings by Western Union, 1933, 1956
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- Folder 16: NCJW National: Freedom campaign and banned books project, 1952-1955
- Folder 17: NCJW National: Overseas committee minutes, 1960-1968
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- Folder 23: NCJW Regional: Southern interstate conferences, 1954, 1955, 1960
- Folder 24: NCJW Regional: Southern interstate conference in Louisville correspondence, 1955-1956
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- Folder 28: NCJW Louisville Section: Training committee, 1965
- Folder 29: NCJW Louisville Section: Training committee, board member's work kit, 1965
- Folder 30: NCJW Louisville Section: Ceremony scripts and speeches, 1950s-1960s
- Folder 31: NCJW Louisville Section: Miscellaneous, 1935-1982
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- Folder 35: Nearly New Shop: Background and reports, 1956-1982

Folder 36: Nearly New Shop: "Operation Nearly New," ca. 1960  
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Folder 58: Shawnee Elementary School Project, ca. 1967  
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**Subject Headings**

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Blacks – Relations with Jews – Kentucky – Louisville.  
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Fischer, Greg, 1958-  
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Fraternal Organizations – Kentucky – Louisville.  
Freemasons – Kentucky – Louisville.  
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Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Louisville Chapter.  
Helman, Carl K., 1908-1989.  
Helman, Helen Segal, 1912-1998.  
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Interfaith worship – Kentucky – Louisville.  
Israel – Description and travel.  
J. M. Atherton High School for Girls (Louisville, Ky.)  
Jewish American newspapers – Kentucky.  
Jewish businesspeople – Kentucky – Louisville.  
Jewish Community Center (Louisville, Ky.)  
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Sloane, Harvey Ingalls, 1936-  
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United Jewish Appeal.  
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Victor, Karl N., Sr., 1900-1954.  
Victor, Karl N., Jr., 1933-2014.  
Victor, Roanne Helman, 1937-2017.  
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Women’s Guild of Jewish Hospital (Louisville, Ky.)  
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Youth – Services for – Kentucky – Louisville.