

Arab American National Museum Archives  
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126



Title: Maurice and Mary Bisharat Collection  
Creator: Bisharat, Maurice Hanna and Mary (Johnson) Bisharat  
Inclusive dates: 1960-2011  
Bulk dates: 1970-1989  
Extent: 9 linear feet  
Accession number: 2014.07.00

Language: Bulk of the material is in English, limited number of items in Arabic  
Acquisition: Donation from the Bisharat Family Trust, June 2014.  
Accruals: Additions to the collection not expected.  
Access: No restrictions.  
Photographs: Box 4  
A-V Material: Cassette Tapes in Box 9  
Digital Materials: None  
Copyright: Copyright has been transferred to the Arab American National Museum.  
Processed: 2015 by Elyssa Bisoski  
Arrangement: Original order – final arrangement to be determined.  
Preferred citation: [item], Maurice and Mary Bisharat Collection, Arab American National Museum

## **Biography**

Born in Es-Salt, Jordan in 1920, Maurice Hanna Bisharat was raised and educated in Jerusalem. In 1946, after attending medical school and working as a physician in Gaza, he moved to the United States to complete a residency at St. Francis Hospital in Connecticut. There he met his wife, Connecticut native and Vassar graduate Mary McAlpine Johnson. Together, Maurice and Mary moved around the country following his career, before settling down in 1967 near Sacramento in California.

Both Maurice and Mary were active in a number of causes, including politics, environmentalism, and social justice. However, their true passion was working with the Arab and Arab American community. Maurice and Mary were active in the Association of Arab American University Graduates (AAUG) and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). They helped found a local chapter of the ADC, as well as founding the Arab American Club of Sacramento (AACS). They worked on a number of projects to combat discrimination against Arabs, hosted events to showcase Arab culture and stayed active and involved in American politics concerning the Arab World. Additionally, both spouses contributed to Arab American activism using their own unique skills. Maurice was active in the medical branch of the ADC while Mary worked closely with Yemini farm workers of California throughout her social work career. Maurice passed away in 1998 and Mary followed in 2012.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Maurice and Mary Bisharat Collection contains items created and collected by the couple relating to Arab American causes. A large part of the collection is secondary sources such as newspaper and magazine articles, either clippings or printouts from the web. The collection also contains many items from the various organizations with which the Bisharats worked, including but not limited to the ADC, AAUG and AACS. A small number of folders include items from social events hosted or attended by the Bisharats, including a yearly Christmas party. Most of the folders are labeled according to the person, organization, event or theme of the items contained within.

## **Subjects**

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Arab-Israeli conflict  
Arab Americans--History--20th century  
Arab Americans--Periodicals  
Arab Americans--United States  
Association of Arab-American University Graduates  
Jewish-Arab relations  
Middle East--Politics and government  
Societies and Clubs

## **Genre terms**

Correspondence  
Newspaper clippings  
Newsletters  
Pamphlets  
Photographs

## **Contents**

*Note: Processing of the collection is incomplete and will be updated in the future. Where available, boxes have original titles. Listed below are selected folder titles, generally organization names or names of people with whom the Bisharats corresponded. Listings are incomplete. For more information about the collection and its contents, please contact Elyssa Bisoski at [ebisoski@accesscommunity.org](mailto:ebisoski@accesscommunity.org) or (313)624-0229.*

### **Box 1**

Middle East Correspondence, 1960s-2008

- Catholic Conference
- American Committee for Justice in the Middle East
- Arab Action Committee
- Willa Gibbs
- Farouk Mawlawi
- Eymard Gallagher
- Sacramento Committee for News and Politics
- Another Mother
- Mary Mckay
- George Bisharat

### **Box 2**

Middle East Correspondence, 1972-1989

- Sirhan Sirhan
- Charles Bisharat
- Edward Said
- Lloyd Connelly
- Grantland Johnson
- Nadia Hijab
- Richard Stevens
- Margaret McKay
- Middle East Coordinating Committee
- U.S. Academy for Peace
- Clergy Correspondence

### **Box 3**

Politicians, the Media and the Middle East, 1960s-1980s

- National Association of Arab Americans
- Committee for Justice
- Research Center for Arab Heritage
- Governor Jerry Brown

**Box 4**

Untitled, 1973-1985

- World Affairs Council
- Suleiman, Michael
- Christmas Parties
- Palestinian Human Rights Council
- Don Sutherland

**Box 5**

Untitled, 1965-1981

- American Committee for Justice in the Middle East (ACJME)
- Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East (CONAME)
- Americans for UN Responsibility in the Middle East
- UC Davis Extension Course
- Alan Cranston
- James Abourzek
- Anne Armstrong
- Joseph Ryan
- Abdeen Jabara
- Gary Smith
- Tal Al Zaatar
- Palestine Arab Fund
- Palestinian Red Crescent
- Federated Organization of Arab Americans
- Mothers Against Involvement in the Middle East

**Box 6**

Middle East Politics and Community Affairs, 1988-2011 (bulk mid-2000s)

- AAPAC
- Center for Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties
- Doctors Without Borders
- Friends Committee on Legislation of California
- Lauri King-Irani
- Institute for Middle Eastern Understanding
- Partners for Peace
- Edward Said

**Box 7**

Mid-East Politics and Sacramento Community Affairs, 1973-2010

- Alfred Lileinthal
- Arab American Community Center
- Arab American Club of Sacramento
- American Psychiatric Association
- Arab American Committee for Fair Education
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Sacramento Association for Arab Americans State Fair Booth
- Grandmothers for Peace

**Box 8**

Middle East Politics and Sacramento Arabs, 2002-2008 and AAUG materials

- International Solidarity Movement
- Palestine Task Force Peace Action
- AAUG

**Box 9**

ADC, 1983-1997

- ADC Action Alerts
- ADC Bulletins
- ADC Times
- ADC Reports
- ADC Issues
- ADC Regional Newsletters
- ADC Background Papers