

**PRELIMINARY INVENTORY**  
**K0803 (KA2055, KA2099, KA2144)**  
**SHARON BITNER LEVITAN (1943- ) AND HOWARD STEVEN LEVITAN**  
**(1943- ) PAPERS, CA. 1929-2008**  
**[JCA]**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org).

**Introduction**

4 cubic feet and oversize items

The collection includes personal and family papers, yearbooks, scrapbooks, publications and photographs related to the Bitner and Levitan families of Kansas City, Missouri and the Jewish organizations with which they were involved. Also included are materials relating to Sharon's mother, Esther Gottlieb Bitner, and her career as a professional dancer.

**Donor Information**

This gift was received from Sharon and Howard Levitan as accession KA2055 on July 31, 2012. Accession KA2099 was received on February 15, 2013. Accession KA2144 was received on October 17, 2013.

**Biographical sketch**

Sharon Bitner Levitan was born February 18, 1943. She received her education at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A teacher and a small business owner, she was also actively involved in the leadership of local Jewish women's organizations such as B'nai B'rith Women and the Kehilath Israel Synagogue Sisterhood. She was president of the latter from 1981-1983.

Howard Levitan, an attorney, attended the University of Missouri, Kansas City, School of Law, and was a member of the American Bar Association. Howard served as President of the Kehilath Israel Synagogue in the early 1990s.

Sharon and Howard married August 2, 1965. They had two children, Andrea and Norman.

**Location note**

This collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

**Research note**

See also: Robert I. Bitner and Esther Gottlieb Bitner Family Papers, K1292; Andrea Levitan Papers, K1293; and Norman Hadley Levitan Papers, K1108.

**Box List**

**Box 1**

*(KA2099) Family papers, Yearbooks, Publications, Events, Family Photos*

**K0803 (ACCESSION NO. KA2055, KA2099, KA2144)**  
**SHARON BITNER LEVITAN AND HOWARD STEVEN LEVITAN PAPERS**

- f. 1 Sharon A. Levitan: Resume, Awards, Certificates
- f. 2 Birth Certificates, Family Papers, and Early Photographs
- f. 3 The Nautilus of 1933 – Manual Training High School, Esther Gottlieb
- f. 4 Yearbook: The Nor'easter – Northeast High School, Kansas City, MO (1934)
- f. 5 Yearbook: The Nor'easter – Northeast High School, Kansas City, MO (1935)
- f. 6 Yearbook: The Nor'easter – Northeast High School, Kansas City, MO (1936)
- f. 7 B'nai B'rith Youth Organization – District Two Convention, Colorado State University (1960)
- f. 8 Kehilath Israel's "The Focal Point": September 22, 1981 – January 18, 1983; Clippings
- f. 9 Kehilath Israel's "The Focal Point": September 1989 – January 1991
- f. 10 Kehilath Israel's "The Focal Point": February 1991 – January 1992
- f. 11 Kehilath Israel Synagogue Golden Jubilee Celebration (1995)
- f. 12 Articles and Clippings: Dedication of the Holocaust Museum (1993)
- f. 13 Esther Bitner – Hole in One Awards (January 4, 1987)
- f. 14 Photographs – Esther Gottlieb (c. 1929)
- f. 15 Esther Bitner – 1929-1930's
- f. 16 Photographs – Concert of the Dance – Music Hall, Municipal Auditorium (November 22, 1936)
- f. 17 Photographs – Esther and Bob Bitner 1939
- f. 18 Ben and Helen Bitner – 50th anniversary photos (1963)
- f. 19 Photographs – Sharon Bitner, infancy to young adulthood (1943 – c. 1960's)
- f. 20 Photograph – Harry and Anne Bitner September 15, 1940
- f. 21 Photographs – Sam and Pearl's Wedding (August 1947)
- f. 22 Photographs – Wedding, Marvin & Toby Sebert November 14, 1948
- f. 23 Photographs – Goldene's Wedding (1952)
- f. 24 Certificates of Appreciation – 1982 Sisterhood Gift Wrap, Bob and Esther Bitner (January 8, 1983)
- f. 25 Devinki Torah Inscription Certificate – January 1992
- f. 26 Ararat and Masonic Temple Documents and Correspondence (1948-1995)
- f. 27 Photographs – B'nai B'rith Women (1958-1982)

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**SHARON BITNER LEVITAN AND HOWARD STEVEN LEVITAN PAPERS**

- f. 28 Photographs – Boba and Esther Bitner (middle to old age)
- f. 29 Photographs (1910-1944)
- f. 30 Robert Bitner – B’nai B’rith, Bowling Association, Jewish War Veterans, Newspaper Clippings, Photos, Miscellaneous (1970’s – 1990’s)
- f. 31 Kehilath Israel Synagogue Correspondence to Esther Bitner – June 2008
- f. 32 Kansas City Star – 9/11 Commemorative Section (September 16, 2001)

**BOX 2**

*(KA2055) Scrapbook Contents, Family Photos*

- f. 1 B’nai B’rith Youth Organization Scrapbook Contents (1957-1958) (1 of 5)
- f. 2 B’nai B’rith Youth Organization Scrapbook Contents (1959) (2 of 5)
- f. 3 B’nai B’rith Youth Organization Scrapbook Contents (1959) (3 of 5)
- f. 4 B’nai B’rith Youth Organization Scrapbook Contents (1959-1961) (4 of 5)
- f. 5 B’nai B’rith Youth Organization Scrapbook Contents (1959-1960) (5 of 5)
- f. 6 Photographs – BBYO District Number 2 Convention (1960)
- f. 7 Family Photographs – 1933-1947
- f. 8 Family Photographs – 1948-1965
- f. 9 Family Photographs – 1967-1979
- f. 10 Family Photographs – 1980-1989
- f. 11 Family Photographs – 1990-2008
- f. 12 Newspaper Clippings – 1972, 1976, 1978

**Box 3**

*(KA2144)*

- f. 1 Sharon Bitner, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, District 2 Book Drive, Chair, correspondence, 1961
- f. 2 Sharon Bitner, Hit Parader magazine, Sept. 1955
- f. 3 Sharon Bitner, B’nai B’rith Women, Org. for Rehab. Training (ORT), 1986-1992
- f. 4 Sharon and Howard Levitan, family photographs, Esther and Robert Bitner wedding photo, June 1940
- f. 5-9 Sharon and Howard Levitan, wedding photo album and related, Aug. 22, 1965
- f. 10 Sharon and Howard Levitan, wedding, 8mm film reels (2), Aug. 1965
- f. 12-14 Howard Levitan, Bar Mitzvah scrapbook, Mar. 4, 1956
- f. 15 Howard Levitan, Linden, N.J., high school diploma, June 1960

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**SHARON BITNER LEVITAN AND HOWARD STEVEN LEVITAN PAPERS**

- f. 16            Howard Levitan, certificates, American Bar Assoc. + other, 1968-1986
- f. 17            Howard Levitan, correspondence, 1986-1992
- f. 18-20        Howard Levitan, Kehilath Israel Synagogue, president, various materials, 1989-1992
- f. 21            Sharon and Howard Levitan, family photographs, ca. 1970s-1980s
- f. 22            Sharon and Howard Levitan, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy building fund, 1983

**Box 4, Scrapbook Box (004X1)**  
*(KA2055, KA2144)*

- Item 1        Kehilath Israel Sisterhood Scrapbook, c. 1975-1982
- Item 2        Kehilath Israel Sisterhood Scrapbook, c. 1981-1983
- Item 3        Esther Gottlieb Bitner Dance Scrapbook, 1929-1937
- Item 4        Howard Levitan Scrapbook

**Box 5, Scrapbook Box (005X1)**  
*(KA2144)*

- Item 1        Sharon Bitner, album, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, National Leadership Training conference, Starlight, Pa., July-Aug. 1960

**Box 6, Oversize Items**

- f. 1            Bob and Esther (Gottlieb) Bitner's wedding portraits, 1940  
              Esther Jillian Gottlieb, Artist Diploma in Dancing, Kansas City Guild of Music and Allied Arts Teachers, June 16, 1936  
              Sharon Bitner, composite photographs, Alpha Theta Epsilon sorority, 1957-1958, 1958-1959  
              Sharon Bitner, composite photograph, Kehilath Israel Synagogue, graduating class, 1958