



## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Manuscript Collections

## **GERI JOSEPH:**

### **An Inventory of Her Papers**

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

- Creator:** Joseph, Geri M., 1923-.
- Title:** Geri M. Joseph papers.
- Date:** 1946-1995.
- Abstract:** Papers documenting a Minnesota woman's careers as an award winning journalist, Democratic Party activist, diplomat, public policy analyst, and board member of numerous business and civic organizations.
- Quantity:** 6.5 cu. ft. (7 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for shelf location.

#### **BIOGRAPHY OF GERI JOSEPH**

Geri M. Joseph, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on June 19, 1923. She was one of three children born to Sam and Edith Mack. Joseph studied journalism and political science at the University of Minnesota where she graduated magna cum lauda in 1946. She was one the first women to be hired as an editor of the university newspaper, *The Minnesota Daily*.

Joseph worked as a staff writer at the *Minneapolis Tribune* from 1946 until March 1953. Specializing in health, education, and welfare reporting she won five American Newspaper Guild Awards and a Distinguished Service Award for Writing from the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1952 she was the first woman recipient of the the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism. She was a contributing editor and columnist for the newspaper from 1972-1978.

As a long time activist in Democratic politics Joseph was a speech writer for Hubert H.

Humphrey's 1948 Minneapolis mayoral campaign and worked on the 1956 presidential campaign of Adlai Stevenson. She achieved prominence in the Democratic Party during the 1960s and 1970s and held offices in the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Democratic National Committee.

In 1978 Joseph was named United States Ambassador to the Netherlands, a post she held until 1981. From 1983 to 1993 she was on the staff of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Throughout her career Joseph served as a volunteer with numerous civic and private organizations. She was a member of President Kennedy's Commission on Youth Employment (1962-1963), President Johnson's Commission on Income Maintenance Programs (1967-1969), and President Carter's Commission on Mental Health (1977). She was a director on numerous civic and business boards including Honeywell, the George A. Hormel Company, Northwestern National Bank, and Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. She also served as a member of the advisory council of the National Institute of Mental Health (1962-1967) and as president of the National Association for Mental Health (1968-1969).

Joseph's first marriage was to David Hoffner and the couple had a daughter, Shelley. In 1953 she married Burton Joseph, the president of I. S. Joseph Company, and they had two sons, Ira and Scott.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPERS**

These documents are organized into the following sections:

- Personal Papers.
- Journalism.
- Politics.
- Ambassadorial Files.
- Civic Organizations

## **INDEX TERMS**

*This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### **Topics:**

- Women in politics -- Minnesota.
- Women journalists -- Minnesota.
- Women diplomats -- United States.

Political conventions -- United States -- 1968.  
Mental health -- United States.  
Mental health -- Minnesota.  
Jews in public life -- Minnesota.  
Electioneering -- United States.  
Jewish women -- Minnesota.  
Sigma Delta Chi Awards for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

**Places:**

United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-.  
Netherlands -- Foreign relations -- 1948-.  
Minnesota -- Politics and government -- 1951-.

**Persons:**

Anderson, Eugenie M., 1909-.  
Brown, Muriel Humphrey Buck.  
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978.

**Organizations:**

Brookings Study Group on Arab-Israeli Peace.  
Committee to Encourage Women to Seek Political Office.  
Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.  
Democratic National Committee (U.S.).  
Democratic Party (U.S).  
Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.  
Minnesota. Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse within the Family.  
Minnesota. Legislature. Tax Study Commission.  
Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund.  
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.  
National Association for Mental Health.  
Netherlands-American Bicentennial Commission.

**Types of Documents:**

Diaries.  
Speeches.

**Occupations:**

Journalists -- Minnesota.  
Ambassadors -- United States.  
Statesmen -- United States.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation:

*[Indicate the cited item and/or series here]* . Geri Joseph Papers. Minnesota Historical Society.

*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### Accession Information:

Accession numbers: 14,167; 15,300

### Processing Information:

Processed by: Frank Hennessy, March 2000

PALS ID number: 08-00009673

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

### Personal Papers

Location	Box	
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151.L.18.8F	1	Biographical data, 1968-1989.
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Correspondence and miscellaneous related papers, 1948-1995. 19 folders.

Topics relate predominantly to facets of Joseph's public life documented elsewhere in the collection including reactions to her newspaper columns, discussions with various state and national political leaders, her position as the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, and her active participation in a number of civic organizations.

Passports, 1960s-1980s.

Awards, citations and certificates, 1946-1985.

Photographs, 1948-1988.

Includes photographs of Geri Joseph, Hubert Humphrey, Luis Munoz, Edmund Muskie, Walter Mondale, Edward Kennedy, Alexander Haig, and Senator Paul Simon.

News clippings, 1948-1974, 1981-1987. 3 folders

## Journalism

### Location      Box

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| 151.L.19.1B | 2 | <p>"Minnesota Bedlam," May 1948.</p> <p>An investigative series Joseph wrote for the <i>Minneapolis Morning Tribune</i> describing conditions in Minnesota mental hospitals.</p>   |
| 142.C.2.2   | 4 | <p>"Minnesota Bedlam Revisited," November 1950.</p> <p>A reprint of a series in the <i>Minneapolis Morning Tribune</i> in which Joseph revisited and reported on the progress Minnesota mental hospitals had made since her first report in 1948. She was awarded the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism for this series.</p>   |
| 151.L.19.1B | 2 | <p>China series, October 19-26, 1975.</p> <p>Eight articles Joseph wrote on China for the <i>Minneapolis Tribune</i> following her visit with a Minnesota delegation which accompanied Governor Wendell Anderson.</p> <p><i>See Also:</i> Civic organizations and activities: Minnesota Delegation to the People's Republic of China.</p> <p>Articles and editorials, 1950-1986.</p> <p>Includes two series Joseph wrote for the <i>Minneapolis Tribune</i> on Minnesota public schools (February 20-March 31, 1950 and November 12-15, 1951) and a series entitled "Teens in Trouble" (March 10-20, 1952). There are also a number of editorials she wrote as a contributing editor during the 1970s.</p> |

## Politics

Geri Joseph's activities in the Democratic Party began in 1956 when she served as chairwoman of the Minnesota Stevenson for President Committee, followed by service as Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor state chairwoman (1958-1960) and as Minnesota DFL National Committeewoman (1960-1972). As a member of the Executive Committee of Democratic

National Committee (1960-1971) she was elected as its vice-chair and director of women's activities (1968-1970)

This series documents Joseph's service while holding these posts including her activities at the 1960 and 1964 Democratic National Conventions, her leadership role in the 1968 presidential campaign, and her work in promoting women's participation in politics.

**Location      Box**

151.L.19.1B    2      Correspondence: State and national politics, 1955-1983. 2 folders.

Democratic National Committee:

Correspondence and related papers, 1960-1972.

Life Magazine article and photographs, 1960.

Includes an English (July 4, 1960) and Spanish (October 17, 1960) copy of a *Life Magazine* article, entitled "The Lady from Minnesota," which focused on Joseph's work as a Democratic National Committeewoman. There are also eight photographs of Joseph taken by Life Magazine which do not appear in the article.

Puerto Rico trip, December 1960.

Correspondence related to a trip Joseph made with her husband during which she studied the situation surrounding a credentials controversy between two factions of the Democratic Party in Puerto Rico.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Call to the Convention, 1969-1970.

Joseph chaired this committee which was appointed by Democratic Party chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien. The committee's charge was to speed the implementation of the guidelines set forth in the report of the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection which was chaired by Senator George McGovern. The guidelines aimed at making party procedures more democratic, especially in delegate selection for the 1972 election. The papers consist primarily of

correspondence related to the origin and purpose of the committee, its work in assisting state parties in implementing the guidelines related to the delegate selection process, and the drafting of a preliminary Call.

**Location      Box**

151.L.19.1B    2      Women's rights, 1975.

Committee to Encourage Women to Seek Public Office, 1969-1970.

Correspondence, press releases, and proposals primarily documenting the creation of this Democratic Party committee and a its implementation of a non-partisan national survey of women's attitudes concerning political participation.

Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund: Minutes and related papers, 1982-1987.

Presidential campaigns and conventions:

1960:

Correspondence and related papers, 1959-1960.

1964:

Printed matter and miscellaneous related papers. 2 folders.

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party credentials controversy.

1968:

Correspondence and miscellaneous related papers.

Women For Humphrey Advisory Council.

Credentials Committee materials.

News clippings.

**Ambassadorial Files**

**Location      Box**

151.L.19.1B    2      Correspondence:

Personal, 1978-March 1981. 6 folders.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
151.L.19.2F	3	<p>Ambassador's:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Alpha: E-Z (Missing A-D), 1978-1981. 14 folders.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Outgoing, July 1978-1980. 5 folders.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Miscellaneous correspondence and related papers, 1980-1981.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Telegrams: Outgoing, 1978-1980.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Thank You letters: Received, 1978-1979.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">United States government, 1978-1980. 2 folders.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Vice-President Walter Mondale, 1978-1980.</p> <p>Administrative files:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Arrival of Ambassador Joseph, 1978.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Briefing materials, 1978. 3 folders.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Correspondence, memoranda, schedules, and miscellaneous printed matter related to Joseph's orientation to her post as ambassador.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Presentation of credentials, 1978.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Calls on Dutch officials, 1978.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Diplomatic calls, 1978.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Diplomatic Corps contributions, 1978, 1981.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Diplomatic notes, 1978-1981.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Embassy notes, 1978-1980.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) notes, 1978-1980.</p>
143.J.17.7B	5	<p>Appointment books, 1979-1981. 3 volumes.</p> <p>Guest book (American Embassy, The Hague), August 31, 1978-March 1, 1981.</p> <p>Guest lists:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Hosted by Ambassador Joseph, 1978-1981. 2 folders.</p>

Hosted by others, 1978-1980.

Invitations: Received, 1978-1981.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
143.J.17.7B	5	<p>Schedules:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1978-1979. 2 folders.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1980-1981. 2 folders.</p> <p>Speeches: Ambassador Joseph, 1978-1980. 2 folders.</p> <p>Trips:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) and Netherlands-America Institute (NAIL: Limburg Province ), November 28-December 1, 1980.</p>
142.C.2.2	4	<p>Federal Republic of Germany: Citation presented to Joseph by the Second Armored Cavalry Regiment commemorating her visit to the "Border of the Free World," July 17, 1980.</p> <p>Gouda, Holland: Certificate presented to Joseph by the mayor, September 3, 1980.</p>
143.J.17.7B	5	<p>Groningen, 1979.</p> <p>Home leave, August 2-31, 1980.</p> <p>Limburg Province, 1978-1980.</p>
143.J.17.8F	6	<p>Miscellaneous, 1978-1980.</p> <p>Miscellaneous within Netherlands, 1978-1980.</p> <p>Rotterdam, November 21, 1978.</p> <p>Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Belgium, September 8-9, 1980.</p> <p>Washington consultations, 1978-1980. 6 folders</p> <p>Women's colloquium (Oosterbeek), September 27-28, 1979.</p> <p>Women's Issues Action Conference (U.S. Army VII Corps), October 7-10, 1980.</p>

Visits-visitors:

General, 1978-1980. 3 folders.

Vice-President Walter Mondale, April 21-22, 1979.

**Location      Box**

143.J.17.8F      6

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown (NATO Nuclear Planning Group-Ministerial Meeting), November 1979.

Midwest United States (Rotterdam Delegation), October 1980.

**Subject files:**

Agricultural matters, 1980-1981.

American Association of the Netherlands, 1978-1980.

American community matters, 1976-1980.

American Community Council (The Hague), 1978-1980.

American Democratic Party of the Netherlands: Democrats Abroad, 1978-1979.

American-Netherlands Club of Rotterdam (ANCOR), 1978-1980.

American School of The Hague, 1978-1981.

American Women's Club of Amsterdam and Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, 1977-1978.

American Women's Club of The Hague, 1978-1981.

Art In Embassies Program, 1978-1980.

Clubs, associations, etc. (tennis, golf), 1978-1979.

Consumer leaders, 1978.

**Economic/commercial:**

Correspondence and miscellaneous related papers, 1979-1981.

Commercial exhibit in Amsterdam: Photograph album, Fall 1978.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
143.J.17.8F	6	<p>Gerri Joseph Lectureship on Public Affairs (The Hague), 1981-1984).</p> <p>Named in honor of Ambassador Joseph, this program was established by the Joseph Foundation in order to bring leading Americans to the Netherlands for lectures on issues of major concern to both countries. The papers consist of correspondence and speech texts relating to the program's inaugural lecture given by Dr. Henry Kissinger (May 12, 1982) and a lecture given by Vernon Jordon (May 23, 1984).</p> <p>Hague Academy of International Law, 1980.</p> <p>Hostages (Iran), 1981.</p>
143.J.17.9B	7	<p>International Communication Agency (ICA):</p> <p>Correspondence, 1979-1981. 2 folders.</p> <p>All American Night, 1980.</p> <p>Cultural events and information, 1979-1981.</p> <p>International Visitors Program, 1979-1980.</p> <p>Press, 1980.</p> <p>Investiture of Queen Beatrix, April 30, 1980.</p> <p>Jewish community matters, 1978-1980.</p> <p>Military matters, 1978-1981.</p> <p>Netherlands-American Bicentennial Commission, 1981-1983.</p> <p>Political matters, 1979-1981.</p> <p>Protocol, 1978.</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day, 1978-1980.</p> <p>Women.</p> <p>News clippings, undated and 1978-1981. 3 folders.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
143.J.17.9B	7	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Miscellaneous, undated and 1978, 1980.</p> <p>Subjects includes three portraits of Ambassador Joseph, her swearing-in ceremony (July 1978), photographs of Joseph with Muriel Humphrey (March 13, 1978) and Rabbi Max Shapiro, a Memorial Day ceremony (June 1, 1980), the ambassador's residence, and a farewell luncheon (March 1981).</p>
142.C.2.2	4	<p>An unidentified group photograph at an award presentation to an aircraft company, July 1980.</p> <p>Watercolor painting of the White House bearing a note thanking Joseph for her service in the Carter administration, [1980?].</p>

### **Business and Civic Organizations**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
143.J.17.9B	7	<p>Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse Within the Family, 1986-1987. 2 folders.</p> <p>Joseph co-chaired this task force which was created by Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey in an effort to generate public discussion regarding the goals of the criminal justice and human services systems' intervention in child physical and sexual abuse cases. The papers document the task force's mission and goals, its meetings, and public hearings it sponsored. A copy of the task force's final report (October 2, 1986) is also included.</p> <p>Brookings Institution Study Group report: <i>Toward Arab-Israeli Peace</i>, 1968.</p>
142.C.2.2	4	<p>George A. Hormel Company:</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation, [1978].</p> <p>Board of Directors, 1985.</p>

20 X 8 inch color photograph of the Board.  
Individual members are not identified.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
143.J.17.9B	7	<p>Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 1977-1978, 1983-1993. 2 folders.</p> <p>The first group of papers (1977-1978) relates to Joseph's service as a member of the Institute's original Executive Committee and its fund raising efforts and program planning.</p> <p>The later group of papers (1983-1993) relates to Joseph's tenure as a member of the Institute's staff which included positions as director of the Institute's international programs, senior fellow in International Programs, director of the Humphrey Summer Workshop program, and director of the Mondale Policy Forum.</p> <p>Mental Health:</p> <p><i>See Also:</i> Journalism: Minnesota mental hospitals.</p> <p>Correspondence and miscellaneous related papers, 1968-1973. 2 folders.</p> <p>National Association for Mental Health:</p> <p>Scrapbook (dismantled), 1968-1969. 3 folders.</p>
142.C.2.2	4	<p>Louisiana AFL-CIO Convention speech: Photograph album (dismantled), April 10, 1968.</p>
143.J.17.10F	8	<p>Minnesota Delegation to the People's Republic of China, August 27-September 9, 1975.</p> <p><i>See Also:</i> Journalism: China series.</p> <p>Minnesota Tax Commission, 1983-1984.</p> <p>Governor Rudy Perpich appointed Joseph to this 16-member commission headed by St. Paul Mayor, George Latimer. The commission's charge was to recommend an overhaul of state tax policy by 1985. A summary of the commission's findings and recommendations are presented in a report included in the papers.</p>

