

Josie Brown Childs Papers

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Finding aid prepared by Beth Loch and Emily Minehart

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Chicago Public Library: Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection

November 14, 2013

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Summary Information

Repository	Chicago Public Library: Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection
Title	Josie Brown Childs Papers
Date [inclusive]	1943-2005
Extent	8.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Josie Brown Childs papers consist of materials from Childs' political career. The collection specifically includes her work on the Mayor's Office of Special Events especially under Mayor Harold Washington; newspaper clippings about Chicago politics, Childs' professional and personal correspondence, and materials from events she planned, such as the Great Lakes Experience Reunion and the Ellington International Conference. Also included in the collection are programs, a yearbook, and a committee roster for the Congregational Church of Park Manor, funeral programs, and personal and professional photographs.</p>

Biographical note

Josie Brown Childs was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi on October 13, estimated between the mid- to late-1930s. When Josie Brown was 10 months old her mother, Julia Brown, moved the family to Memphis, Tennessee, where she lived until early adulthood. In 1948 or 1949 Josie Brown moved to Chicago. She married James (Jack) Childs in 1968. Together, Josie and Jack had four children: Jack Jr., Christopher, Kendall, and Patricia. From about 1953-2003, the Childs family, attended church at the Congregational Church of Park Manor (70th Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive). Jack and Josie owned J.M. Childs and Associates, a Chicago accounting firm, for prominent musicians.

Josie Brown Childs was involved in local politics and community organizing to further African American involvement in the city. She worked with The Chicago Urban League, the NAACP, the Board of the Friends of the Chicago Public Library, Planned Parenthood, T.R.U.S.T. Inc., the Board of Know Your Chicago, the Joint Negro Appeal, the National Board of Council on Lay Life and Work, and the South Shore Commission planning events. Childs also worked for the congressional campaigns of Abner Mikva, Ralph Metcalfe, and Harold Washington. She was an Illinois organizer for the presidential campaigns of Adlai Stevenson Sr., John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Jimmy Carter. She was also an Illinois Democratic delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention in New York City. At the convention, she voted in favor of the Convention's nomination of Presidential hopeful, Jimmy Carter.

In 1983, Childs ran for the 5th Ward aldermanic seat against seven men. She ran as an independent to protest the 5th Ward Democrats' exclusion of Hyde Park residents from the campaign. Childs did not win the election. However, after her failed attempt to run for public office, she worked under Mayor Harold Washington in the Mayor's Office of Special Events as Program Coordinator.

Childs continued planning events in Chicago after working for Mayor Washington. She planned the 1998 16th Annual Duke Ellington Conference, featuring the first staging of his musical "My People" since its premier in 1963. She also helped to organize the 2003 Great Lakes Experience Reunion Weekend at the Great Lakes Navy Base.

Scope and Contents note

The Josie Brown Childs Papers span the years 1943 to 2005. The bulk of the materials relate to her professional career in the 1980s and include correspondence, memorabilia, reports, guides to the delegates at the 1980 Democratic National Convention, and newspaper clippings. The collection is separated into eleven series, "Biographical and Political Involvement," "Correspondence," "Event Programming," "16th Annual Duke Ellington Conference," "Great Lakes Training Center Events," "Harold Washington," "Congregational Church of Park Manor," "Funeral Programs," "Newspaper Clippings," "Oversized Materials," and "Photographs." The series are organized by subject, and begin with the materials most

directly related to Josie Brown Childs. This collection will appeal to researchers interested in Chicago politics, especially Mayor Harold Washington and the Democratic Party, and African American cultural events.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Restrictions

None

Processing Information note

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

None

Controlled Access Headings

Occupation(s)

- African American mayors
- Chicago (Ill.)--Officials and employees

Personal Name(s)

- Childs, Josie Brown
- Ellington, Duke
- Washington, Harold, 1922-1987

Subject(s)

- African Americans--Social life and customs
- Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government
- Great Lakes Experience
- Independent Political Parties
- The Democratic Party

Series I. Biographical and Political Involvement,

Collection Inventory**Series I. Biographical and Political Involvement, 1951-2002****Scope and Contents note**

This series relates to Josie Brown Childs' professional life in politics in Chicago. The bulk of the series consists of materials from her 1983 5th ward aldermanic campaign, her role as a Democratic delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention in New York City, and as Program Coordinator of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Included in this series are numerous newspaper clippings about Mayor Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Chicago politics. The series is arranged chronologically and includes oversized materials.

	Box	Folder
Certificates and Awards 1951-1955, undated	1	1
Pan-American Games Certificate 1959 September	1	2
1980 DNC Correspondence 1980 January-August, undated	1	3
1980 DNC Newspaper Clippings 1980 August, undated	1	4
1980 DNC Memorabilia 1980 June, August	1	5
1980 DNC Personnel Guides 1980	1	6
1980 DNC Participation Badge 1980	1	7

Series 2. Correspondence,

1980 DNC American Airlines ledger 1980	1	8
1980 DNC Official Report 1980	1	9
Aldermanic Campaign Materials 1982-1983, undated	1	10
Aldermanic Campaign Correspondence 1982-1983, undated	1	11
Aldermanic Campaign Newspaper Clippings 1982-1983, undated	1	12
Sharing It materials 1984-1985, undated	1	13
Newspaper clippings about Childs 1971-2002, undated	1	14

Series 2. Correspondence, 1958-2004**Scope and Contents note**

“Correspondence” contains materials both from Childs’ professional and personal life. It includes letters, invitations, office memos, and personal cards. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Political 1958-2002, undated	2	1
Boards and Commissions 1959-1982	2	2
Personal 1959-2004, undated	2	3

Series 3. Event Programming,

Mayor's Office of Special Events 1960-1989	2	4
Personal Cards 1963-2003, undated	2	5
Amectran Inc, with supporting materials 1980-1982	2	6
Harold Washington Correspondence 1982-2001	2	7
White House prints undated	2	8

Series 3. Event Programming, 1957-2004**Scope and Contents note**

This series documents Josie Brown Childs' work in event planning. It includes materials from political events from her time in the Mayor's Office of Special Events, her involvement with the Congregational Church of Park Manor, and other community organizations. The bulk of the materials included are event programs and invitations, and the series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Illinois Selected Morticians Association 1957-1958	3	1
NAACP 1960-1980	3	2
Political 1960-1997, undated	3	3
African American History and Activists 1960-2004	3	4

Series 4. 16th Annual Duke Ellington Conference,

Event Programs 1961-2004, undated	3	5
“Know Your Chicago” materials 1997-2004, undated	3	6

Series 4. 16th Annual Duke Ellington Conference, 1984-2004**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of materials from the planning and execution of the 16th Annual Duke Ellington Conference hosted by the Congregational Church of Park Manor in 1998. The conference highlighted Ellington’s musical contributions and relationship to Chicago. Events included the re-creation of his musical My People and the presentation of scholarly papers, seminars, and workshops at the Ramada Congress Hotel. The series is comprised largely of programs and planning materials. The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

	Box	Folder
Conference Bulletins 1998, 2004, undated	3	7
Conference Correspondence 1984-2003, undated	3	8
Conference Materials 1998, undated	3	9
Conference Programs 1994, 1998	3	10
Newspaper Clippings 1990-1998	3	11

Series 5. Great Lakes Training Center Events, 1992-2003**Scope and Contents note**

Series 6. Harold Washington,

The papers, programs, and notes in this series relate to the Great Lakes Experience Reunion Weekend in 2003. The Great Lakes Experience was an African American Navy band specializing in jazz at the Great Lakes Training Center. The group performed abroad in areas of conflict during World War II. They also performed stateside for fundraising events. The reunion weekend in 2003 featured concerts held in their honor with the purpose of educating the public about their service. The series also contains one program from the World War II Black Navy Veterans of Great Lakes 50th Celebration in 1992. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Battle of Midway print 1992, June	4	1
Programs (Includes both events) 1992-2003	4	2
Port Chicago Mutiny 1996-1999	4	3
Organizational Papers 1996-2000, undated	4	4
Speaker: James S. Peters 1996-2000, undated	4	5
Newspaper clippings 1998-1999, undated	4	6
Great Lakes Scrapbook 2003, February-March	4	7
Great Lakes Event Photo Album 2003, February-March	4	8

Series 6. Harold Washington, 1980-2003**Scope and Contents note**

Series 7. Congregational Church of Park Manor,

The Harold Washington series concerns the mayor's activities, especially while Josie Childs worked in the Mayor's Office of Special Events (1983-1987). The series includes administrative documents, event invitations, materials from Mayor Washington's re-election campaign, newspaper clippings, and an official report. The series is arranged chronologically with newspaper clippings at the end.

	Box	Folder
Event Invitations 1977-2003	4	9
Administration Publications 1981-1995, undated	4	10
Report on Chicago Boards and Commissions 1983	4	11
Re-election Campaign Materials 1986, 1989, undated	4	12
Inaugural Ceremony 1987 May	4	13
Postcards 1987, undated	4	14
Memorial Materials 1988-1997, undated	4	15
Newspaper Clippings (1 of 3) 1980-1983	4	16
Newspaper Clippings (2 of 3) 1986-1987	4	17
Newspaper Clippings (3 of 3) 1988-2002, undated	4	18

Series 7. Congregational Church of Park Manor, 1953-2003

Series 8. Funeral Programs,**Scope and Contents note**

This series reflects Childs' membership at the Congressional Church of Park Manor. It includes information on Reverend William J. Faulkner, a yearbook, programs, and correspondence. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Invitations, letters, committee roster 1953-2002, undated	5	1
Programs 1953-2003, undated	5	2
Reverend William J. Faulkner 1954-1987, undated	5	3
Yearbook 1999-2000	5	4

Series 8. Funeral Programs, 1956-2005**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of funeral programs collected by Childs. It is organized alphabetically by last name.

	Box	Folder
Adams, Sr., Frank McClenton 1993, July	6	1
Adams, Harvey Eugene 1994, October	6	2
Alexander, Louis G. 1998, April	6	3
Bacon, Jr., Frank C. 2003, September	6	4

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Barrow, Clyde Raymond 1998, July	6	5
Bates, Daisy Gatson 2000, April	6	6
Bell, Jewel Harrison 1991, August	6	7
Bell, Sr., Lucius B. 2004, September	6	8
Bishop, Alfred Leroy 1997, February	6	9
Blakely, Gwendolyn Brooks 2000, December	6	10
Blakely, II, Henry Lowington 1996, July	6	11
Boswel, Arnita Young 2002, July	6	12
Bradley, Bernice West 1996, March	6	13
Bradshaw, Bernard J. 2000, December	6	14
Brooks, Edmund A. 1997, April	6	15
Brooks, Sr., Harold Sheffield 2004, October	6	16
Brown, Lillie A. 1956, March	6	17
Bunton, Irving 2004, September	6	18

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Bynom, Marshal F. 1969, November	6	19
Cain, Carmella 1998, August	6	20
Caldwell, Lewis A.H. 1993, October	6	21
Caldwell, Ruth Stimpson 1982, June	6	22
Campbell, Mary Lou 1981, January	6	23
Carter, Marguerite Houston 2004, August	6	24
Cheefus, Sr., John P. 1989, February	6	25
Childs, Sr., James Merle 1999, December	6	26
Childs, Louise Dorothy 2002, June	6	27
Clark, Jaunice C. 1989, June	6	28
Clark, Jr., William R. 1985, November	6	29
Coleman, Mildred Lucile 2000, September	6	30
Collins, Ernest T. 1987, December	6	31
Crowder, Eliza E. 1990, October	6	32

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Cullers, Sr., Vincent T. 2003, October	6	33
Darby, Golden B. 1965, March	6	34
Darby, Susie Louise 1997, March	6	35
Daugherty, James C. 1993, November	6	36
Dunn, Archie 1998, October	6	37
Dunn, Inez Hardin 1997, June	6	38
Ellis, M.D., Effie O. 1994, July	6	39
Everett, Bettie Jayne 1963, July	6	40
Faulkner, William John 1987, November	6	41
Ferdinand, Bessie Bringer 1998, November	6	42
Finney, III, Leon Dorsey 1998, August	6	43
France, Dr., Erwin A. 1995, February	6	44
Franklin, Aurelia Elizabeth 1999, June	6	45
Freeman, Leonard E. 2000, October	6	46

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Gibbs, Jr., Anthony C. undated	6	47
Gilbert, Herman Cromwell 1997, March	6	48
Gillespie, Annie Laura Downs 2000, May	6	49
Grant, Janet Johnson 2003, October	6	50
Gregg, Rachel Rose Jackson 1981, January	6	51
Griffin, Ernest A. 1995, December	6	52
Geter, Rose L. 1988, April	6	53
Gibbs, Jr., Anthony C. 2000, February	6	54
Harris, William F. 1999, February	6	55
Hartman, Herman 1991, September	6	56
Henderson, Celious 1984, September	6	57
Henderson, Dorothy Ruth 1992, March	6	58
Hervey, Jr., Henry 2003, April	6	59
Hicks, Lacy C. 1989, January	6	60

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Hibbler, Albert G. 2001, April	6	61
Hunt, Lenora Catright 1989, August	6	62
Jackson, Viola Ozelle 1991, April	6	63
Jefferson, Nancy B. 1992, October	6	64
Jenkins, Abia 1994, June	6	65
Johns, Harriette B. 2003, March	6	66
Johnson, Anthony Said 2002, September	6	67
Johnson, Dorothy R. 2001, March	6	68
Johnson, Julia Elaine Freeman 2000, July	6	69
Johnson, Jr., Dr. Robert Edward 1995, December, undated	6	70
Johnson, Wilbert Randolph 1999, March	6	71
Jones, Howard 2002, November	6	72
Kerner, Otto 1976, May	6	73
King, Betty Jackson 1994, June	6	74

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

King, Lettie 1999, October	6	75
Mack, Adeline 1998, August	6	76
Metcalfe, Madalynne Fay 1999, January	7	1
Miller, Ethel 1995, October	7	2
Miller Saunders-Cahin, Lois Y. 1998, March	7	3
Moss, Frederick 2004, August	7	4
Murphy, Claude J. 1988, October	7	5
Murphy, William L. 1993, June	7	6
McConner, Dorothy 2000, September	7	7
McGowan, Ruth Smith 1995, March	7	8
McKinley, Ronald M. 1998, July, November	7	9
McKinney, Violet Bringier 1998, August	7	10
Newhouse, Jr., Richard Homer 2002, May	7	11
Ordower, Sidney L. 2002, January	7	12

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Owens, Jesse 1980, April	7	13
Palmer, Julia Williams 1999, April	7	14
Palmer, Lu 2004, September	7	15
Parker, DeElla Montgomery 2002, September	7	16
Pates, Juanita Maxine 1995, October	7	17
Peterson, Judge William E. 1998, July	7	18
Price, Jr., Arthur Garfield 1995, October	7	19
Price, Bertha Josephine 1980, September	7	20
Price, Ramon Bertell 2000, October	7	21
Rabb, Jr., Maurice F. 2005, June	7	22
Raby, Albert Anderson 1988, November	7	23
Randall, Jr., William A. 1980, September	7	24
Ross, Joseph Cleveland 1997, November	7	25
Ross, Rosie Lee 2003, May	7	26

Series 8. Funeral Programs,

Sengstacke, John H.H. 1997, June	7	27
Sheares, II, Rev. Dr. Reuben 1992, July	7	28
Simmons, James O. 2001, October	7	29
Sinclair, Carrie 2003, October	7	30
Spears, James 1997, April	7	31
Stanton, Marjorie 2003, December	7	32
Stuckey, Elma undated	7	33
Taylor, Gertrude Jackson 1995, November	7	34
Taylor, Omega Jane King 1988, March	7	35
Thomas, Louis 1988, April	7	36
Vaughn, Jacqueline B. 1994, January	7	37
Vincent, Birt R. 2003, November	7	38
Walker, Carrie Gholston 2000, December	7	39
Washington, Roy L. undated	7	40

Series 9. Newspaper Clippings,

White, Ronald J. 2004, January	7	41
Williams, Leonard Frank 1991, June	7	42
Williams, Jr., Marshall Turner 1964, December	7	43
Williams, Martin E. 1993	7	44
Williams, Wayne 1998, July	7	45
Woodard, Erva Lee Cross 2004, January	7	46
Wooden, Eugene Paul 1991, August	7	47
Wright, James L. 1999, July	7	48

Series 9. Newspaper Clippings, 1961-2004**Scope and Contents note**

The newspaper clippings in this series largely consist of articles pertaining to Childs' interest in politics and in activism, also general events in Chicago.

	Box	Folder
Political Interest, 1 of 2 1961-1987	8	1
Political Interest, 2 of 2 1988-2001, undated	8	2

Series 10. Oversized Materials,

Chicago 1980-2004, undated	8	3
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Martin Luther King Jr. 1988-1989, undated	8	4
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Series 10. Oversized Materials, 1959-2003**Scope and Contents note**

This series includes oversized materials described in the preceding series in the collection.

	Box	Folder
1980 DNC Personnel Guides 1980	9	N/A
1980 DNC Participation Badge 1980	9	N/A
1980 DNC American Airlines ledger 1980	9	N/A
1980 DNC Official Report 1980	9	N/A
Great Lakes Scrapbook 2003, February-March	9	N/A
Great Lakes Event Photo Album 2003, February-March	10	N/A
Report on Chicago Boards and Commissions 1983	11	N/A
Pan-American Games Certificate 1959, September	12	N/A
White House prints undated	12	N/A

Series 11. Photographs,

Duke Ellington Conference Newspaper Clippings 1990-1998	12	N/A
Harold Washington Newspaper Clippings 1980-1983	12	N/A
Harold Washington Newspaper Clippings 1986-1987	12	N/A
Harold Washington Newspaper Clippings 1988-2002, undated	12	N/A
Harold Washington Newspaper Clippings	12	N/A

Series 11. Photographs, 1943-2002**Scope and Contents note**

The photographs in this series encompass Childs' professional and family life. They consist largely of political events, including her aldermanic campaign, and the Great Lakes Experience Reunion Weekend. The personal photographs include the wedding of Caledonia Green, family photos, and the Brown family at a funeral in Mississippi.

	Box	Folder
Corneal Davis, Jack and Josie Childs, 1983	13	1
Josie Childs aldermanic campaign, 1983	13	2
Josie Childs in campaign office, 1983	13	3
Oscar Williams, Herbert Barker, Jack Giles, Josie Giles, Ray Davis and Clark Burris, undated	13	4

Series 11. Photographs,

Josie Childs at aldermanic campaign, 1983	13	5
Josie and Jack Childs, Corneal Davis, 1983	13	6
Juanita Passmore, Oscar Williams, Oneita Taylor, Josie Childs, 1983	13	7
Hermene Hartman, Howard Brookins Sr, and Josie Childs, 1983	13	8
Joann Cooper, Oneita Taylor, Juanita Passmore, Josie Childs, Vergie Thompson Anderson, Oscar Williams, 1983	13	9
Howard Brookins Sr and Josie Childs, undated	13	10
Josie Childs, Howard Brookins Sr, Vivian King, undated	13	11
Brown family at funeral in Vicksburg, MS, c. 1954-1955	13	12
Brown family at funeral in Vicksburg, MS, (Julia Brown, Child's mother is behind Josie Childs) c. 1954-1955	13	13
Caledonia Green's wedding, (Josie Childs on right) c.1948	13	14
Josie and Jack Childs, John Duff, Jackie Grimshaw, Roy Washington at the Harold Washington library, 1992	13	15
Harold Washington, Josie Childs, Bryon Minor and Warren Bacon, undated	13	16

Series 11. Photographs,

Josie Brown Childs, Julia Brown, Estee Gilland at Club DeLisa, 1953	13	17
Josie Childs at Congregation Church of Park Manor, undated	13	18
Town Hall meeting, undated	13	19
Josie Childs receiving award from Black Caucus in Washington, DC, 2002	13	20
Gov. Blagovich in South Side campaign office, 2002	13	21
“Know Your Chicago” committee meeting, 1993	13	22
Daisy Bates at Little Rock ceremony, c. 1996	13	23
Josie Childs posing with unknown couple, 1991	13	24
Walter Mondale, Jack and Josie Childs, undated	13	25
Lonnie Simmons, 1990s	13	26
Marion Barry at Democratic National Convention in Chicago, c. 2000	13	27
Musicians tribute to Honorable Marion S. Barry, undated	13	28
Josie Childs and 2 unidentified men, undated	13	29

Series 11. Photographs,

Josie and Jack Childs, undated	13	30
Gwendolyn Brooks, Josie Childs, Geraldine de Haas, Charlie Sherrill, undated	13	31
Ron Robinson, Josie Childs, Eugene Sawyer, c. 1989	13	32
Col. Frank Bacon, Mayor Eugene Sawyer, Josie and Jack Childs at Tuskegee Airmen Mardi Gras party, 1989	13	33
Henri Woode and Great Lakes NTS band, 1945	13	34
Walter Mondale, James and Josie Childs, Roland Burris, 1984	13	35
Etta Moten Barnett, Sid Ordower on train to March on Washington, 1963	13	36
Newby, Jewel Foods, Josie Childs, Jacoby Dickens, undated	13	37
Mayor Harold Washington, Benson Haggard, and Josie Childs, undated	13	38
Benson Haggard, undated	13	39
Mayor Harold Washington, Jim Bidwell, undated	13	40
George Dunn, Michael Scott, Josie Childs, Mayor Harold Washington, undated	13	41
Josie Childs, Mayor Harold Washington, undated	13	42

Series 11. Photographs,

Rosalyn Carter, Josie Childs during campaign rally at Pullman Bank, 1980	13	43
US Naval training school of Indoctrination band, 1943	13	44
US Naval Air station Swing band, 1945	13	45
President Jimmie Carter, Rosalyn Carter and Josie Childs, 1980	13	46
Great Lakes experience reunion, undated	13	47
Bob and Ethel Miller, Lois and Barbara Miller, Gabe Pressler, Josie Childs at Latin Quarter in New York city, c. 1950s	13	48
Port Chicago Band at Great Lakes, 1945	13	49