

Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection
2014-2015 Report of Activities

Summer Semester 2014

Instruction and Tours

- Vicky Thur, Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, gave FAU President, John Kelly and members of his executive staff a tour of the Weiner suite and the Spirit of America Festival Exhibition which highlighted materials from the Weiner Collection.
- Vicky and Teresa Van Dyke, Assistant Special Collections Librarian, gave 15 tours for students in Dr. Stephen Engle's (Professor of History) class, U.S. History to 1877/ AMH 2010. The assignment required students to write a "National Treasure" paper after touring the library with a focus on Special Collections, University Archives, and the Weiner Collection. Seventy-one students participated in the tours.
- Vicky gave two tours of Special Collections and the Spirit of America Festival Exhibition to FAU Tops Piano & Creative Writing camp students. Thirty-nine students in grades ranging from K-12 participated in the tours.
- Vicky gave a tour of Special Collections and the Spirit of America Festival Exhibition to the Weiner family colleagues, Neil Bowman and his father.
- Vicky gave a tour of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection which included a presentation on highlights from the Weiner Collection to two librarians who participated in the Palm Beach County Library Association job exchange.

- Teresa gave a tour of the Spirit of America Festival Exhibition to Dr. Mary Faraci's (Professor of English) class Women in Literature class/LIT 4383 (35 students).

Special Projects

- *Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* pamphlet project: This is an ongoing project to sort, arrange, and create finding aids for the approximately 6,000 pamphlets in the collection. Vicky, Teresa, and Rick Cullen (OPS Employee) created a processing plan. The pamphlets were sorted and organized into nine series: Speeches, Letters, Almanacs, French Revolution, Foreign Language, Congressional, Essays and Reports, British, and Miscellaneous. With assistance from Rita Pellen, Interim Dean of University Libraries, student interns, and student assistants the pamphlets were re-housed in archival folders with titles and dates. There are two series to complete: British and Miscellaneous. Shellie La Belle, a graduate history intern, translated and described the German pamphlets in the Foreign Language series: The German series (1.1) of the [Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection Pamphlets -- Foreign Language, 1653-1942](#).
- The Spirit of America Festival Exhibition: an exhibit of materials from *The Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* and the Harold L. Glasser Collection. The exhibition was part of FAU Libraries' three-day "Spirit of America Festival: A celebration of Music and Arts," and was open to the public from June 16 to July 11, 2014. Exhibit attendance, which does not include festival attendance follows:
 - 1 FAU staff member and 1 student
 - 27 students from tours for Dr. Stephen Engle's class AMH 2010
 - 9 FAU staff members (President and his senior staff)
 - 6 local community members (Howard Weiner and friends)

Collection Maintenance

- Performed regular shelf maintenance in the Weiner stacks.

- Delivered two book trucks of Weiner Collection materials to Technical Services for cataloging.
- Adit Burkule (Systems Department) monitored and updated the HOBO environmental monitoring system.

Fall Semester 2014

Instruction and Tours

- Vicky taught sessions of the following classes which highlighted items from the Weiner Collection:
 - Dr. Stephen Engle's graduate seminar, The Historical Experience/HIS 5060 (14 students)
 - Dr. Kelly Shannon's (Assistant Professor of History) class, Historical Methods/HIS 3150; (20 students)
 - Dr. Raphael Dalleo's (Associate Professor of English) graduate seminar, Principles and Problems of Literary Study/ENG 6009; (14 students)
 - Dr. Myriam Ruthenberg's (Associate Professor of English) graduate seminar, Dante in the West/ ITW 6938; (9 students)
 - Dr. Sandra Norman's (Associate Professor of History) class, History of Natural History/HIS 3940; (19 students)
- Vicky gave a tour of the Weiner Collection to FAU Provost Gary Perry.
- Vicky gave a tour of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to three Palm Beach County Library Association job exchange librarians.
- Vicky gave a tour of the Weiner Collection to Dr. Karen Leader (Assistant Professor of Art History) and new faculty member, Dr. Emily Fenichel (Assistant Professor of Art History).

Special Projects

- Mike Makosiej, a graduate history student, began an internship in September, 2014. He processed a portion of *The Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America* Collection Pamphlets - British Series during the Fall Semester, completing the internship in December, 2014.

Collection Maintenance

- Performed regular shelf maintenance in the Weiner stacks.
- Two trucks of Weiner material were delivered to Technical Services for cataloging.
- Adit Burkule monitored and updated the HOB0 environmental monitoring system.

Spring Semester 2015

Instruction and Tours

- Vicky taught sessions for the following classes which highlighted items from the Weiner Collection:
 - Dr. Raphael Dalleo's class, Honors Research/ENG4910; (8 students)
 - Dr. Karen Leader's class, 18th and 19th Century Art History/ ARH4371; (40 students)
 - Dr. Stephen Engle's class, The Historical Experience/HIS3150; (15 students)
 - Dr. Emily Fenichel's class, Baroque Art/ ARH4350; (35 Students)
 - Dr. Taylor Hagood's (Professor of English) class, Colonial and Early American Literature/ AML 4213; (35 students)
- Vicky gave a tour of Special Collections, University Archives, and the Weiner Collection to new staff member, Tom O'Brien (Reference and Instruction Librarian) and Melanie Browning, a Master of Library Science student intern from Valdosta State University.
- Vicky and Teresa gave two tours of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to twenty-two Navitas students. Navitas, <https://www.fau.navitas.com/> is a leading global education provider that offers an extensive range of educational services through three major Divisions to students and professionals including university programs,

creative media education, professional education, English language training and settlement services.

- FAU President's wife, Mrs. Carolyn Kelly and daughter, Carly Kelly were given a tour of the Weiner Collection by Rita, Vicky, and Teresa.
- Teresa gave Herbert Shapiro, Associate Provost for Lifelong Learning, and his guest, Ilene Montana a tour of the exhibit "American Civil War: Highlights from Special Collections."

Special Projects

- The library hosted the Department of History's lecture by Dr. Francois Furstenberg of John Hopkins University on "When the United States Spoke French" Vicky and Teresa curated a display of rare books from the Weiner Collection that accompanied the lecture.
- FAU Libraries hosted the American Library Association's (ALA) national traveling exhibition "Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War." In conjunction with the traveling exhibition, Special Collections presented a companion exhibition, "American Civil War: Highlights from Special Collections" featuring rare books, documents, pamphlets, and historical items. On exhibit were unique materials from the *Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection*. Vicky gave the opening greeting and introduced Dr. Stephen Engle's discussion, "Abraham Lincoln and the Crisis of Federalism" moderated by Kate Dahlstrand. Twenty people attended and toured the companion exhibit. On March 23 Kate Dahlstrand, a FAU alumni and doctoral student at University of Georgia, presented a lecture, "The Outsiders of Battlefield Experience: Civil War Veteran Reintegration into Postwar Society." Twenty-seven people attended the lecture and toured the exhibit.
- On April 27, 28, and 29, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Social Studies classes from Alexander D. Henderson Middle School visited FAU Libraries for guided tours of the ALA travelling exhibition panels and the companion exhibit. Seven tours were given to 171 students: three tours led by Vicky; two tours led by Teresa; and two tours led by

Larry Mello (Reference and Instruction Librarian). Vicky, Teresa and Larry were present at all the tours to assist and answer additional questions. The students were very engaged with the material and asked many questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152849399406381.1073741858.103988691380&type=1>

- Vicky assisted Dr. Heather Coltman, Dean of the Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, with research in the Weiner Music Collection.
- Approximately 50% of *The Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America* Documents and Letters Collection have been digitized.
- Approximately 90% of the *Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America* books have been catalogued by the Technical Services department.

Collection Maintenance

- Two book trucks of Weiner items were delivered to Technical Services for cataloging.
- Adit Burkule continued to monitor the Onset HOB0 data loggers, the environmental monitoring system, on a regular monthly basis.
- Performed regular shelf maintenance in Weiner stacks.