

June 2015

## Dr. John Curatola to Discuss *Props and Pin-Ups: Nose Art in World War II*

On **Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host Dr. John Curatola who will discuss *Props and Pin-Ups: Nose Art in World War II*. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.



Above: Image courtesy of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and ArmyAirForces.com.

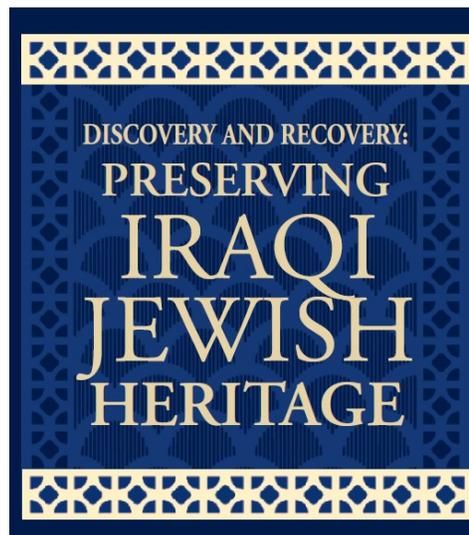
The use of nose art was common on military aircraft during the Second World War. Painted on the fuselages of many of the belligerent air forces aircraft, these stand-alone pieces of art reflected aircrews' values and attitudes. Messages and pictures painted on these aircraft are not only a rich military legacy, but provide insight into the time, temperament, and men who flew and maintained them. Curatola will address the various influences, national trends, and general themes of this unique element of military history. The presentation will show nose art in its original form and in historical context, which includes partial nudity.

To make a reservation for this **free program** email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

## National Archives at Kansas City Presents Iraqi Jewish Artifacts in Exhibit Opening June 18

On **Thursday, June 18**, the National Archives at Kansas City will open a new exhibition, ***Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage***. The exhibit details the dramatic recovery of historic materials relating to the Jewish community in Iraq from a flooded basement in Saddam Hussein's intelligence headquarters, and the National Archives' ongoing work in support of U.S. Government efforts to preserve these materials. *Discovery and Recovery* is presented in partnership with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, and is free and open to the public. The exhibit runs through Saturday, August 15, 2015.

In both English and Arabic, the 2,000 square foot exhibit features 23 recovered items and a "behind the scenes" video of the fascinating yet painstaking preservation process. This exhibit marks the first public display on a one-year national tour.



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### Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives  
400 West Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

- JUNE 3 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: *PROPS AND PIN-UPS: NOSE ART IN WORLD WAR II* WITH DR. JOHN CURATOLA
- JUNE 18 - 8:00 A.M.  
EXHIBIT OPENING: *DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY: PRESERVING IRAQI JEWISH HERITAGE*
- JUNE 24 - 7:00 P.M.  
AUTHOR DISCUSSION: *NEW BABYLONIANS* BY DR. ORIT BASHKIN\*
- JULY 1 - 7:00 P.M.  
LECTURE: *HISTORY AND MEMORY: THE JEWS OF IRAQ* WITH DR. MARK COHEN\*

\* PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM

## Background

On May 6, 2003, just days after the Coalition forces took over Baghdad, American soldiers entered Saddam Hussein's flooded intelligence building. In the basement, under four feet of water, they found thousands of books and documents relating to the Jewish community of Iraq – materials that had belonged to synagogues and Jewish organizations in Baghdad.

The water-logged materials quickly became moldy in Baghdad's intense heat and humidity. Seeking guidance, the Coalition Provisional Authority placed an urgent call to the nation's foremost conservation experts at the National Archives. Just a week later, National Archives Director of Preservation Programs Doris Hamburg and Conservation Chief Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler arrived in Baghdad via military transport to assess the damage and make recommendations for preservation of the materials. Both experts share this extraordinary story and take you "behind the scenes" in this brief video <http://www.ija.archives.gov/exhibit/exhibit> (or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZmPOuwzEII>) This video is in the public domain and not subject to any copyright restrictions. The National Archives encourages its use and free distribution.

Given limited treatment options in Baghdad, and with the agreement of Iraqi representatives, the materials were shipped to the United States for preservation and exhibition. Since then, these materials have been vacuum freeze-dried, preserved and digitized under the direction of the National Archives. The collection includes more than 2,700 Jewish books and tens of thousands of documents in Hebrew, Arabic, Judeo-Arabic and English, dating from 1524 to the 1970s. A special website launched to make these historic materials freely available online to all is located at [www.ija.archives.gov](http://www.ija.archives.gov).

The preservation, digitization, and website were made possible through the very generous financial support of the U.S. Department of State. The National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the Center for Jewish History, was very helpful in providing key start-up support for the project.

The Jews of Iraq have a rich past, extending back to Babylonia. These materials provide a tangible link to this community that flourished there, but in the second half of the twentieth century dispersed throughout the world. Today, fewer than five Jews remain in the country.

### Display highlights include:

- A Hebrew Bible with Commentaries from 1568 – one of the oldest books in the trove;
- A Babylonian Talmud from 1793;
- A Torah scroll fragment from Genesis - one of the 43 Torah scroll fragments found;
- A Zohar from 1815 – a text for the mystical and spiritual Jewish movement known as "Kabbalah";
- An official 1917 letter to the Chief Rabbi regarding a request to Allow Jewish Prisoners to Attend Worship for Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year);



Above: A Tik (Torah case) and Glass Panel from Baghdad, 9th-20th centuries. In Jewish communities throughout the Middle East, the Torah scroll is generally housed in a rigid "tik," or case made of wood or metal. Image courtesy of the National Archives.

(continued from page 2)

- Materials from Jewish schools in Baghdad, including exam grades and a letter to the College Entrance Examination Board in Princeton regarding SAT scores;
- A Haggadah (Passover script) from 1902, hand lettered and decorated by an Iraqi Jewish youth; and
- A lunar calendar in both Hebrew and Arabic from the Jewish year 5732 (1971-1972) - one of the last examples of Hebrew printing produced in Baghdad.

**Discovery and Recovery is divided into six sections:**

**Discovery:** The dramatic story of how these materials were found, rescued, and preserved is one worthy of a Hollywood blockbuster. A short film captures these heroic efforts. The section includes the actual metal foot lockers used to ship the documents to the United States.

**Text and Heritage:** This section explores Iraqi Jewish history and tradition through recovered texts, including a Torah scroll fragment, a Hebrew Bible with Commentaries from 1568, and a Babylonian Talmud from 1793.

**Iraqi Jewish Life: Constancy and Change:** Using recovered texts, this section explores the pattern of Jewish life in Iraq. Highlights include a Haggadah (Passover script), siddur (prayer book) and an illustrated lunar calendar in both Hebrew and Arabic (one of about 20 found that date from 1959-1973).

**Personal and Communal Life:** Selected correspondence and publications illustrate the range and complexity of Iraqi Jewish life in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Original documents and facsimiles in flipbooks range from school primers to international business correspondence from the Sassoon family.

**After the Millennia:** Iraqi Jewish life unraveled in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, with the rise of Naziism and proliferation of anti-Jewish propaganda. In June 1941, 180 Jews were killed and hundreds injured in an anti-Jewish attack in Baghdad. Persecution increased when Iraq entered the war against the new State of Israel in 1948. In 1950 and 1951, many Iraqi Jews were stripped of their citizenship and assets, and the community fled the county en masse. This section includes the 1951 law freezing assets of Iraqi Jews.

**Preserving the Past:** It is not surprising that the Coalition Forces turned to National Archives conservators for help. Learn about transformation of these materials from moldy, water-logged masses to a carefully preserved and accessible enduring historic legacy. View the National Archives' state-of-the-art treatment, preservation, and digitization of these materials.

This exhibition was created by the National Archives and Records Administration, with generous support from the U.S. Department of State.

**Admission, hours, and additional information**

*Discovery and Recovery* is a **free** exhibition and will be open through August 15, 2015. The National Archives at Kansas City is open Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for exhibits viewing and research. Free parking is available for National Archives visitors. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email [Mickey.Ebert@nara.gov](mailto:Mickey.Ebert@nara.gov). For additional information about the exhibition and the project visit [www.ija.archives.gov](http://www.ija.archives.gov).



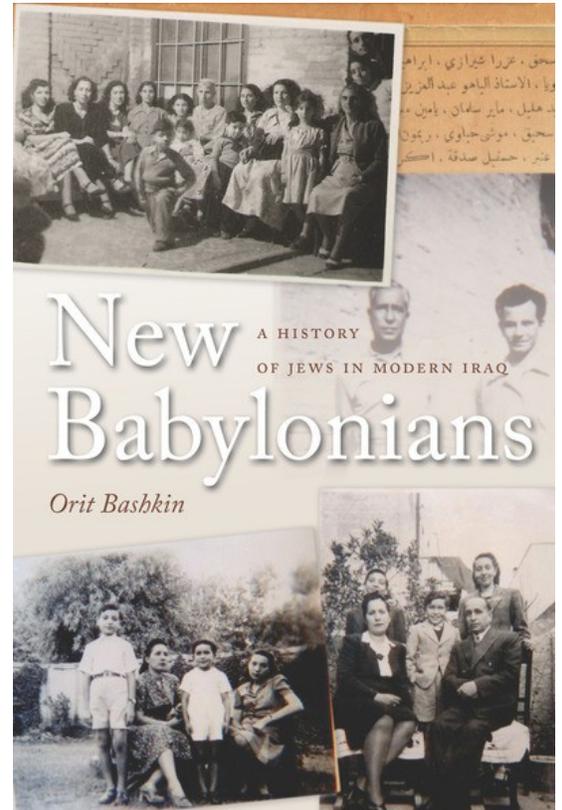
Above: Passover Haggadah from Vienna, 1930. This colorfully illustrated French and Hebrew Haggadah was published in Vienna. Caption on image: "Eating Matzah." Image courtesy of National Archives.

# Upcoming Programs to Accompany *Iraqi Jewish Heritage* Exhibit

To complement the *Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage* exhibit, a series of public programs will be offered for free on Wednesday evenings. All public programs are presented in partnership with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and will be held at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial located at 100 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

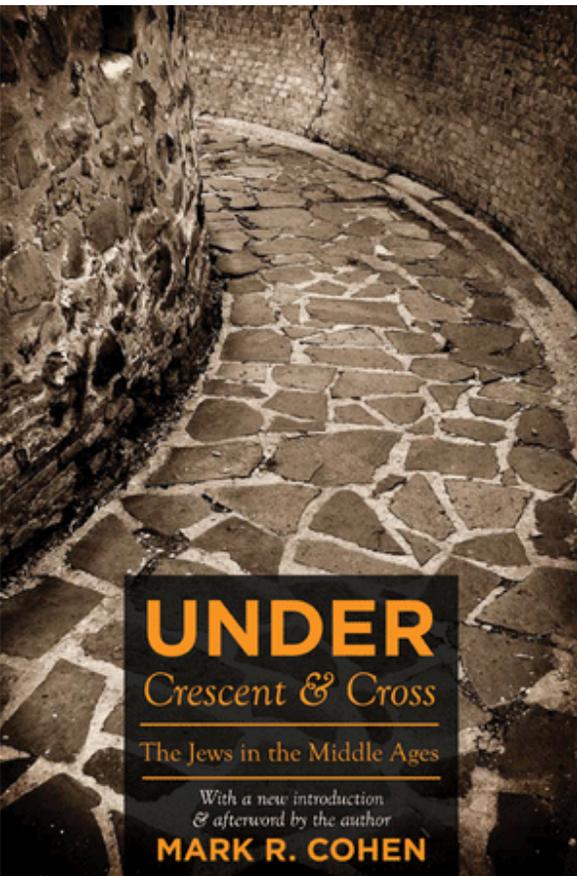
Each program will be preceded by a free reception and exhibit viewing at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The program schedule and lecture details are outlined below. For more information or to make a reservation for any of these **free programs** call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

**Wednesday, June 24 - 5:30 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. program - *New Babylonians: A History of Jews in Modern Iraq*.** Dr. Orit Bashkin, professor at the University of Chicago, will discuss her book *New Babylonians: A History of Jews in Modern Iraq*. Although Iraqi Jews saw themselves as Iraqi patriots, their community—which had existed in Iraq for more than 2,500 years—was displaced following the establishment of the state of Israel. *New Babylonians*, by historian Orit Bashkin, chronicles the lives of these Jews, their urban Arab culture, and their hopes for a democratic nation-state. It studies their ideas about Judaism, Islam, secularism, modernity, and reform, focusing on Iraqi Jews who internalized narratives of Arab and Iraqi nationalism and on those who turned to communism in the 1940s.



**Wednesday, July 1 - 5:30 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. program - *History and Memory: The Jews of Iraq*.** Dr. Mark Cohen, professor at Princeton University, will discuss *History and Memory: The Jews of Iraq* which will examine events in the twentieth century history of the Jews of Iraq. The post-Ottoman period saw great advances in Jewish social and economic life, as well as a sudden crisis in the form of the Farhud pogrom of June 1-2, 1941, which was followed a decade later by the nearly complete exodus of Iraqi Jewry to Israel. How memoirs written by Iraqi Jews in the second half of the twentieth century remember and explain these events forms a major theme of the presentation.

**Wednesday, July 15 - 5:30 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. program - *Saving the Iraqi Jewish Archive*.** Corine (Cori) Wegener, cultural heritage preservation officer at the Smithsonian Institution, will discuss *Saving the Iraqi Jewish Archive*. During the U.S. invasion of Iraq, members of Achmed Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress searched the flooded basement of the bombed out Iraqi Secret Police headquarters for intelligence information. Instead they discovered hundreds of books, documents, and other materials, many of them written in Hebrew, which came to be known as the Iraqi Jewish Archive. All that remained of the once flourishing Jewish community of Baghdad, these materials had to be saved. Major (Ret.) Corine Wegener, then an Army Reservist and a curator at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, was in Baghdad serving as the Arts, Monuments, and Archives Officer for the 352nd Civil Affairs Command. Wegener will describe her team's efforts to preserve the archive in a freezer container during the hot Baghdad summer of 2003



and the race against time to maintain its frozen condition during its trip to the National Archives for conservation. Finally, Wegener will talk about how modern day "Monuments Men" are learning from this case in their training today.

# Gems for Genealogists

During the month of June, please take advantage of a free workshop taught by Archivist Elizabeth Burnes at the Kansas City Public Library as a part of their Missouri Valley Sundays speaker series. Burnes will be speaking on *Alien Files ("A-Files"): Researching Immigrant Ancestors at the National Archives* on **Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Central Branch of the Kansas City Public Library.

The Federal government has been keeping tabs on foreign visitors to these shores for decades. In 1940, the Immigration and Naturalization Service began issuing each of them an Alien Registration number, and in 1944 - in the midst of World War II - began to use this number to create individual case files called Alien Files or "A-Files." They contain all records from any active case of an alien not yet naturalized - visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, and official correspondence - gathered as the individual passed through the U.S. immigration and inspection process.

Archivist Elizabeth Burnes of the National Archives of Kansas City shows how the enterprising genealogist, biographer, or historian can access this treasure trove of information. The National Archives preserves and makes available to researchers more than 450,000 A-Files for individuals who were born in 1910 or earlier, many of them with direct connections to this area.

Permit to Reenter the United States  
 ERIC DEAN WATSON  
 an alien previously lawfully admitted to the United States, to reenter the United States, if otherwise admissible, as a nonquota immigrant as a treaty merchant

AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COMPLEXION	HAIR	EYES
53	5' 10"	190	FAIR	BROWN	BLUE

VISIBLE DISTINCTIVE MARKS  
 WGLE ON LEFT CHEEK

SEX:  M  F  
 MARRITAL STATUS:  Married  Widowed  Divorced  Never Married

COUNTRY OF WHICH A CITIZEN, SUBJECT, OR NATIONAL: AUSTRALIA  
 COUNTRY OF BIRTH: AUSTRALIA  
 COUNTRY OF DESTINATION: AUSTRALIA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA

The validity of this permit expires  
 MONTHS: MARCH DAY: 26 YEAR: 1959



Elizabeth Burnes works for the National Archives at Kansas City and serves as the lead archivist for "A-Files" reference. Her talk is part of the Library's monthly observance of Immigration Heritage Month.

If you are interested in attending this event, please make a reservation via the Kansas City Public Library at <http://www.kclibrary.org/rsvp/25535>

Above right: Permit to re-enter from the Alien file for Eric Watson (A11221466).

Above: Family photograph from the Alien file for Ho Daly (A72095935).

Right: Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration form from the Alien file for Luisa De Santis (A10335719).

All images are from Record Group 566, Records of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service [USCIS], Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1940-2003. National Archives Identifier 4488912.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 IMMIGRANT VISA AND ALIEN REGISTRATION

PORT OF NEW YORK  
 I certify that the immigrant named herein arrived in the United States at this port on the 29 MAR 1956 (Day, month, year) and was inspected by me and (admitted) (detained for further inquiry by special-inquiry officer) under Section T of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

ACTION OF SPECIAL INQUIRY OFFICER  
 The immigrant named herein was (admitted) (excluded) (and no appeal taken) (and appeal taken) under Section of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

ACTION ON APPEAL  
 Admitted Excluded Date

IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION:  
 Nonquota Quota 1-1  
 American Consulate General at Naples, Italy

IMMIGRANT VISA NO. 458 Italian  
 Issued on 17 FEB 1956 (Day, month, year)  
 The validity of this visa expires midnight, E. S. T., at the end of 16 JUN 1956 (Day, month, year)

Nationality (if stateless, so state, and give previous nationality) Italian

Service No. 1640  
 Tariff Item No. 7  
 Fee Paid: U.S. \$ 20.00  
 Local Cy. equiv. Lit. 12.500

Fee No. \$20.  
 Passport No. 5673155 P or other travel document (describe)

Issued To Luisa DE SANTIS  
 By Police Authority of Rome, Italy  
 On 23 Jan. 1956  
 Expires 22 Jan. 1957

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## The Crossroads of Pop Culture, International Politics, and the National Archives: Syngman Rhee's Alien File

We didn't start the fire  
It was always burning  
Since the world's been turning  
We didn't start the fire  
No we didn't light it  
But we tried to fight it  
-Billy Joel, *We Didn't Start the Fire*

The mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup> century was full of big names, huge events, and major conflicts that shook the world. The names and faces of international players may not always register with present day Americans, but modern pop culture references can shine new light on these individuals and provide a glimpse into the political landscape that shaped the time.

The rise and fall of South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee, is aptly captured in Billy Joel's 1989 song *We Didn't Start the Fire*. In the song, Joel references the split between North and South Korea which opened the door for Rhee's election, and later mentions Rhee in relation to his 1960 resignation and exile to the United States following violent protests of election fraud. These events provide bookends to a part of Rhee's life that led to his appearance in records held by the National Archives at Kansas City.



Syngman Rhee speaks to the people shortly after recapture of Seoul during the Korean war.

Above: Newspaper clipping from the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* featuring Syngman Rhee speaking to the people of South Korea shortly after the recapture of Seoul during the Korean War. Record Group 566, Records of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Alien Case Files, 1944-2003; Alien Case File for Syngman Rhee. National Archives Identifier 5426922.

Syngman Rhee's 117 page Alien File (A-File) predominantly reflects the activities of his exile in Hawaii beginning in 1960 and events surrounding his death in July 1965, though content in the file also sheds light on portions of Rhee's early life and time as president in South Korea.

Rhee was born April 18, 1875, into a rural family with ties to Korea's ruling line, and grew up receiving a traditional Confucian education as well as Ivy League schooling within the United States. His young adult life was peppered with involvement in protests both in and outside of Korea. With his strongly anti-communist perspective, Rhee quickly grew in

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popularity within the international political sphere. He had a hand in the struggle for South Korean independence as leader of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, and proved influential in the creation of the electoral system and constitution that he ultimately served under from 1948-1960 as the elected President of the Republic of Korea.

## Rhee Makes Apology In Public Statement

Here is the text of Syngman Rhee's public statement:

"On this eve of our departure from Hawaii for Korea, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the people of Hawaii and to the United States of America for the warmth and hospitality I have always received here.

"Words cannot adequately convey the fullness and depth of the gratitude I feel.

"I return now to my beloved homeland, where I shall dwell during the remaining span of my life. My friends and my physician have advised me that I am able physically to undertake the journey home and that I should do so now.

"As I reflect upon the years of my service as President of the Republic of Korea, which I strove always to perform with the utmost of my capabilities and for what

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I believed to be the best interests of the Korean people, I feel an abiding sense of humility.

"For, being only human, and having the limitations of mortal man, there no doubt have been areas in which I might have done more for the betterment of my country.

"If I have committed errors, whether now known or to be revealed by History, then, no matter if committed in the best of faith, I do not evade full responsibility therefor; and I express now my profound regret and sorrow to the Korean people.

"I hope to live out my allotted time in Korea as an ordinary citizen, quietly and peacefully with my beloved wife and son."

Rhee's early presidency had been shaped by his authoritarian approach to leadership, and following the Korean War much of Rhee's presidency was riddled with conflict surrounding allegations of election fraud. Tensions boiled over in April 1960 following Rhee's election to his fourth term in office as President. A student-led protest, popularly called the April Revolution, erupted; days later Rhee resigned his post, and with United States assistance fled to Honolulu, Hawaii.

Rhee made several attempts to return to South Korea before his death including issuing a public apology statement, but was denied permission to re-enter the country. A week after his death, Rhee's body was returned to Seoul, South Korea, for burial.

The National Archives at Kansas City currently maintains more than 450,000 A-Files for individuals from around the world. To learn more about searching for and requesting A-Files visit our website <http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html>.

Left: Newspaper clipping dated March 17, 1962, from the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* containing text of the public apology statement Syngman Rhee issued to the people of South Korea. Record Group 566, Records of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Alien Case Files, 1944-2003; Alien Case File for Syngman Rhee. National Archives Identifier 5426922.

## Are you connected to National Archives at Kansas City?

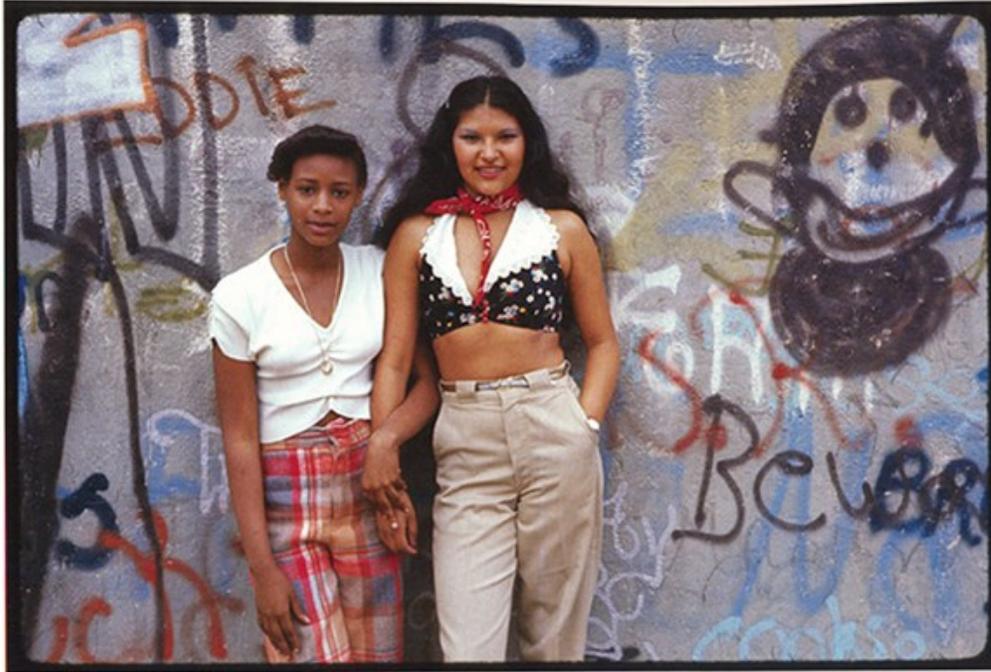
Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity). In addition, you can tweet us on Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.

All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8000.

By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



## Searching for the Seventies: The DOCUMERICA Photography Project Exhibit on Display at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery in Topeka, Kansas



Above: "Two Latin girls pose in front of a wall of graffiti in Lynch Park in Brooklyn, New York City. Today's inner city is a contradiction to main stream America's gas station expressways shopping centers and tract homes. Blacks, latins and poor whites live there." - Photographer's words. Danny Lyon, Brooklyn, N.Y., June 1974

Project is a free exhibit on display at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery through August 2, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. It is a full color, up-close look at a decade with unique trends, fashions, problems and achievements. *Searching for the Seventies* is a traveling exhibition created by the National Archives and Records Administration.

*Searching for the Seventies: The DOCUMERICA Photography Project* is a powerful exhibit of images of everyday life in 1970s America: disco dancing and inflation, projects and bell-bottoms, gas shortages and suburban sprawl. At a time when the war in Vietnam and the Watergate scandal wore on the national psyche, a burgeoning movement to protect our natural environment was gaining force.

Documentary photographers from the newly-formed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) captured the style, blights and culture of a decade on the brink of the future. They toured the U.S. - from its inner city projects to its threatened grasslands and further.

*Searching for the Seventies: The DOCUMERICA Photography*

### We Want You! - To Volunteer at the National Archives

Are you an experienced genealogist? Would you be willing to volunteer and help other genealogists with their research? The National Archives at Kansas City is seeking volunteers to assist in our Public Access Computer Room on Wednesdays, Fridays, and/or Saturdays. We are looking for individuals with knowledge of Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, FamilySearch.org, and a broad understanding of family history research. If you are interested or know someone who may be a good fit please visit <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/volunteer.html> or contact Elizabeth Burnes, Interim Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 816-268-8093 or [elizabeth.burnes@nara.gov](mailto:elizabeth.burnes@nara.gov).



**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on Sunday, Monday, and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city).

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KANSAS CITY