

Register for the
TAYOUN FAMILY PAPERS

1920-1991
(1963-1991)

MSS 150
(M91-81)

PG 378

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TAYOUN FAMILY PAPERS
MSS 150 (M91-81)

2 ½ Hollinger boxes of mss.
(approx. 1 ¼ linear feet)
1 Oversize Folder

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Photographs are in PG 378

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PROVENANCE

This collection was donated to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies by James and Edmond Tayoun in 1991. The papers came in as one accession, M91-81. They were processed in April 2000 by Katherine Kwiatkowski, project archivist for the Balch Institute.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Slimon "Solomon" Tayoun came to the United States from Lebanon as a young man in 1920 while working as a merchant seaman. He landed in New York where he worked in a variety of jobs and met and married his wife, Nora Matter. Nora Tayoun was born in Dubuque, Iowa, to Lebanese parents. Her parents sent her back to Lebanon when she reached the age of one year in order for her to have the benefit of a traditional upbringing. She returned to the United States, New York City, at the age of twelve.

In the late 1920s, the couple moved to Philadelphia and settled in the Lebanese community located around 10th and Ellsworth streets. In 1958, Mr. Tayoun founded the Middle East Restaurant in a converted rowhouse at 1035 Ellsworth St. The whole family, Nora, Solomon, and their three children James, Edmond, and Mary Anne, participated in the day-to-day operations of the restaurant. The restaurant thrived and was moved to a larger facility located at 126 Chestnut St. in 1969 where it remains to this day.

Mr. and Mrs. Tayoun's son, James, worked as a Daily News reporter and served as a state representative and on the City Council.

Nora Tayoun died in 1981. Her husband followed her three years later in 1984.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records: The textual materials span the years 1920-1991, with the vast majority of the material dating since 1963. The bulk of these materials consists of clippings from various newspapers. Most of the material is contained in Series I and concerns the Middle East Restaurant. Advertisements (both general and for specific events), restaurant reviews, and belly dancing information are plentiful. However the researcher will not find much information concerning the financial aspect of the restaurant, the political career of James Tayoun, or of a personal nature.

Photographs: The photographs constitute a very rich area of this collection. There are very many, both black and white and color. Most of them are shots of events that occurred at the Middle East Restaurant, particularly belly dancing. Please see PG 378 for the photo guide.

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RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: MIDDLE EAST RESTAURANT, 1963-1991
Boxes 1-2 & Oversize (OS) Folder

Subseries A: GENERAL OFFICE FILES & RESTAURANT MATERIALS,
1963-1991, Boxes 1-2 & Oversize (OS) Folder

This subseries contains general information relating to the Middle East Restaurant. Advertisements, restaurant reviews, menus, place mats, restaurant related correspondence, and general information concerning the Middle East can be found here. Arrangement is alphabetical.

Subseries B: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS, 1963-1991, Box 2

This section contains materials about events or activities sponsored by the Middle East Restaurant and some information concerning events held at the Middle East by other organizations. Advertisements, press releases, and newspaper articles concerning these events are found here. This section also contains information on belly dancing, and is organized alphabetically.

SERIES II: FAMILY DOCUMENTS, 1920-1990, Box 3

Subseries A: POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1967-1990

Material in this subseries touches on the political career of James Tayoun. Correspondence, campaign advertisements, and press clippings/released concerning James Tayoun's political work are located here.

Subseries B: PERSONAL MATERIALS, 1920-1990

This subseries consists of personal Tayoun family materials. Obituaries, real estate papers, information concerning the Maronite Christian Church, insurance policies, legal documents such as power of attorney, and correspondence of a personal nature can be found here. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

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BOX LIST

SERIES I: MIDDLE EAST RESTAURANT, 1963-91
Boxes 1-2 & Oversize (OS) Folder

Subseries A: General Office Files & Restaurant Materials, 1963-91
Boxes 1-2 & Oversize (OS) Folder

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
1	1-8	Advertising, artwork & press materials	1964-91 & n.d.
	9	Correspondence	1963-91 & n.d.
	10	Financial & business materials	1978-80 & n.d.
2	1	General Middle Eastern material	1971-86 & n.d.
	2	Menus & place mats	1976 & n.d.

Subseries B: Activities & Events, 1963-91
Box 2

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
2	3-5	Anniversary celebrations	1973-88
	6-8	Belly dancing	1976-90 & n.d.
	9	Comedy	1980 & n.d.

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Subseries B: Activities & Events, 1963-91

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
2	10	Festivals	1963-83 & n.d.
	11	Holiday events	1980 & n.d.
	12	Music	1979-90 & n.d.
	13	Operation Desert Shield/Storm events	1990-91
	14	Organization events	1963-89 & n.d.
	15	Special promotions	1983-91 & n.d.

SERIES II: FAMILY DOCUMENTS, 1920-90
Box 3

Subseries A: Political Materials, 1967-90
Box 3

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
3	1	Correspondence	1986-90 & n.d.
	2	Press Clippings/Releases	1967-85 & n.d.

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Box 3

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
3	3	Correspondence	1980-89 & n.d.
	4	Financial	1945-90 & n.d.
	5	Legal documents	1920-87 & n.d.
	6	Press clippings	1981-85
	7	Religion	n.d.