

# **Jay Ball papers, 1967-2011 (2016.1.2)**

A Finding Aid for the Jay Ball papers  
at the Natick Historical Society

**Natick  
Historical  
Society** 

**THE NATICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
58 ELIOT STREET  
NATICK, MA 01760**

## **Collection Overview**

Extent: 5 Archival Boxes (2.5 linear feet); 1 Oversize Box (OVS)

Creator: Ball, Jay (1935- )

Date Range: 1967-2011

Language: English

Conditions for Access and Use: This collection is open for research use.

Copyright Notice: Copyright restrictions may apply

Preferred Citation: Jay Ball Personal Papers, Natick Historical Society, Natick, MA

LOC Repository Code: MaNtHS

Acquisition Information: Gift of Erica Ball, 2016

Processed by: Caleigh Ross, September 2016

## **Biographical Note**

Jay Ball was born in 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. He completed his primary and secondary education in New York before attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He graduated from MIT with a degree in engineering in 1956, and married his wife Erica (Ricky) that same year. Jay received his Masters degree in engineering from MIT in 1961. The Balls had three sons, David, Alan, and Jonathan. David became a nurse and a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, and Alan is a professional actor in Chicago. Their son Jonathan was killed in a school bus accident in 1967, and the tragedy galvanized their efforts to ensure greater school bus safety measures. Their 'no standees' initiative is now state law, and many communities employ the school bus monitor concept they promoted.

In 1997 Jay campaigned for a seat on the Natick Board of Selectmen. He served three terms as a Selectman from 1997 to 2006. As a Selectman, he was an integral force behind the creation of the annual Natick Days event, and also served to facilitate the transition when the Town Administrator passed away in 2002. Ball has also been actively involved with the Temple Israel Congregation, particularly as a member of the Ark Builders, who have built and donated several woodworking creations to the Temple and to the local community.

Ball is an avid photographer and actor, participating in many of The Center for the Arts Natick (TCAN) productions. His photographs have been featured in local exhibits and newspapers.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This Collection contains documents, correspondence, photographs, news clippings, notes, and ephemera related to Jay Ball's extensive work in local government and service organizations, including the town of Natick's Board of Selectmen, the Temple Israel Ark Builders, and the School Bus Transportation Safety Study Committee, among others. This collection also contains materials relating to Ball's business interests and personal interests, in photography and theater.

## **Series List**

- Series 1: Awards
- Series 2: Board of Selectmen
- Series 3: Business
- Series 4: Correspondence
- Series 5: Events and Celebrations
- Series 6: Jewish Community
- Series 7: News Clippings
- Series 8: Notes and Ephemera
- Series 9: Organizations
- Series 10: Photographs
- Series 11: Theater, Photography, and Arts

## **Collection Description**

Series 1: Awards

Date Range: 1986-2005

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Series Description: This series contains various awards and certificates presented to Ball.

Box #1 - OVS	Folder #1	Folder Title: 1986-2005 Award Certificates
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Series 2: Board of Selectmen

Date Range: 1997-2002

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological.

Series Description: This series contains documents, memos, meeting minutes, and correspondence related to Ball's service on the Natick Board of Selectmen.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	2	1997-2002

Series 3: Business

Date Range: 1967-1992

Extent: 7 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Series Description: This series contains notes, memos, correspondence, reports, and promotional materials relating to Ball's various professional positions as an engineer.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	3	Articles
1	4	Odd-Ball Product Photos, undated
1	5	1967-1972
1	6	1973
1	7	1974-1979
1	8	1980-1992
1	9	Undated

#### Series 4: Correspondence

Date Range: 1970- 2011

Extent: 10 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Series Description: This series contains letters, notes, and greeting cards sent to Ball from friends, relatives, and colleagues.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	10	1970-2011
1	11	Undated (1 of 2)
1	12	Undated (2 of 2)
2	1	Alan Ball, 1966-2011
2	2	Alan Ball, undated
2	3	David Ball, 1970-1999
2	4	David Ball, undated
2	5	Erica Ball (1 of 2)
2	6	Erica Ball (2 of 2)
2	7	Natick Suburban Press Mind Bogglers, 1974-1975
OVS1	5	Finger Paintings

#### Series 5: Events and Celebrations

Date Range: 1935-2010

Extent: 4 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Series Description: This series contains invitations and pamphlets from a few celebratory events related to Ball, most notably Ball's 1948 Bar Mitzvah.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	1	1935-1980

3	2	Autograph Book, 1946-1947
3	3	Bar Mitzvah, 27 March 1948
3	4	Natick Children's Ballot, 2010

Series 6: Jewish Community

Date Range: 1948-2009

Extent: 4 folders

Arrangement: Arranged topically by level of involvement with organization, then chronologically

Series Description: This series contains flyers, newsletters, and correspondence relating to Ball's involvement with multiple organizations within the Jewish community, both in Natick and in New York City.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	5	Temple Israel (1 of 2)
3	6	Temple Israel (2 of 2)
3	7	Ark Builders
3	8	West Side Jewish center, 1948-1999
3	9	1970-2009

Series 7: News Clippings

Date Range: 1970-2011

Extent: 12 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Series Description: This series contains news clippings, the majority of which mention Ball by name, in the course of his local activism.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	1	1970-1999
4	2	2000-2002
4	3	2003
4	4	2004
4	5	2005 (1 of 2)
4	6	2005 (2 of 2)
4	7	2006-2008
4	8	2009
4	9	2010-2011
4	10	Undated

Series 8: Notes and Ephemera

Date Range: undated

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: 1 folder

Series Description: This series contain ephemeral materials ranging from loose notes and notebooks, tickets and pamphlets, to articles saved by Ball.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	11	Undated
OVS1	6	Tennis Racket Sketch

Series 9: Organizations

Date Range: 1968-2006

Extent: 9 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical by Organization name.

Series Description: This series contains documents, correspondence, memos, and promotional materials related to the many organizations with whom Ball was actively involved. Notable among these organizations is the School Bus Transportation Safety Study Committee, a cause near and dear to his heart.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
5	1	Bennet-Hemenway School, 1971-1981
5	2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 1970-2006
5	3	Metrowest Jewish Day School, 2003-2011
5	4	School Bus Transportation Safety Study Committee, 1968-1973 (1 of 3)
5	5	School Bus Transportation Safety Study Committee, 1968-1973 (2 of 3)
5	6	School Bus Transportation Safety Study Committee, 1968-1973 (3 of 3)
5	7	Signet Records: Peggy Seeger, 1954
5	8	The Center for the Arts, Natick (TCAN), 1999
5	9	Town Meeting, 1971-1994

Series 10: Photographs

Date Range: Undated

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Undated

Series Description: This series contains photographs of Ball, as well as relatives, friends, and colleagues.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
5	10	Undated
OVS1	7	Camp Kenwood

Series 11: Theater, Photography, and Arts

Date Range: 1981-2011

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Series Description: This series contains materials relating to Ball's artistic endeavors, including theater, photography, and poetry.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
5	11	Poetry, undated
5	12	Photography, 1981-2011
5	13	Theater Involvement, 1951-2011