

***MC 891: T-252: Vt-70***

***Laubenstein, Linda J. Papers of Linda J. Laubenstein, 1947-2014: A Finding Aid***

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Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Harvard Radcliffe Institute

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<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library>  
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## Summary Information

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**Repository:** Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute

**Title:** Papers of Linda J. Laubenstein, 1947-2014

**Identifier:** MC 891: T-252: Vt-70

**Date:** Creation: 1947-2014

**Physical Description:** 2.5 linear feet ((6 file boxes) plus 1 folio folder, 1 folio + folder, 5 videotapes, 5 audiotapes, 2 photograph folders, 1 folio + photograph folder)

**Physical Description:** 34.9 Megabytes (1 file)

**Language Of Materials:**  
Materials in English.

**Overview:**  
Correspondence, date books, audiotapes, videotapes, etc., of Linda J. Laubenstein, physician and HIV/AIDS researcher.

**Access Restrictions:**  
Access. Collection is open for research. An appointment is necessary to use any audiovisual material.

**Conditions Governing Use:** Copyright. George Laubenstein and Priscilla Laubenstein retain copyright in the papers for their lifetimes, after which copyright will transfer to their son, Peter Laubenstein, for his lifetime or until it expires.

Copying. Copies may be made for individual researchers; copies may not be made for deposit in other libraries.

**Immediate Source Of Acquisition:** Accession number: 93-M98. Accession numbers 94-M11, 94-M122, 94-M166, 94-M176, 98-M208, 2001-M222, 2005-M142, 2008-M134 in February 2017.

The papers of Linda J. Laubenstein were given to the Schlesinger Library by her parents, George Laubenstein and Priscilla Laubenstein, between June 1993 and August 2008.

**Processing Information:**  
Processed: September 1993  
  
By: Anne Engelhart  
  
Updated and additional materials added: February 2017  
  
By: Mark Vassar, with assistance from Margaret Dalton.

**Preferred Citation:**  
Linda J. Laubenstein Papers, 1947-2014; item description, dates. MC 891, folder #.  
Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

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## Physical Location

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Collection stored off site: researchers must request access 36 hours before use.

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## Biography

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Linda Laubenstein was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1947 to Priscilla (Martin) Laubenstein and George Laubenstein. She contracted polio as a young child and subsequent surgeries left her partially paralyzed at the age of five. She attended schools in Barrington, Rhode Island, remotely through the use of an intercom system in her home and regularly received high honors. She graduated from Barnard College and New York University Medical School. Her specialties were hematology and oncology, and she was a clinical professor at the New York University Medical Center. Laubenstein was one of the first in the United States to recognize the appearance of the AIDS epidemic, and was the author (with Dr. Alvin Friedman-Kien) of the first published article on the alarming appearance of Kaposi's sarcoma. Laubenstein was outspoken about what she saw as the neglect of the epidemic by government and society. Her practice grew to consist predominately of AIDS cases; in 1983 she helped organize the Kaposi's Sarcoma Research Fund and the first full-scale medical conference on AIDS, held at New York University. She was one of the founders of MTS, Multitasking Systems, a non-profit office-service business begun in 1989 that provided employment for people with AIDS. Laubenstein suffered from severe asthma and the effects of childhood polio, which left her confined to a wheelchair. Her role in the battle against AIDS inspired the character of Dr. Emma Brookner in Larry Kramer's play, *The Normal Heart*. Laubenstein died of a heart attack in 1992 at the age of 45.

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## Scope And Content

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This collection includes photographs, autobiographical essays, a diary, and other biographical material; letters to Laubenstein's parents after her death; and bylaws, correspondence, and other records of Multitasking Systems of New York. The bulk of the collection is biographical in nature and documents Laubenstein's childhood and time in college. While letters from patients are included (mainly letters of condolence to Laubenstein's parents), there is little in the collection documenting her work with AIDS and AIDS-related diseases. Records of Multitasking Systems of New York, a non-profit business service business that employed individuals with AIDS, operating under the theory that active AIDS patients survived for longer periods of time, documents the founding and operation of the business. Materials received between 1994 and 2008 (accession numbers: 94-M11, 94-M122, 94-M166, 94-M176, 98-M208, 2001-M222, 2005-M142, 2008-M134) were added to the collection in February 2006 and is housed in #62-69m and E.1. All other folders remain in the same order.

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## Container List

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- Box 1: 1-13
- Box 2: 14-29
- Box 3: 30-39
- Box 4: 40-51
- Box 5: 52-67
- Box 6: 69m

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## Collection Inventory

### Genealogies, curriculum vitae, undated

**Identifier:** 1. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132465>

### Clippings and articles re: Laubenstein, 1964-1993.

**Identifier:** 2. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132554>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes correspondence.

### Baby book, 1947-1948.

**Identifier:** 3. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102433215>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes photographs.

### Photographs, 1949-1992.

**Identifier:** 4. Box 1

**General Note:**

FILED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS.

### "My Life" (scrapbook with autobiographical essays), 1952-1958.

**Identifier:** 5f+. Folioplus\_box | FOLIO + PROCESSED | PHOTOGRAPHS, Box 19

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102251929>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes photographs.

### Grade book, certificates, programs, etc., 1961-1965, 1990

**Identifier:** 6. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132597>

**Scope And Contents:**

Most from Barrington, Rhode Island, public schools.

### Diary re: trip to Rome, Paris, London, August 1969.

**Identifier:** 7. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102883929>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes photographs.

### New York University School of Medicine commencement programs, June 1973

**Identifier:** 8. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132854>

### Medical board grades, letters of appointment, certificates, etc., 1972-1992

**Identifier:** 9. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132882>

### New York State medical license, 1974

**Identifier:** 10f. Folio\_box | FOLIO PROCESSED, Box 40

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102250992>

### Family correspondence, 1947-1981.

**Identifier:** 11. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132901>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes re: student protest at Columbia University (1968).

### Personal correspondence, 1970-1992.

**Identifier:** 12. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132931>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes re: medicine in Kenya and letters from families of AIDS patients.

### Residences, 1984, 1989, undated.

**Identifier:** 13. Box 1

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133418>

**Scope And Contents:**

Descriptions of Laubenstein's apartment in New York City and house on Cape Cod and information re: art in her apartment.

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**Residences: art in apartment (photographs), ca.1983-1985, undated**

**Identifier:** 14. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133470>

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**Residences: New York apartment (photographs), undated**

**Identifier:** 15. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102687704>

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**Residences: Cape Cod house (photographs), undated**

**Identifier:** 16. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102687890>

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**Date book, 1988**

**Identifier:** 17. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102060036>

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**Date book, 1989**

**Identifier:** 18. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102060189>

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**Date book, 1991**

**Identifier:** 19. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102060367>

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***AIDS: The Epidemic of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections*, edited by Laubenstein and Alvin E. Friedman-Kien, 1984**

**Identifier:** 20. Box 2

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**Articles by Laubenstein and others, 1985-1988.**

**Identifier:** 21. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133093>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes biographical sketch.

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**"The Treatment and Management of the HIV Patient: Management of Neoplastic Complications of HIV Disease." Linda J. Laubenstein and others speak on panel at professional meeting. May 12, 1992.**

**Identifier:** 22vt. Box 1

**Physical Facet:**

VHS. 69 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS Vt-70, reel 1.

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**Letter re: program and speech, 1992.**

**Identifier:** 23. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133289>

**General Note:**

See #22vt.

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**Memorial services: programs, Harwich, Massachusetts, August 22, 1992**

**Identifier:** 24. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133492>

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**Interview of Priscilla and George Laubenstein re: Linda Laubenstein for an article in *McCall's* by Meryl Gordon, 1995.**

**Identifier:** 25at. Audiotape 01

**Physical Facet:**

Audiocassette. 28 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS T-252, reel 1.

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**Memorial services for Linda Laubenstein at New York University Medical Center: program, speeches, October 21, 1992**

**Identifier:** 26. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133504>

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**"A Tribute to Linda J. Laubenstein." Memorial service at New York University Medical Center, October 21, 1992.**

**Identifier:** 27vt. Box 1

**Physical Facet:**

VHS. 40 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS Vt-70, reel 2.

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**Memorial services for Linda Laubenstein at New York University Medical Center, October 21, 1992.**

**Identifier:** 28at. Audiotape 01

**Physical Facet:**

Audiocassette. ca.50 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS T-252, reel 2.

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**Obituaries and tributes, 1992.**

**Identifier:** 29. Box 2

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133295>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes correspondence.

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**Letters to George and Priscilla Laubenstein re: death of their daughter, 1992**

**Identifier:** 30-43. Box 3; Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102686342>

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**Larry Kramer to George and Priscilla Laubenstein.**

**Identifier:** 44. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102433281>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes copy of *The Normal Heart*.

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**Clippings re: Larry Kramer and *The Normal Heart*, 1992-1993**

**Identifier:** 45. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133322>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: bylaws, board members, 1987, 1989**

**Identifier:** 46. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133529>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: correspondence, etc., 1991**

**Identifier:** 47. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133674>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: business plan, placement statistics, case studies, client list, awards, 1986-1991.**

**Identifier:** 48. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133754>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes *On the Job* (newsletter).

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: business plan, certificate of incorporation, 1988, undated**

**Identifier:** 49. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102134038>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: publicity and donor lists, 1988-1989, undated**

**Identifier:** 50. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133907>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: publicity proposals, board applications, bylaws, and correspondence, 1989-1990**

**Identifier:** 51. Box 4

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132696>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: publicity, etc., 1986-1989**

**Identifier:** 52. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133003>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: correspondence and related re: funding, 1990-1991**

**Identifier:** 53. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133020>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York, Inc.: Rehabilitation Services Administration grant, 1990-1991**

**Identifier:** 54. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102132433>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: management consultant, 1991**

**Identifier:** 55. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102433417>

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**Memorial service for Linda Laubenstein (possibly in Harwich, Massachusetts). Recorded notes by Linda Laubenstein for Multitasking Systems of New York re: creation of software system used by the company, ca.1991-1992.**

**Identifier:** 56at. Audiotape 01

**Physical Facet:**

Microcassette. ca.34 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS T-252, reel 3.

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**Dictation of patient records (including those with HIV) by Linda Laubenstein, April 1991.**

**Identifier:** 57at. Audiotape 01

**Physical Facet:**

Microcassette. ca.30 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS T-252, reel 4.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2062.

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**Dictation of patient records (including those with HIV) by Linda Laubenstein, July 1991.**

**Identifier:** 58at. Audiotape 01

**Physical Facet:**

Microcassette. ca.30 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS T-252, reel 5.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2062.

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**News story about Linda J. Laubenstein as one of the founders of Multitasking Systems of New York, a nonprofit corporation in Manhattan that employs people who are HIV positive. Channel 2/New York, [1989?].**

**Identifier:** 59vt. Box 1

**Physical Facet:**

VHS. 3 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS Vt-70, reel 3.

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**News report on Multitasking Systems of New York. Linda J. Laubenstein speaks briefly. CNN New York, [1989?].**

**Identifier:** 60vt. Box 1

**Physical Facet:**

VHS. 2 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS Vt-70, reel 4.

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**Staged reading of play, "The Normal Heart," with Julie Harris. Cape Cod Community College, September 24, 1994.**

**Identifier:** 61vt. Box 1

**Physical Facet:**

VHS. 204 minutes.

**General Note:**

REQUEST AS Vt-70, reel 5.

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**Awards and buildings named in honor of Laubenstein, 1993-2004.**

**Identifier:** 62. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133190>

**Scope And Contents:**

Includes speech.

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**Clipping and underlined passages in *The Plague*, 2005, undated**

**Identifier:** 63. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133216>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: fund raising event programs, publicity, etc., 1994-2004**

**Identifier:** 64. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102060485>

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**Multitasking Systems of New York: grant report, "Job Placement Program for Individuals with HIV/AIDS," 1993**

**Identifier:** 65. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133348>

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***The Normal Heart*: clippings, reviews, and correspondence, 1992-2014**

**Identifier:** 66. Box 5

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133571>



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***The Normal Heart*: poster, 1994**

**Identifier:** 66af+. Folioplus\_box | FOLIO + PROCESSED, Box 70  
<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102251960>

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**Note, clipping, and Ebay auction entry re: sculpture given to Laubenstein by Gaetan Dugas, undated**

**Identifier:** 67. Box 5  
<http://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:RAD.SCHL:102133891>

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**Photograph: Linda Laubenstein, 1990**

**Identifier:** 68. Box | PHOTOGRAPHS, Box 536  
**General Note:**  
FILED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS.

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**Marble sculpture given by Gaetan Dugas (Patient "O") to Linda Laubenstein, 1982.**

**Identifier:** 69m. Box 6

**Physical Facet:**

Irregular pentagonal, verdi alpi green marble sculpture with pentagonal brass plate attached engraved with an image of bent left arm with a right hand holding a syringe in the shape of the Empire State Building with the tip of the building puncturing a vein in the arm and reading "Linda J. Laubenstein, M.D., Thank You, Gaetan Dugas."

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**Interview of Priscilla Laubenstein regarding Linda Laubenstein's early life, experiences with polio, attending school with a physical handicap, etc., by unidentified woman, undated.**

**Identifier:** E.1.

**Physical Facet:**

38 minutes.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

For access to electronic records please contact the Reference Desk.

## Controlled Access Headings

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- AIDS (Disease)--United States
- Audiotapes
- Autobiographies
- Diaries
- People with disabilities--United States
- Physicians
- Physicians--United States
- Poliomyelitis--Patients--United States
- Videotapes
- Women in science--United States
- Women physicians--United States

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