

Oral Histories of Tompkins County

Archival Finding Aid

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Fall 2017 - Global Engagements: Living & Working in a Diverse World - Oral History Project

Fall 2017 - Global Engagements includes eight interviews conducted by undergraduate Cornell students with local residents about their experiences in Ithaca for the course “Cornell Anthropology 1900 – Global Engagements: Living & Working in a Diverse World”. The stated goal of the project was to "produce research that reveals some aspect of Ithaca's complex and diverse history...and the way that it reflects broader national and global trends." Project supervised by Professor Hayden Kantor in collaboration with History Center staff Carol West and Donna Eschenbrenner.

****PLEASE NOTE**** Recordings for all eight interviews are not available in The History Center archives. As of October 2022 audio recordings of the interviews for: Jenny Graham, Gus Dino Marinos (three minute audio clip available), Bill Manos, Mimi Melegrito, and Katy Prouty are not held by The History Center. See interviewee section for details, most interviews have transcripts, or final essays about each interview available. If these lost recordings are found, we would be happy to add them to our collections. Please contact archives@thehistorycenter.net with any information.

Trigger warnings: *violent imagery, systemic racism, child sexual abuse, anti-Black sentiment, sexism, Nazis, starvation, violent imagery, death.*

Interviews with:

Eniko Farkas (01:05:13)

Eniko Farkas reflects on her childhood in Hungary, where she witnessed the Hungarian Revolution and resented the Communist regime. She discusses how she began embroidering and her career as a teacher of Hungarian embroidery in Ithaca, as well as the prejudice Hungarian immigrants have faced in the United States.

Trigger warning: violent imagery

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Farkas-Eniko*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Farkas-Eniko_Transcript*
- *Interview conducted by: Ariana Gamarra*

***Jennifer “Jenny” Graham**

Jenny Graham discusses her experience working at a segregated school in Georgia while studying elementary education at Fort Valley State College. She reflects on moving to Ithaca in 1965, working at Cornell, and belonging to Club Essence, a social group that promoted unity among Black women, as one of its first members.

Trigger warning(s): systemic racism, child sexual abuse, experience of anti-Black racism, sexism

**As of August 2022 Jenny Graham’s audio file was not saved in The History Center archives. A final essay on the interview by student Mason Leist was saved in our records as well as a transcript created by the student, but no recording. The essay and transcript are available to researchers.*

- *Recorded 10/19/2017*
- *Audio File: As of 8/9/2022 the The History Center does not hold this file. Location or preservation status of file unknown.*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2017-10-19_Graham-Jenny_Transcript*
- *Interview conducted by: Mason Leist*

***William “Bill” Manos**

Bill Manos discusses his immigration to Des Moines, Iowa, from Greece at the age of nine in 1947, experience as a restaurant owner, and appreciation for Ithaca. He also speaks about his wish for Ithaca to become a larger city and his approval of its progress in that direction.

**As of August 2022 Bill Manos’ audio file was not saved in The History Center archives. A final essay on the interview by student Charlie Dubiel was saved in our records, but no transcript or recording. This essay is available to researchers.*

- *Recorded October 2017*
- *Audio File: As of 8/9/2022 the The History Center does not hold this file. Location or preservation status of file unknown.*
- *Transcript File: NA*
- *Interview conducted by: Charlie Dubiel*

***Dino “Gus” Marinos**

Dino “Gus” Marinos discusses his childhood in Greece during the Nazi occupation and Greek Civil War and his story of immigration to the United States, where his family first settled in Pennsylvania. He also speaks on his family, his career as a hairdresser, and the Greek presence in Ithaca.

Trigger warning(s): Nazis, starvation, violent imagery

**As of October 2022 Dino Marinos' audio file was not saved in The History Center archives. A final essay on the interview by student Joseph While was saved in our records as well as a transcript created by the student. A four-minute clip of the original interview is also in our archives. The essay and transcript are available to researchers.*

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Marinos-Dino_CLIP (00:03:55)*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Marinos-Dino_Transcript*

***Mimi Melegrito**

Mimi Melegrito discusses working with teenagers at GIAC since the 1980s and her efforts to resolve conflicts among these teenagers, often dealing with issues of racial prejudice and substance use. She also discusses her mission of improving people's lives and her observations about housing discrimination in Ithaca.

Trigger warning: violent imagery

**As of August 2022 Mimi Melegrito's 2017 audio file was not saved in The History Center archives. A final essay on the interview by student Yulia Zvereva was saved in our records, but no transcript or recording. This essay is available to researchers.*

- *Recorded 10/18/2017*
- *Audio File: As of 8/9/2022 the The History Center does not hold this file. Location or preservation status of file unknown.*
- *Transcript File: NA*
- *Interview conducted by: Yulia Zvereva*

Martha Preston (00:48:06)

Martha Preston discusses her Greek heritage, including the store her great-grandfather opened in Connecticut and later relocated to Ithaca, which was run by her grandparents. She speaks on her experience in the Greek community in Ithaca, from Greek dances to the Greek Orthodox church that opened in 1966.

- *Recorded: October 2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2017-10_Preston-Martha*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2017-10_Preston-Martha_Transcript*
- *Interview conducted by: Ava Pacheco*

***Kathryn "Katie" Prouty**

Kathryn "Katie" Prouty reflects on her time as the Treasurer for the Service League and its consignment shop from 1996 to 2006. Prouty discusses the shop and the gradual loss of volunteers as women joined the workforce as well as her thoughts on the urban renewal of Ithaca in the late 20th century.

**Per the endnotes section of student Elle Rothermich's paper 'Urban Renewal and Volunteerism in Ithaca, 1950-2017' the interview was not recorded per Prouty's request. Direct quotes were written down by Elle*

Rothermich. An essay on the interview by student Elle Rothermich is saved in our records, with supporting photographs provided by Prouty. These materials are available to researchers.

- *Recorded October 2017*
- *Audio File: Interview not recorded*
- *Transcript File: NA*
- *Interview conducted by: Elle Rothermich*

Josie Leonardo Schug (1:08:57)

Josie Schug discusses her father's emigration from Sicily Italy to Upstate New York, where he started working in a salt mine before getting injured and turning to bootlegging. She recalls stories from her childhood about the many businesses her family owned in Ithaca, some of them bootleg stores and some legal. Josie Schug also reflects on her close relationship with her grandmother, who died when she was 20 years old.

Trigger warning: discussion of death

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Shug-Josie*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2017-10-25_Shug-Josie_Transcript*
- *Interview conducted by: Ailen Salazar*

CITATION FOR THE COLLECTION

“Cornell Anthropology 1900 Fall 2017” Oral History Project, eight oral histories recorded between October-December 2017 by Cornell University undergraduate students in the Anthropology Department, The History Center in Tompkins County. Oral Histories of Tompkins County Audio Archives, Ithaca, NY, 2021.

Generous support for processing these collections came from a two year grant from the Museum Association of New York and the Institute of Museum & Library Services between 2020-2022.

