

# Oral Histories of Tompkins County

## *Archival Finding Aid*

*The History Center in Tompkins County*  
110 North Tioga St  
Ithaca NY 14850  
607-273-8284  
[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)  
[archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

### **Fall 2017 - Cornell Anthropology 1900 - Oral History Project**

College students conducted oral history interviews with local residents about their experiences in Ithaca for the course "Cornell Anthropology 1900". 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.

#### *Interviews with:*

##### **Eniko Farkas\***

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*

##### **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, anti-Black sentiment, sexism*

- *Recorded 12/3/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-12-3\_Graham-Jenny*
- *Transcript File: OHTC\_2017-12-3\_Graham-Jenny\_Transcript*

##### **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.

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Manos-Bill*
- *Transcript File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Manos-Bill\_Transcript*

#### **Gus “Dino” Marinos\***

Dino 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*

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Marinos-Dino*
- *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*

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Melegrito-Mimi*
- *Transcript File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Melegrito-Mimi\_Transcript*

#### **Martha Preston\***

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 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Preston-Martha*
- *Transcript File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Preston-Martha\_Transcript*

#### **Josie Leonardo Schug\* (69 minutes)**

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: death*

- *Recorded 10/25/2017*
- *Audio File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Shug-Josie*
- *Transcript File: OHTC\_2017-10-25\_Shug-Josie\_Transcript*

*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.

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