AANM Oral History Collection

Arab American National Museum Archives
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126

Scope and Content
The Oral History Collection contains a variety of oral histories created by or donated to the Arab American National Museum and its predecessor, the ACCESS Cultural Arts Department. The oral histories are in a variety of formats, ranging from cassette tapes to mp3 files. Many oral histories were created as a part of a specific project, while others are individual oral histories unconnected to the others. Accessibility is varied, with some oral histories available to the public through the AANM Collections Online website (http://aanm.contentdm.oclc.org), others available only by request in the AANM’s Russell J. Ebeid Library and Research Center (L&RC). Due to format or other restrictions, some oral histories are not available to researchers at all at this time.

Oral History Collections
Created by the AANM or ACCESS

Title: Arab Americans and the Automobile: Voices from the Factory
Date: 1999
Description: 18 audio interviews and transcripts documenting local Arab Americans who worked in the auto industry.
Access: Transcripts and audio available to researchers in the L&RC.

Title: Patriots and Peacemakers: Arab Americans in Service to our Country
Date: 2011
Description: Oral histories created for the 2011 exhibit of the same title. Includes current and former member of the U.S. military, Peace Corps and diplomatic corps.
Access: Limited interviews available to researchers in the L&RC.

Title: Family History Archive of Syrian/Lebanese Families in the American South
Date: 2014-2016
Description: Oral histories recorded at the yearly conventions of the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs (SFSLAC). Interviews range from 10-60 minutes, many are between family members.
Access: Videos available on AANM Collections Online
Title: Digital Scrapbooks  
Date: 2013-ongoing  
Description: Short videos combined with a slideshow of digitized photographs that create a “digital scrapbook.” Ongoing project available to any Arab American interested in participating.  
Access: Videos available on AANM Collections Online and on the museum’s YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/arabamericanmuseum)

Title: Digital Detroit Stories  
Date: 2015-2016  
Description: Grant-funded project to record stories of Detroit’s ethnic communities. Short videos combined with a slideshow of digitized photographs that create a “digital scrapbook.”  

Title: ACCESS Cultural Arts Interviews  
Date: 1994  
Description: Collection of interviews conducted by ACCESS in 1994, stored on cassette tapes. Contents and purpose unknown.  
Access: Not in accessible format for researchers

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Donated to the AANM

Title: Evelyn Shakir Interviews  
Date: 1990s  
Description: Oral histories of Syrian American women in Boston.  
Access: Transcripts available to researchers in the L&RC. Audio not in accessible format for researchers

Title: StoryCorps Interviews  
Date: 2011-2012  
Description: Interviews facilitated by StoryCorps during two visits to Dearborn. Audio is shared with StoryCorps and the AANM  
Access: Audio available to researchers in the L&RC.

Title: Oral Histories of the Faris and Yamna Naff Arab American Collection  
Date: 1960s  
Description: Audio of Arab Americans from the 1960s, recorded by Dr. Alixa Naff and donated to the National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution. Digitized through a collaboration between the AANM and the NMAH.  
Access: Original recordings are held at the NMAH, access copies are available at both institutions. Audio available on AANM Collections Online.

Title: Honoring our Heritage: The Co-Created Histories of Flint’s Arab American Community  
Date: 2015-2016  
Description: Grant-funded project for the Arab American Heritage Council of Flint, Michigan, to record stories of Flint’s Arab American community. Short videos combined with a slideshow of digitized photographs that create a “digital scrapbook.”  
Access: Videos available on AANM Collections Online.
Individual Oral Histories
Created by the AANM

Interviewee: Ismael Ahmed
Interviewer: Unknown
Date: 1999
Access: Not in accessible format for researchers

Interviewee: Husseine Moslimani
Interviewer: Elizabeth Barrett and Deborah Odette
Date: 10/5/2009
Access: Audio and transcript available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Alex Moslimani
Interviewer: Deborah Odette
Date: 10/28/2009
Access: Audio and transcript available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Jack Shaheen
Interviewer: Dr. Anan Ameri and Devon Akmom
Date: 03/08/2010
Access: Audio available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Mona K. Majzoub, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Interviewer: Dr. Matthew Stiffler
Date: 10/5/2010
Access: Audio and transcript available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Selwa Roosevelt
Interviewer: Dr. Anan Ameri
Date: 12/14/2011
Access: Video and audio available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Richard Joseph
Interviewer: Tarek Joseph
Date: 6/8/2015
Access: Not available to researchers

Interviewee: Russell and Fred Ebeid
Interviewer: Dr. Matthew Stiffler and Nathan Santoscoy
Date: 9/27/2016
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Ed Deeb
Interviewer: Dr. Matthew Stiffler
Date: 12/14/2016
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC
Interviewee: Mona Hijazi, Wanda Dabaja, Mohamad Abdallah, Hassan Abdallah, Dalal Sareini, Mariam Faraj (descendants of Fouad Abdallah)
Interviewer: Dr. Matthew Stiffler and Nathan Santoscoy
Date: 2/25/2017
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Robert (Bob) Shammas
Interviewer: Nathan Santoscoy
Date: 4/13/2017 and 5/9/2017
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Fatme Faraj
Interviewer: Nathan Santoscoy
Date: 6/15/2017
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Bonnie Khoury
Interviewer: Nathan Santoscoy
Date: 8/15/2017
Access: Transcript and audio available to researchers at the L&RC

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Donated to the AANM

Interviewee: Hussien Hussien Ayad
Interviewer: John P. Brennan
Date: Unknown
Description: Transcript of interview conducted by the Public Library of Michigan City, Indiana and donated to the AANM many years later.
Access: Transcript available for researchers at the L&RC

Interviewee: Aliya Hassan
Interviewer: Unknown
Date: 1978
Description: Cassette tape labeled “Family History of Aliya Hassan” donated to the museum. Contents unknown.
Access: Not in accessible format for researchers

Interviewee: St. George Orthodox Church members
Interviewer: Gregory Koory
Date: Unknown
Description: DVD of oral histories of St. George Orthodox church, created by Gregory Koory.
Access: Not in accessible format for researchers