

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.”

Access: Videos available on project website, <https://digitaldetroitstories.wordpress.com/>.

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

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 Akmon

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) Shammass

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

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