University Archives Collections

The Hofstra University Archives, which serves as the repository for the historical records of Hofstra University, is located on the lower floor of the Joan & Donald E. Axinn Library. Its primary purpose is to document the history of the University and to provide such documentation to administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and other members of the University community. The Archives also assists scholars and other legitimate researchers who seek to evaluate the impact of the University and its activities on the history of American social, cultural, and intellectual development.

Hofstra University Library Special Collections Department / University Archives
123 Hofstra University | 032 Axinn Library | Hempstead, New York | 11549-1230
Voice: (516) 463-6411 | Fax (516) 463-6442

- 75th Anniversary Oral History Project
- Adams, John Cranford, Collection
- Axinn, Donald E. Videotapes
- Block, Jules Richard Collection
- Brand, Dana Collection
- Bulletins Collection
- Calitri, Charles J. Manuscript
- Chappell, Matthew N. Collection
- Coffin, Thomas Erwin Collection
- Cohn, Alfred and Roy Udolf Collection
- Debate '08 Collection
- Debate 2012 Collection
- Debate 2016 Collection
- Drama and Dance Productions at Hofstra Collection
- Dryden, Lt. Col. Charles W. Collection
- Dunn, Stephen Collection
- Embury, Aymar II Writings
- Hull, William D. Collection
- Judd, Gerrit P., IV Collection
- Lent, Norman F. Collection
- Levin, Harvey J. Collection
- Lynch, Edward J., Jr. Collection
- Mason, Richard F. Collection
- Mitchell, Broadus Collection
- Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra Collection
- Toddings, Cynthia (Earl) Collection
- Wachtel, Harry H. Collection
- Yuker, Harold E. Collection
- Zarb, Frank G. Collection
The 75th Anniversary Oral History Project Collection consists of over 100 audiotaped interviews with Hofstra administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, and students. The interviews were recorded by Hofstra students who were trained in oral history techniques and placed in the University Archives for research.

The collection includes biographical information, correspondence (especially about the Globe Theater), appointment books and printed material.

Donald E. Axinn (1929-2009) was an author, poet, aviator and investment banker. Axinn wrote twelve books of poetry and three novels, including Spin, which was made into a full-length feature film. He founded Donald E. Axinn Companies, a leading investment firm, and served as a director at the publishing house Farrar, Straus & Giroux. He became the Associate Dean of the Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1971. Axinn served on the Board of Trustees at Hofstra University from February 18, 1970-1979; he was on leave from 1979-1984, and fully resigned as of October 25, 1990. (He was made a Trustee Emeritus in 1979.) He also served on the Boards of Trustees for The Cradle of Aviation Museum at Roosevelt Field and the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. In 1983, he cofounded the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN), which feeds and houses the homeless. In acknowledgement of his generosity and many services to the University, the Hofstra University Library was renamed the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library in dedication ceremony held in December 1987.

The collection is composed of twenty-one videotapes and one audio cassette tape, all of which feature Donald E. Axinn. The tapes include interviews, television appearances and recordings of Hofstra’s December 1991 commencement exercises, at which Axinn was an honoree.

Professor, Author, Vice President

The Dr. Jules Richard Block Collection in the Hofstra University Archives consists of the personal and professional papers and publications of Dr. Block, who taught at Hofstra from 1956-1976, and then assumed executive level administrative roles at the University. Included in these roles is that of Vice President for Planning and Liaison. He held this position until his retirement in 2001.

The collection includes personal and professional correspondence relating to his roles as professor and administrator at Hofstra, correspondence relating to his civic duties as a professional at the University and in the community, his research studies and publications, and his inventions and other business endeavors, and other media such as cassette tapes, beta tapes, and video cassettes.

Collection Finding Aid


Dana Brand was an author and professor at Hofstra University. He was born in September of 1954 and died on May 25, 2011 at the age of 56. Brand was a scholar of American Literature and an expert on Hawthorne, Poe and Whitman. In addition, he was a NY Mets enthusiast, writing two books about being a fan, Mets Fan (2007) and Last Days of Shea: Delight and Despair in the Life of a Mets Fan (2009). The collection includes essays, newspaper articles, class notes, and notebooks.

Collection Finding Aid

Bulletins Collection

The University Archives maintains hard copies of past Hofstra Bulletins. If you require specific pages for re-certification or for any other reason, please contact Debra.A.Willett@hofstra.edu

Please include the following information:
- Course number and title
- Year and semester offered

For example:
English 01  Introduction to English
1997 Fall

Charles J. Calitri was born in New York City in 1916, where he graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in 1933. In 1939, he earned a B.S. degree with a major in English and minor in Italian from New York University’s School of Education. Calitri went on to earn an M.A. in English from N.Y.U. in 1948.

Professor Calitri initiated his more than twenty-year commitment to Hofstra University in 1960, as a teacher in the School of Education’s Secondary Education Department. In addition to his teaching, he served as Coordinator of Student Teaching, and from 1974 to 1977, as Chairperson of the Secondary Education Department.

He was appointed by the Board of Trustees in January, 1967 as Coordinator of NOAH (New Opportunities at Hofstra) program, and in the Fall of 1967 as Coordinator of Programs for the Educationally Disadvantaged. The following year Professor Calitri established and became Director of the federally financed program, Upward Bound—Hofstra’s program for educationally disadvantaged high school students. He served in these various capacities with distinction until 1973.

Calitri died in 1984.

The collection includes two copies (one annotated) of the manuscript for “The Goliath head”; a novel about Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610, a work of fiction.

Collection Finding Aid


Psychologist, Professor, Author, Researcher, Radio Broadcaster.

The Matthew N. Chappell Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional papers of Chappell, as well as those of Frank Henry (F.H.) Pike (1876-1953), a professor of physiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University) until his retirement in 1941. Pike was Chappell’s mentor during Chappell’s years of study and teaching at Columbia. In subsequent years, the two collaborated on research pertaining to the physiology of the nervous system and physiological psychology.

Online Exhibit

Collection Finding Aid

*Psychology Professor, Television Marketing Researcher*

The Thomas Erwin Coffin Collection at Hofstra University consists of personal and professional papers belonging to Coffin. The collection, made up of 6 series of materials, including biographical information, correspondence, research studies and reports, and printed materials. The arrangement of this collection's contents reflects Coffin's role at Hofstra as well as emphasizes the importance of his research on television marketing that began before he left Hofstra and continued during and after his tenure at the National Broadcasting Company.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)


The collections contain the drafts of the manuscript in chapter order. Also included are the papers of Alfred Cohn which are comprised of his various writings, correspondence and memos, course work, roll books and daily planners.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)

Debate ’08 Collection, 2008. 6.5 cubic ft.

On November 19, 2007, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that it had chosen Hofstra University for the site of the final 2008 presidential debate, to be held on October 15, 2008. The year that followed was highlighted by the University’s Educate ’08 initiative, a yearlong series of lectures, conferences, artistic performances and exhibitions, town hall meetings and interactive forums focused on the issues, history and politics of presidential elections. These events all led up to the debate itself, which provided the Hofstra community with a rare, firsthand look at the democratic process in action.

The Debate ’08 collection includes brochures, flyers, posters, DVDs, print material and ephemera and memorabilia related to the Educate ’08 initiative and the presidential debate. Noteworthy among the items in the collection is the commemorative gold coin of Hofstra University’s 50th anniversary tossed to determine the first presidential candidate questioned in the debate. Also notable are the specially-ordered Schott Zwiesel glasses used by the candidates on stage.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)
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<th>4.2 cubic ft.</th>
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<td>On October 16, 2012, Hofstra University hosted the second 2012 presidential debate, which was conducted in a town hall format in the David S. Mack Sports Complex and Exhibition Hall. (Hofstra University also hosted a presidential debate in 2008.) The participants in the debate were President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts.</td>
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<td>The collection includes brochures, flyers, banners, posters, photos and print material that chronicle many of the Debate 2012 series events. In addition, this collection contains debate memorabilia such as bags, decals, coffee mugs and water bottles, stationery, and campaign signage specifically designed to mark the celebration of this unique moment in American presidential politics. Preparatory events held by the university in anticipation of this occasion, the debate, and post-election news, were captured in both online and print media form and are part of the collection.</td>
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- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)

| Debate 2016 Collection, 2016.  
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<th>7.0 cubic ft.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The material in the Debate 2016 Collection documents the months leading up to the 2016 Presidential Debate at Hofstra, as well as the debate itself. Included in the collection are brochures, flyers, photographs, posters, print material, ephemera and memorabilia. This exhibit features images of material related to the preparation for the event and the presidential debate held at Hofstra University on September 26, 2016.</td>
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- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)
### Drama and Dance Productions at Hofstra Collection, 1937-current. 31.0 cubic ft.

The Drama and Dance Department at Hofstra University provides its students with the opportunity to develop and hone their skills as performers, and deepen their appreciation for these arts while on their way to careers in the theater and beyond. The Department performs several plays, musicals and dance concerts each semester.

Famous alumni of the Drama and Dance program include Susan Sullivan, Lainie Kazan, Madeline Kahn, James Barbour, Margaret Colin, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Davi, Peter Friedman, Tom McGowan, and Phil Rosenthal.

The collection, which spans the years 1937-current, includes programs, photos, posters, slides, negatives, contact sheets, CDs, awards, set designs, scripts, scrapbooks, newsletters, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Access the Digital Photos](#)


Charles Dryden was born September 16, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York to Charles Tucker Dryden and Violet Dryden, both Jamaican immigrants. On August 19, 1941 he began his aviation cadet training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. On June 9, 1943 he led the first ever black aerial combat mission in US Air Force history over Pantelleria, Sicily. After WWII, Dryden served in Korea, Japan, Germany, and various domestic military bases. Lt. Col. Charles Dryden retired from the USAF on August 31, 1962 after 21 years of service. Charles Dryden was assigned to Mitchel Air Field in Hempstead, N.Y. While stationed at Mitchel, Dryden was able to attend Hofstra University and completed his B.A. in Political Science in 1955. In 1957 he received his M.A. in Public Law and Government from Columbia University. In 1996 Charles Dryden was given an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Hofstra University. He died in 2008.

This collection includes, correspondence, photographs, notes, newspaper clippings, military documents, flight records, personal documents, awards, drafts and a signed copy of A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Dryden's personal recollection of his time as a Tuskegee Airman and other affairs.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
Dunn, Stephen, 1939-. Collection, 1947-2009. 23.0 cubic ft.

Poet and Distinguished Professor

The Stephen Dunn Collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Dunn, including various publications in which he appeared throughout his career. These are in the form of volumes, magazines, and articles. Also included is correspondence with other poets, in which they discuss Dunn’s poetry or the correspondents’. The collection also includes personal correspondence with friends and colleagues regarding topics other than poetry, as well as fan mail. A large part of the collection consists of early versions of his poetry, many of which are handwritten or notebook versions. There is also memorabilia from the Pulitzer Prize celebration and a scrapbook of that event.

Collection Finding Aid


Aymar Embury II was born in New York on May 15th, 1880. He graduated in 1900 from Princeton University with a degree in civil engineering and a year later received a master's degree. Embury is known as being the architect of many notable structures in New York City and throughout the country. He was the architect for much of Hofstra College (south campus) and of the East Hampton Free Library and Guild Hall. Additional buildings ranged from structures in the Central Park Zoo to the Triboro Bridge, a plan for an improved and expanded Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Lincoln Tunnel and the stadium on Randall's Island and the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge.

Aymar Embury died on November 14th, 1966 at 86 years old.

Embrey was the architect for Hofstra's south campus. The collection includes writings by and about Aymar Embury on a variety of subjects, most centered about the theme of architecture. This collection is made up entirely of photocopies brought together under particular headings.

Collection Finding Aid

Poet, Professor, Playwright

The William D. Hull collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Hull, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1946 until his death in 1984.

The collection includes personal and family correspondence, correspondence relating to his career as a professor at Hofstra and other institutions, and as a Fulbright scholar lecturing at universities in Sri Lanka and India; manuscripts of essays and lectures, poems, verse dramas, and his ten-volume poetic work Visions of Handy Hopper; magazines and books containing poems and articles by Hull; audiotapes of Hull reading his works, photographs, music manuscripts, drawings and sketches; personal items and artifacts.

Collection Finding Aid

Online Exhibit


Professor of History and Author

The Gerrit P. Judd IV Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional papers of Judd, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1950 to 1971. It consist of manuscripts of the books he has written, correspondence, lecture notes, and pictures covering his work at Hofstra University and elsewhere.

Dr. Gerrit P. Judd IV was a Distinguished Professor of history at Hofstra University for 21 years. He joined Hofstra in 1950 as chairman of the history department. Judd received his full professorship in 1959, and was given the title of Distinguished Professor 10 years later after stepping down from the chairmanship. An authority on European and Hawaiian history, Dr. Judd was the author of a number of books on both topics, including *A Hawaiian Anthology* and the widely used college text, *A History of Civilization*. He was a direct descendant of Gerrit P. Judd I, a medical missionary who played a key role in the early development of the Hawaiian kingdom, and who later served as the key minister in the Hawaiian cabinet from 1842 to 1854. Gerrit Judd IV wrote about his ancestor in the book, *Dr. Judd, Hawaii's Friend*, considered by many scholars as the most definitive volume of that period in Hawaiian history. Prior to coming to Hofstra, Dr. Judd was assistant professor of history at Franklin and Marshall College. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946 and 1950 to 1952, after which he was discharged as a Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He received his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from Yale University.

Collection Finding Aid

Online Exhibit
**Lent, Norman F. (March 23, 1931 - .), Collection, 1971-1992. 123 scrapbooks, 3 boxes of photographs 72.0 cubic ft.**

The Congressman Norman F. Lent Collection is comprised of documents from Lent's public service in the New York State Senate, and the United Stated Congress as a representative for New York State’s Fourth and Fifth Congressional Districts. The collection was donated by Congressman Lent and consists of scrapbooks constructed by Mr. Lent during his tenure as congressman, from September 1962 to June 1992. It focuses on local, state, and federal policy and the effects of legislation on Long Island. The scrapbooks contain election materials, congressional records, newspaper and magazine articles, official government letters, photographs, White House event invitations, keepsake items and photographs. This collection is organized chronologically in the form of scrap books. Noteworthy items include White House event invitations, Presidential inauguration event materials, photographs, congressional polling material, election materials, and congressional district surveys.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Samples From The Collection](#)

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*Economist, Author, Professor, Activist*

The Harvey J. Levin collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Levin, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1955 until his death in 1992.

He joined Hofstra in 1955 as an Assistant Professor of Economics, becoming an Associate Professor (1956-62), Professor (1962-64), and Chairman of Economics (1961-64). In addition to his concentration in economics, in 1975 he was appointed Special Professor of Law (Hofstra Law School), and in that same year became the Coordinating Chairperson for the Faculty Public Policy Workshop. In addition, in 1989 he was appointed University Research Professor.

- [Collection Finding Aid](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)
Edward J. Lynch, Jr. (1932-1987)


**Actor**

Edward J. Lynch, Jr. was born in 1932 and was a 1956 graduate of Hofstra College. A celebrated college actor, Lynch received the honor of joining Hofstra’s Mu Psi branch of Alpha Psi Omega, a national acting fraternity. Lynch was also the president of Green Wig, the on-campus acting club that was responsible for drama productions and he starred in various Green Wig performances. Lynch, who gained experience performing at Hofstra’s Annual Shakespeare Festival in plays such as ‘Much Ado About Nothing’, maintained a post-graduation acting career by performing in the Summer Shakespeare Festival in Central Park. Lynch would later perform in off Broadway plays, as well as holding positions with various local New York and Massachusetts theater groups, and performed on television and radio during the late 1950’s. Lynch died on October 30th, 1987, leaving behind two brothers. The Edward J. Lynch, Jr. Collection in the Hofstra University Archives consists of playbills, scripts, personal correspondence, photographs and memorabilia.

Collection Finding Aid

Professor Richard F. Mason (1929-)

**Mason, Richard F., 1929-. Collection, 1944-1990. 4.5 cubic ft.**

**Professor of Drama, Actor, Director and Writer**

The Richard F. Mason collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Mason, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1964 until his retirement with emeritus status in 1993.

The Richard F. Mason Papers at Hofstra University consist of scrapbooks covering his work from the late 1940’s through his application for full professor at Hofstra in 1979. In addition, correspondence, playbills, programs, reviews, flyers, and posters comprise the remainder of the materials.

Dr. Richard F. Mason was a professor of Drama as well as a talented artist, who excelled as an actor, writer, and director. He arrived at Hofstra University in 1964, after receiving his B.A. in Humanities from Boston College and both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theatre Arts from the University of Wisconsin. The teaching and research interests of Dr. Mason included theater styles and forms, twentieth century drama, directing, acting, and cinema.

Collection Finding Aid
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professor, Author, Politician, Civic Leader and Civil Rights Activist</strong></td>
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<td>The Broadus Mitchell Collection at Hofstra University contains family correspondence, professional correspondence and organizational correspondence which detail the events in Mitchell’s life. Also included are print materials, manuscript materials, a small amount of financial documents and personal items. Mitchell taught economics at Johns Hopkins from 1919 to 1939. He ran for Governor of Maryland in 1934 on the Socialist Party ticket. He spent successive years at Occidental College in California from 1939 to 1941 and at New York University from 1942 to 1944. He also taught at Rutgers from 1949 to 1958. Mitchell came to Hofstra’s New College in 1958 and retired in 1967 at 75; he received an Honorary Degree from Hofstra in 1967. In Tarrytown, New York he died at the age of 95.</td>
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<th><strong>Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra. Collection, 1965-1972 7.0 cubic ft.</strong></th>
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<td>Hofstra University's Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1965. It was one of only a few professional symphony orchestras founded and sponsored by an American university. The nucleus of the orchestra was a high quality chamber ensemble which had been successfully playing concerts in public schools for several years. Pro Arte disbanded after several years of budgetary problems.</td>
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<td>The collection consists of biographies, lists of Advisory Board and Pro Arte League members, minutes, budgets, information about performers, newsletters, clippings, photographs and two Pro Arte scrapbooks.</td>
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<th><strong>Toddings, Cynthia (Earl). Collection, 1936-1939. 0.25 cubic ft.</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Earl Toddings was born in 1918 and graduated from Hempstead High School in 1935. Cynthia Earl was very involved in activities at Hofstra; she was a member of the first student council, President of the Glee Club, member of Nexus, organizer and Co-Chairman of the Creative Club, May Queen of 1937, and Chairman of the Society of Charter Class Women. Earl graduated cum laude from Hofstra in 1939.</td>
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<td>She died in March of 1997 at age 79.</td>
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<td>The collection includes materials collected by Cynthia Earl Toddings during her time at Hofstra, 1936-1939.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyer, Civil Rights Activist, Professor, and Business Executive.</td>
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<td>The Hofstra University Archives, through Trustee Emeritus Bernard Fixler and Mrs. Lucy Wachtel, were given Harry Wachtel's Papers. The collection, encompassing approximately 15.0 cubic feet of paper documentation, with an additional 12.0 cf. of print materials, is arranged in seventeen series. The materials include information about a variety of Supreme Court cases, organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, many aspects of civil rights, and Wachtel's trip with King and his supporters to Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychologist, Professor, Administrator, Researcher, Writer, Lecturer</td>
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<td>The Harold E. Yuker Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional and research papers of Yuker, a professor of psychology at Hofstra University from 1948 until his death in 1997 and a leading authority on attitudes toward the disabled.</td>
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<td>Born with cerebral palsy in Newark, New Jersey shortly before the Depression, Yuker was the son of a baker and a seamstress. Dr. Yuker always maintained that although he was born with a physical disability, he did not consider himself handicapped. Widely recognized as a psychologist, Yuker was critical of the tendency of some disabled people to keep to themselves. His motto was, &quot;The most important thing for anyone with a disability is to learn to get along in a nondisabled world.&quot; This is how Harold Yuker lived his own life.</td>
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Zarb, Frank G., 1935-. Collection, 1948-2014. 25.0 cubic ft.

Political Advisor on Energy, Presidential Cabinet Member, CEO, Hofstra Trustee

Frank Zarb has been a cabinet member or an advisor to five United States Presidents. He is a graduate of Hofstra University (BA 1957 and MBA 1962) and has served in the US Army. He may be best known, however, as the “Energy Czar” when he worked in the US Energy Department and played an integral part in the US fuel allocation program during the oil crisis of the 1970’s or, as the Chairman of the NASDAQ stock exchange in the late 1990’s.

The collection webpage includes biographical information about Frank G. Zarb, the finding aid to his collected materials in the Special Collections Department of Hofstra University's Library, a digital scrapbook of photographs and captions created from materials in the archival collection, a link to Mr. Zarb's papers in the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and a series of excerpts from Oral Histories taken over the course of a year which examine Mr. Zarb’s many contributions to both US and New York State history. The full oral history interviews are also available in the Special Collections Department.