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## **NAACP, Schenectady Branch; Records**

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	NAACP Schenectady Branch Records
<b>ID:</b>	apap028
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1949-1982
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Reels
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The NAACP Schenectady Branch Records document concerns for discrimination in housing and employment and for the recruitment of black professionals from colleges and universities to the area. The records also show the Branch's involvement with area social service providers, labor unions, and other community organizations, as well as with General Electric, as the area's major employer.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, NAACP Schenectady (New York) Branch Records, 1949-1982. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the NAACP Schenectady Branch Records).

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## Administrative History

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The Schenectady Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in 1949 by an interracial group of men and women committed to the task of improving the status of Blacks in the Schenectady community. The first ten years of the Branch's activity were characterized by strong committee work in the areas of housing and employment. Committee work was focused on ameliorating discrimination in housing and hiring practices. At the National conventions of 1952

and 1953, the Branch was honored with the Thalheimer Award for outstanding performance in the elimination of discrimination in public housing.

The NAACP Schenectady (New York) Branch worked to eliminate discrimination against workers in local industry in a variety of ways, notably functioning as a clearinghouse for applicants and employers during the 1950s when many areas of employment were effectively closed to Blacks in Schenectady. At the same time, the Branch reached out to colleges and universities to recruit young Black professionals to the area. The 1970s saw the Branch reaching out into the community in new ways in order to keep interest in the group high. This activity included close contact with area social service providers and other community organizations. Internal branch problems surfaced at this time also, resulting in some dissipation of energies.

As a research source for investigating the status of race relations in a medium sized northern city, the records of the Schenectady Branch of the NAACP will be of some value. The presence of General Electric as a major employer in the city and a strong union presence sheds some light on race matters in labor as well as NAACP relations with socialist influenced groups. Systematic initiatives in housing and employment emanated from the local Branch from the time of its inception. Executive Committee files from the 1950s detail these initiatives.

The role of women in activist organizations and in civil rights work can be explored in these records through qualitative analysis of duties performed, often in membership drives and other outreach initiatives, fundraising events and organizational support. The Branch elected its first female President in 1959, Mrs. Malinda Myers.

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## Scope and Contents

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Records include Executive Committee minutes, 1949-1982 (missing December 1959-January 1963); membership meeting minutes, 1949-1980 (missing January 1963-1972, 1973 [only one meeting found], 1974, October 1975-April 1976); membership lists, 1949-1980; correspondence, 1949-1980; financial records, 1949-1979 (missing 1960-1962, 1966-1976).

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into 6 topical series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

EAD file created Encoded in EAD by Jeanne Manton 2014 1995 January

### Processing Information

Processed in 1995 by Jeanne Manton.

### Acquisition Information

The records were received from Joseph Allen, President of the NAACP Schenectady (New York) Branch. These records were lent to Dr. Gerald Zahavi as part of the Schenectady General Electric in the Twentieth Century Project with the understanding that the records would be microfilmed for addition to the Archives of Public Affairs and Policy of the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. The records were received by the University Libraries in October 1994. The records were organized with funding support from the Schenectady General Electric in the Twentieth Century Project and microfilmed with funding support from the Capital District Black History Project. The original records were returned to Joseph Allen after microfilming was completed in October 1994.

### Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

### Copyright

Per the microfilming agreement, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives may allow research use of the filmed records and grant permission for the scholarly non-commercial

publication of quotes from them. Rights to the materials still reside with the NAACP Schenectady (New York) Branch Records.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans -- Civil rights -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
- African Americans -- Civil rights -- New York (State) -- History -- Sources.
- African Americans -- Housing -- New York (State).
- Civil rights -- New York (State).
- African Americans -- New York (State) -- Schenectady.
- African Americans -- Employment -- New York (State).
- African Americans and Civil Rights Organizations
- Ethnic Groups
- Schenectady, New York
- Social Activists and Public Advocates
- Minutes
- Letters
- Registers
- Reports
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Schenectady Branch.
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- Archives.

## Collection Inventory

### Executive Committee Minutes, 1949-1982

#### Scope and Contents

Missing Years: Dec. 1959-Jan. 1963, May. 1964-Sept. 1973

The Executive Committee minutes document the proceedings of the Branch's Executive Committee meetings and include Board member and officer lists, committee reports, motions and resolutions and program and budget proposals. The Branch represented the interests of African Americans in social, political and legal issues. Members of the Executive Committee directed the Branch activities under the influences of local constraints and immediate community needs and the direction of the National office and National campaigns. Discrimination in public housing and in municipal hiring practices were early targets for legalistic attacks. Community outreach and interaction with area civic, labor and religious groups provided local support for the broadest social and educational aims including non discriminatory hiring by local private businesses.

Title/Description	Instances
Executive Committee Minutes, 1949	

	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1949 December-1950 October	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1951 July-1954 December	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1955	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1956 January-1958 September	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1958 October-1959 November	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1963 January-1964 April	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1973 September-1975 December	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1976	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1977	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1978	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1979	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1980	Reel 1
Executive Committee Minutes, 1981 April-1982 November	Reel 1

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## Membership Meeting Minutes, 1949-1980

### Scope and Contents

No Minutes exist for Jan. 1963-1972, 1973 (only one meeting found), 1974 and Oct. 1975-Apr. 1976.

Much of the content of the Members Meeting minutes closely parallels the initiatives reported in the Executive Committee meeting minutes, therefore, detailed contents notes are omitted. Reports presented as part of a meeting's minutes and provided as paper copy are included in the file with those minutes.

The Membership Meeting Minutes document the proceedings of the members' meetings including committee reports, outreach proposals and motions and resolutions from the rank and file membership of the Branch. The Branch presented a speakers' series and planned and executed special community events for outreach and fundraising. Women often managed fundraising functions. Close adherence to the campaigns of NAACP National and to its organizational procedure characterized the direction of the membership's activities. Affiliation of members with local, professional, religious and educational organizations is evident in the proceedings and programs followed.

Title/Description	Instances
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1949	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1949 December-1951 February	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1951	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1952 January-1955 November	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1956 January -1957 March	Reel 1

Membership Meeting Minutes, 1957 April-1959 May	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1960	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1961-1962	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1973	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1974	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1975	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1976	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1977	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1978	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1979	Reel 1
Membership Meeting Minutes, 1980 January	Reel 1

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## Membership Lists, 1949-1980

### Scope and Contents

These files contain the names, addresses, and dues paid by Branch members. Also included in the file are routine correspondence and membership reports to the National Membership Secretary in New York, New York.

Title/Description	Instances
Membership Lists, 1952	Reel 2
Membership Lists, 1954	Reel 2
Membership Reports, 1949-1958	Reel 2
Membership Reports, 1962	Reel 2
Membership Reports, 1974-1975	Reel 2
Membership Reports, 1976	Reel 2
Membership Lists and Reports, 1977-1978	Reel 2
Membership Lists and Reports, 1979	Reel 2
Membership List, 1980	Reel 2

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## Correspondence, 1949-1980



## Scope and Contents

Missing Correspondence for years, 1964-1974.

For miscellaneous correspondence of Edward Gamarekian, founding member of the Executive Board, see Series V: Subject Files under Gamarekian.

The Branch correspondence reflects interaction with local labor organizations, elected officials, and church and civic groups. Correspondence with NAACP National included routine business as well as the Branch's requests for guidance regarding, administration, leadership, organizational solidarity and Branch activities. Correspondence from Thurgood Marshall is notable. Local businesses corresponded with the Branch to inform members of equal opportunity employment. Public and private human services providers also corresponded frequently with the Branch, especially in the latter years of the 1970s. Correspondence of Edward Gamarekian, a founding member of the Executive Committee, is found under Gamarekian in Series 5: Subject Files.

Title/Description	Instances
Incoming Correspondence, 1949-1964	Reel 2
Outgoing Correspondence, 1949-1964	Reel 2
Incoming Correspondence, 1975-1976	Reel 2
Outgoing Correspondence, 1974-1976	Reel 2
Incoming Correspondence, 1977	Reel 2
Outgoing Correspondence, 1977	Reel 2
Incoming Correspondence, 1978	Reel 2
Outgoing Correspondence, 1978	Reel 2
Incoming Correspondence, 1979	Reel 3
Outgoing Correspondence, 1979	Reel 3
Incoming Correspondence, 1980	Reel 3
Outgoing Correspondence, 1980	Reel 3
Executive Committee "Call to Meeting" Announcements, 1980	Reel 3

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## Subject Files, 1949-1981

### Scope and Contents

The Subject Files contain records of Branch programs, committee work, news clippings and files on the careers of certain Branch members and officers. The Subject Files are organized alphabetically and span the entire period of 1949 through 1981 though the period of the 1970s is more heavily represented. The files include research on local housing conditions among Schenectady's black population in 1960. Local discrimination grievance cases are included.

Title/Description	Instances
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Act-So (Afro-American Cultural, Technological Scientific Olympics), 1979	Reel 3
Affirmative Action Plan, 1979	Reel 3
Affirmative Action: Schenectady Police Department, 1979	Reel 3
Allmond v. Workshop discrimination investigation, 1977	Reel 3
Art Center Theatre of Schenectady, 1980	Reel 3
Black and Hispanic Political Caucus, 1980	Reel 3
Chapter Applications (misc. doc. forms), Undated	Reel 3
Cintron, N.: employment matter, 1978	Reel 3
Community Outreach (miscellaneous), 1950-1970s	Reel 3
Conferences of Branches, New York State, 1979	Reel 3
Conventions, National, 19591978	Reel 3
Education (miscellaneous documents, scattered years), ca. 1964-1970s	Reel 3
Employment, ca. 1970s	Reel 3
Fair Housing Plan, 1979	Reel 3
Funding: CETA, 1979	Reel 3
Fundraising, 195419781979	Reel 3
Gamarekian, Edward, founding member of the Executive Board of the NAACP Schenectady Branch, 1949-1953	Reel 3
Grievances Cases, 19781979	Reel 3
Historical (incomplete), 1949-1975	Reel 3
Housing, discrimination, surveys (Union College Social Research Center), 195119601973	Reel 3
Housing, desegregation by the Municipal Housing Authority, 195119521959	Reel 3
IUE-UE, memorandum, 1951	Reel 3
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observances, 1975197719781979	Reel 3
Labor and Industry, 1978	Reel 3
LeFlore, Marzella, resume, 1978	Reel 3
May 17 Observances, 1979	Reel 3
Membership Drives, 19591992	Reel 3
Mississippi Project, Freedom Summer, 1964	Reel 3
Myers, Malinda, first female Schenectady Branch president, resume, 1979	Reel 3

Newsletter, Branch, 195119521977	Reel 3
Newspaper clippings (Miscellaneous topics), 1951-1982	Reel 3
Political Action (incomplete), 19641977197819791980	Reel 4
Poverty Program, 1964	Reel 4
Press Releases, 1977-1980	Reel 4
Press/Publicity Committee, 1977	Reel 4
Program Committee, 1958	Reel 4
Reorganization, 1977	Reel 4
"Sambo" restaurant demonstration, 1977	Reel 4
Schenectady Branch, Constitution and By-laws, 19521977	Reel 4
Speeches; meeting submissions, 1952	Reel 4
State Association assessments, 1979	Reel 4
Thomas, Willis, 1975-1978	Reel 4
Town Meeting Radio Program, 1951	Reel 4
WAST T.V., 1979	Reel 4
Youth, Youth Work (see branch newsletters), 195219641977	Reel 4
Zuber, Paul, 1978	Reel 4

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## Financial Records, 1949-1979

### Scope and Contents

Missing Years: 1960-1962, 1966-1976

The Financial Records include proposed budgets, financial statements, audits (1976 and 1978), revenue and fundraising reports, and records of membership dues paid.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Financial Statements, 1949-1959	Reel 4
Reports to the Treasurer, 1963	Reel 4
Financial Statements, 1964	Reel 4
Reports to the Treasurer, 1965	Reel 4
Audit, 1976	Reel 4
Financial Statements, 1976-1978	Reel 4
Treasurer's Journal, 1977-1979	Reel 4

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Audit, 1978

Reel 4

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Financial Statements, 1979 March-1981 January

Reel 4

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