



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Kay Zakariasen Greek Diners collection

1976-1977

MssCol 186206

Summary

Creator: Zakariasen, Kay

Title: Kay Zakariasen Greek Diners collection

Date: 1976-1977

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Kay Zakariasen in 2022.

Abstract: Kay Zakariasen (born 1948, Nebraska) is a New York City-based photographer and magazine editor. The collection is comprised of a photo essay she created as a student in 1976, and contains slides and interviews with Greek restaurant workers.

Preferred citation: Kay Zakariasen Greek Diners collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2023

Creator History

Kay Zakariasen is a photographer and Picture Editor at *Natural History Magazine*, an American Museum of Natural History publication. While studying photojournalism at the University of Minnesota in 1976, Zakariasen (her professional name was then Kay Caranicas) photographed and interviewed Greek immigrants in New York City who owned or managed restaurants, diners, bakeries, and grocery stores, as well as individuals who worked as street vendors. Most of the interviews Zakariasen conducted covered the experiences of Greek immigrants working in the restaurant business, their lives in Greece, and when they came to America. Most of the locations in this photo essay are in Manhattan, with some diners in Astoria, Queens. According to a 1972 survey conducted by the Hellenic-American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC) Job Placement department, 92% of diners in the five boroughs of New York City and surrounding areas were owned or managed by Greek immigrants.

Scope and Content Note

The collection holds materials created by Zakariasen for a 1976 photo-essay about Greek restaurant workers in New York City. Her files hold 400 color slides, copy negatives, photocopies, interview transcripts, and research compiled for the project.

The collection is arranged into five groupings comprised of Restaurants and Diners; Bakers; Street Vendors; Grocers; and Research and Notes. All the files contain photographic material and notes about each subject, except the research and notes file, which only includes paper material. The Restaurants and Diners grouping is arranged by individual establishment, in the order that Zakariasen maintained her files. Each file contains the original slides, as well as copy negatives and photocopies of a selection of images. Each file also contains a transcription of an interview with the owner or worker. Each transcript also notes the interviewee's name, where they lived in Greece, and the location and name of the diner. In addition to the individual restaurants, there is a folder of assorted slides depicting the exteriors of establishments.

The Bakers, Street Vendors, and Grocers files contain slides, copy negatives, and interview transcripts. However, each group is contained in a single folder and mainly features only one or two businesses.

Zakariasen's research files includes the survey from the Hellenic-American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC), correspondence with the HANAC Director, and Zakariasen's notes about the project, including captions, and the order of the collection.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Color slides

Negatives (photographs)

Transcripts

Subjects

Diners (Restaurants) -- New York (State) -- New York

Greek Americans

Immigrants -- New York Metropolitan Area

Occupations

Photographers.

Names

Zakariasen, Kay

Container List

Restaurants and Diners

- b. 1 f. 1 Retired Owners and Workers 1976
- b. 1 f. 2 Paradise Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 3 Symposium Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 4 Lucky Star Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 5 Plaza de Athene I, II, and III 1976
- b. 1 f. 6 Have a Donut Coffee Shop 1976
- b. 1 f. 7 Sea Fare of the Aegean Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 8 Grecian Souvlaki 1976
- b. 1 f. 9 Nick's Place 1976
- b. 1 f. 10 Duke's Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 11 1057 Restaurant 1976
- b. 1 f. 12 Pantheon 1976
- b. 1 f. 13 Nea Hellas 1976
- b. 1 f. 14 Shalimar Diner 1976
- b. 1 f. 15 Chicken Gourmet 1976
- b. 1 f. 16 Mike's Diner 1976
- b. 1 f. 17 Souvla-King 1976
- b. 1 f. 18 Souvlaki Pizza 1976
- b. 1 f. 19 Storefronts Only 1976
- b. 1 f. 20 Bakeries 1976
 - Alexander the Great and Poseidon.
- b. 1 f. 21 Street Vendors 1976
- b. 1 f. 22 Grocers 1976
- b. 1 f. 23 Research and Notes 1976-1977