

ArMs 2005.018
3 legal-sized document boxes
(1.5 cubic feet)
4C – 5.3.D

Records of the United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District
1930-2004

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Introduction

This collection contains the records of the United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District in Brooklyn, New York, New York State. The collection material dates from 1930 to 2004—tracing the club through name changes and the re-numbering of its district—and documents the Club's activities and interests, including meeting announcements and minutes, correspondence of Club chairmen, and yearbooks of the Club's annual dinner-dances. This collection was donated by the Honorable Martin M. Solomon in 2005. There are no restrictions on this collection.

Historical Note

The United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District has been located at 211 Kings Highway, Brooklyn since its founding in 1918. The United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District underwent three name changes since the 1960s. Originally called the United Regular Democratic Club of the 16th Assembly District, the club became known as the United Democratic Organization of the 47th Assembly District after the redistricting of voting assemblies in New York City in 1972. Some time between 1985 and 1992, the club again changed its name to Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District. The club's current name, the United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District, has been used since 2003.

The Club began as a small community branch of the Democratic Party of New York State. Under the leadership of the Honorable Kenneth F. Sutherland (d.1954), who served as the Democratic leader of the 16th Assembly District and New York State Executive Chairman until his death, the Club became highly active in communal activities. The United Progressive Democratic Club's involvement in Brooklyn activism included public school education and the testing of mentally-impaired children by the education board, low-income housing and re-housing of senior citizens, the rise in popularity of the American Communist Party amongst Brooklyn residents in the 1950s, and employment assistance for recently arrived immigrants living in Brooklyn.

The Club's past prominent members include former New York State Senator and New York State Insurance Inspector Albert B. Lewis (1925-) and the Honorable Irwin R. Brownstein (1930-), former Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice, New York City corporation counsel, and member of the New York State Democratic Platform.

Scope and Content

This collection, which ranges from 1930 to 2004, is composed of three boxes. The first part of the collection contains club meeting announcements, minutes, special events programs, rules and regulations, membership cards, member rosters, as well as club headquarters maintenance and janitorial records. It also includes photographs of members, newspaper articles from the Brooklyn, N.Y. area about the Democratic Party and its political activities, and material on the Club's neighborhood interests and activities.

Folders 1 to 9 contain all material relating to club announcements, meetings, minutes, events, membership, rules, the maintenance of club headquarters, and photographs. Folder 10 consists of newspaper articles regarding the Club or to Democratic Party activities in the New York City area. Folders 11 to 13 comprise material on the Club's political activities and interests, such as public school education in Brooklyn and lower-income housing. Of particular interest are Folders 12 and 13. Folder

12, "Nazi Party of America, 1960-1962" consists of a copy of a lawsuit filed by Club members Irwin R. Brownstein and Frank J. Pino in the New York Supreme Court of Kings County against the American Nazi Party and its leader, George Lincoln Rockwell on August 22, 1960. Brownstein and Pino attempted to obtain a court order prohibiting Rockwell from holding an American Nazi Party meeting and making a speech in New York City on Labor Day, 1960. This folder also includes a letter from Irwin R. Brownstein to the editor of the Jewish Press dated September 13, 1962 stating his disagreement with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's statement to the same magazine regarding the government's refusal to place the American Nazi Party on the federal list of subversive organizations. Folder 13, "Communism, undated" consists of two lists of American Communist Party members who live in Brooklyn and their occupations. This folder also contains an essay by Robert H. Pines about the local Brooklyn Communist Party and their congressional candidate, Lee Pressman.

The Club's topical activity files are followed by files on the Club's chairmen and other club members. Folder 17, "Frank J. Pino" includes two audio cassettes and a typed transcript of a 1993 radio interview pertaining to the Democratic Party of New York State and New York City politics. The rest of the collection is comprised of yearbooks of the United Progressive Democratic Club's annual dinner-dance. The yearbooks are arranged chronologically.

Processing Note

The original box that contained this collection held no particular order. Yearbooks were interspersed with material relating to club meetings as well as both personal and professional correspondence of the Club's prominent members.

Related Material

Walter A. Carley Papers (c.1920-1953), ArMs 1988.008.

Ephemeral Materials of the American Nazi Party, 1962-. In the Wilcox Collection of Contemporary Political Movements, part of the Kansas Collection at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library Special Collections Department, University of Kansas.

Access Points

Names – Individuals:

Brownstein, Irwin R. (1930-)

Lewis, Albert B. (1925-)

Pino, Frank J.

Rockwell, George Lincoln (1918-1967)

Sutherland, Kenneth F.

Names – Corporate:

American Communist Party

American Nazi Party

Democratic Party (New York, N.Y.)

United Progressive Democratic Club of the 47th Assembly District (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)

United Regular Democratic Organization of the 16th Assembly District (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)

Subject Headings:

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) – Politics and government
Politics – New York (State)

Form/Genre:

Correspondence
Yearbooks
Newspaper clippings
Minutes

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Meeting Announcements	1970-1979
	2	Minutes	1931-1974
	3	Other material relating to club meetings	1976-1978
	4	Events	1962-2003
	5	Club rules and regulations	1948-1976
	6	Membership cards	1956-1977
	7	Membership lists	1966-1969
	8	Building maintenance	c.1969-1972
	9	Photographs	Undated
	10	Newspaper articles	1949-1969
	11	Club activities and interests	1949-1968
	12	Nazi Party of America	1960-1962
	13	Communism	Undated
	14	Club Chairmen--Kenneth F. Sutherland	1930-1966
	15	Club Chairmen--Irwin R. Brownstein	1960-1964
	16	Club Chairmen--Albert B. Lewis	1967-1972
2	17	Club Chairmen--Frank J. Pino	1993
	18	Other prominent members	1952-1968
		Yearbooks	1936-1962
3		Yearbooks	1966-2004

