

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dori Maynard

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Maynard, Dori J.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard,
Dates:	March 9, 2011
Bulk Dates:	2011
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:59:52).
Abstract:	Journalism professor Dori Maynard (1958 - 2015) is president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and author of 'Letters to My Children'. She writes often on race and the need for diversity in the media. Maynard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 9, 2011, in Oakland, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2011_011
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalism Professor Dori Maynard was born on May 4, 1958 in New York, New York. She was raised by her father, Robert C. Maynard and step-mother, Nancy Hicks Maynard. In 1977, Maynard's parents founded the Institute for Journalism Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to training journalists of color and improving diversity in the media. They became the first African American owners of a major metropolitan newspaper when they bought *The Oakland Tribune* in 1984. Maynard attended Middlebury College and graduated with her B.A. degree in American history. After graduation she worked for *The Bakersfield Californian*, *The Patriot Ledger*, and the *Detroit Free Press*. In 1992, Maynard was awarded a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University. Maynard and her father were the first father-daughter duo to have received this award. Maynard specialized in researching public policy and poverty. When her father passed away in 1993, Maynard began work on *Letters to My Children*, a compilation of nationally syndicated columns written by her father with introductions written by Maynard. The book was published in 1995.

In 1994, Maynard began working at the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, renamed after Robert Maynard's death. Maynard worked on the *Fault Lines* project, a concept her father had originated, which later became the Institute's organizing principle for diversity initiatives. Maynard also began work on the *History Project*, a groundbreaking archive documenting and preserving the stories of African American journalists who integrated mainstream media in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2001, Maynard was appointed president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute and she received the "Fellow of Society" award from the Society of Professional Journalists that same year. In 2004, Maynard was named one of the "10 Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area" by CityFlight Media Network. Maynard has written many articles dealing with issues of race and diversity in the media. She has also written on her attempts to live on the "fault lines" in her daily life.

Maynard died of lung cancer on February 24, 2015, at the age of 56.

Dori Maynard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 9, 2011.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dori Maynard was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 9, 2011, in Oakland, California, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalism professor Dori Maynard (1958 - 2015) is president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and author of 'Letters to My Children'. She writes often on race and the need for diversity in the media.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Maynard, Dori J.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Maynard, Dori J.--Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education

Occupations:

Journalism Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, March 9, 2011. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_001, TRT: 0:30:17 ?

Dori Maynard describes her family's background. Her mother, Elizabeth Rosen, was born in New York City on May 25, 1937. Maynard's maternal family were Eastern European, Orthodox Jewish immigrants. Her father, Robert Clive Maynard, was born to Barbadian immigrants on June 17, 1937 in New York City. Maynard describes her father's side of the family as intellectual and religious. As a teenager, her father broke ties with his family and moved to Greenwich Village to start his writing career. Maynard's parents met while working at the 'New York Post', where they were copy staff. Her father remained in journalism and her mother eventually became the chief financial officer of the Morgan Library in New York. Maynard discusses her father's career, which includes the York 'Gazette and Daily', the Nieman Fellowship and the 'Washington Post'. She also talks about her parents' divorce when she was three years old, and their relationship.

Rosen, Elizabeth.

Jews Migrations.

Maynard, Robert C.

Immigrants--Barbados.

Blacks--Relations with Jews.

Interracial marriage--United States.

African American families--New York (State)--New York.

Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.)

African American fathers.

African American journalists.

Pierpont Morgan Library.

Harvard University. Nieman Foundation for Journalism.

Journalism.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_002, TRT: 0:29:58 ?

Dori Maynard discusses her father, Robert Clive Maynard's journalism career. He was awarded the Nieman Fellowship while working for the York 'Gazette and Daily' newspaper. He went on to work for the 'Washington Post', before serving as the senior editor of 'Encore' Magazine and writing for 'Black Enterprise' Magazine. Maynard describes living in Washington, D.C. during the Watergate scandal and her father's work with the 'Washington Post'. In 1975, he married Nancy Hicks, a black journalist and one of the first black women to join the 'New York Times'. Maynard discusses her father's co-founding of the Institute for Journalism Education in 1972 and his work as editor, publisher and eventually owner, of the 'Oakland Tribune'. She talks about the Maynard Institute, which trains multicultural managers to lead news organizations in a way that more accurately reflects all citizens. She also describes her earliest childhood memories, growing up in New York, and her interests as a child.

African American fathers.

African American journalists.

Harvard University. Nieman Foundation for Journalism.

African Americans--Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Watergate Affair, 1972-1974.

African Americans--Marriage.

Maynard, Nancy.

Maynard, Robert C.

African American children--New York (State)--New York--Social life and customs.

Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_003, TRT: 0:35:59 ?

Dori Maynard discusses her childhood activities and influences. She recalls being in the newsroom with her father, Robert Maynard, and being engrossed in various world events like the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers, and the church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama. Maynard attended the Downtown Community School, Woodward School and St. Ann's School in New York. When she was fifteen years old, she moved to Washington, D.C. with her father. There, she attended the Georgetown Day School and Woodrow Wilson High School. Maynard left high school during her last year without graduating, to travel around Africa while completing her application to Middlebury College. She describes her travels and some of the challenges that she faced. Maynard returned to the U.S. and enrolled in Middlebury College in 1978. She discusses her experience there, her decision to pursue and career in journalism, and themes that she writes about.

African American children--New York (State)--New York--Social life and customs.

African American journalists.

Evers, Medgar Wiley, 1925-1963--Assassination.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968--Assassination.

16th Street Baptist Church Bombing, Birmingham, Ala., 1963.

African American children--Education (Elementary)--New York (State)--New York.

African Americans--Education (Primary)--Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.).

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--Washington (D.C.).

Woodrow Wilson High School (Washington, D.C.)--Students.

African American students--International travel--Africa.

African American college students--Alabama--Tuskegee.

Middlebury College.

African American college students--Vermont--Middlebury.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_004, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

In 1978, Dori Maynard entered Middlebury College, where she majored in American history. She describes the campus as conservative, and different from leftist upbringing. Maynard also talks about her father, Robert Clive Maynard, who became the editor and then the owner of the 'Oakland Tribune'. Maynard graduated from Middlebury College in 1982, and was hired as a reporter at 'The Californian' newspaper in 1983. From 1985 to 1989, she worked for the 'Patriot Ledger' in Quincy, Massachusetts, and later for the 'Detroit Free Press'. She talks about living in Detroit, and the differences in attitudes between the suburbs of Detroit, and those of Boston and Quincy, Massachusetts. She also describes Detroit during the 1980s.

Middlebury College--Students.

African American journalists.

Maynard, Robert C.

African Americans--Social life and customs--Michigan--Detroit.

African Americans--Social life and customs--Massachusetts--Boston.

African Americans--Social life and customs--Massachusetts--Quincy.

African American college students--Vermont--Middlebury.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_005, TRT: 0:31:28 ?

From 1989 to 1992, Dori Maynard worked for the 'Detroit Free Press' where she covered the Republican senatorial race and the mayoral race. She then received a Nieman Fellowship. Maynard discusses her time as a Nieman Fellow. In 1993, her father, Robert Maynard, died of prostate cancer. After his death, the Institute for Journalism Education was renamed the Maynard Institute. Maynard explains the logic behind Fault Lines, a framework her father developed to look at diversity issues across race, class, gender, generational and geographical lines. She discusses the instant nature of the information age and its role as the new tool of activism. Maynard talks about editing a book of her father's columns, and turning the project into a memoir of his life called 'Letters To My Children'. Maynard also talks about her own column.

African American journalists.

Harvard University. Nieman Foundation for Journalism.

Maynard, Robert C.--Death.

Prostrate cancer--Mortality.

Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

Social problems--United States--Public opinion.

Sociology, Urban--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_006, TRT: 0:22:30 ?

In this closing section of her interview, Dori Maynard discusses the Chauncey Bailey Project. Chauncey Bailey was a graduate of the Maynard Institute who was murdered while working for the 'Oakland Post'. The project is a collaboration of various organizations who investigated the murder of Bailey. Maynard talks about how she dealt with both her mother's and husband's deaths. She talks about an article that she wrote about being forcefully removed from a Washington, D.C. hotel without cause, and her work with 'America's Wire' and issues of structural racism. Maynard reflects upon her career, her legacy, and how she would like to be remembered. She also describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community.

African American journalists.

Bailey, Chauncey, 1949-2007.

Bereavement.

Mothers--Death--Psychological aspects.

Spouses--Death--Psychological aspects.

Racism--United States.

Abandoned houses--California--Oakland.

Home repair and improvement--California--Oakland.