

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gale Horton Gay

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Gay, Gale Horton, 1954-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 14, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:39:42).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Newspaper editor Gale Horton Gay (1954 - ) has worked for both Champion Newspaper and Good Life magazine. Gay was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 14, 2006, in Stone Mountain, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_172
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Gale Harriet Horton Gay was born on April 10, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York to Jenny and J.C Horton. The family moved to Mount Vernon, New York where Gay attended public school. At Washington Junior High School, Gay played the violin in the school orchestra. It was here where she would write and perform her first musical composition. After graduation from Mount Vernon High School in 1972, she would enter Morrisville State College, in Morrisville, New York, and received her A.A degree in journalism in 1976 and her B.S degree in communications in 1978 from Syracuse University.

Gay was selected for an internship program that would lead to her writing for

numerous publications, which including the *Oakland Press*, the *Fort Worth Press* and the *Dallas Times Herald*. In 1987, Gay went to work for Scottish Rite Children's Hospital as the Director of Public Relations. Here, she promoted cultural diversity. This same year, she participated in the march for racial equality when she was one of the 20,000 marchers from around the country who converged on Forsyth County, Georgia. The march was led by Hosea Williams. Successful in public relations, Gay headed her own companies, Horton–Lind Communications and Horton Gay Communication from 1993 to 1999.

In 1999, Gay became part of Ace Communications, which then published the *Champion Newspaper* which became the legal organ for DeKalb County Georgia, the first African American newspaper to do so. Today, she is the Managing Editor of both the *Champion Newspaper* and the *Good Life* magazine published by Ace Communications.

Gay lives in Stone Mountain, Georgia with her husband, Cedric Gay, and her two children, Jean-Pierre and Imani.

Gay was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 14, 2006.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Gale Horton Gay was conducted by Denise Gines on December 14, 2006, in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Newspaper editor Gale Horton Gay (1954 - ) has worked for both *Champion Newspaper* and *Good Life* magazine.

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## **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

## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Gay, Gale Horton, 1954-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gay, Gale Horton, 1954---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MediaMakers

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## **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 Gale Horton Gay, December 14, 2006. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **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.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:40 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay was born on April 10, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York. Her father, J.C. Horton, was born in Huntsville, Georgia and was one of ten or twelve children. Her mother, Jenny Campbell, was born Jenny Richardson on January 15, 1926 in Mount Vernon, New York. Gay's maternal grandparents owned a large house there, where she lived with her mother, sister, cousin, aunt, and uncle, and other boarders. Gay recalls stories of boarders, walking through Mount Vernon with her grandmother, and weekend trips to New York City with her mother and sister. Her grandparents were from Jamaica and, when Gay was young, her mother made trips to the island and to Bermuda. Gay's mother worked for a telephone company, and taught her daughters to speak with perfect telephone diction. Gay describes Mount Vernon as a diverse community, with people of Jamaican, Puerto Rican, Italian, and Portuguese descent. She attended Robert Fulton Elementary School in Mount Vernon.

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:10 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay recalls her childhood in Mount Vernon, New York. In elementary school, she learned to play the violin and was allowed to compose a piece and perform it at her school assembly. While her elementary school teachers were all white, Gay had a few African American instructors at Mount Vernon High School. As a teenager, she focused on her schoolwork and briefly worked as a home secretary to pianist Ahmad Jamal. After graduating from high school in 1972, Gay moved to New York City, New York and worked as a secretary at McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. In 1974, Gay enrolled at the State University of New York at Morrisville, where she studied journalism. She received her A.A. degree in 1976 and her B.A. degree in communications from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York in 1978. She describes her experiences with racism at Morrisville, as well as the African American community at Syracuse.

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:32 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay reflects on her experience at State University of New York, Morrisville and Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. She recounts a story of a white roommate at Morrisville, an experience that taught her about dealing with racial discomfort on a personal level. Gay worked for the black student newspaper at Syracuse, as well as for the Syracuse Herald-Journal. After earning her B.S. degree in communications from Syracuse in 1978, Gay interned for Capital Cities Communications, where she worked for four newspapers within a year. She accepted a position as a general assignment reporter at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and later at the Fort Worth Times Herald. She married and had a son, Jean-Pierre Chery, in 1981. In the mid-1980s, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to begin working in public relations at Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center. She reflects on the differences between working as a journalist and as a public relations representative, and on some of the patients at the hospital.

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:00 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay describes her career as a journalist, publicist, and editor. She recalls articles she is particularly proud of, including an article on foreclosures in Kansas City, Missouri, in which people's homes were being foreclosed on and sold on the courthouse steps without the homeowners' knowledge. She reflects on skills she acquired as a general assignment reporter and how that knowledge guided her later in life. While working as a publicist for Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, Gay advocated for more racially inclusive advertising to better reflect the hospital's clientele. After working at the hospital for several years, she began the public relations firm Horton-Lind Communication with Dick Lind. Her clients included HistoryMaker Brenda Singletary. In 1999, Gay joined HistoryMaker Carolyn Glenn at Ace III Communications, where she, at the time of this interview, served as managing editor for Atlanta Goodlife magazine and The

Champion newspaper and as a travel writer.

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:50 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay talks about working for the Champion Newspaper and Atlanta Goodlife magazine as an editor and editorialist. She describes the structure of the newspaper and her colleagues, including HistoryMaker Carolyn Glenn. The Champion began as an African American-oriented newspaper and is now the legal organ for DeKalb County, Georgia, meaning that all legal notices are published through it, along with editorial content. In 1989, Gay married Cedric Gay, and they had a daughter, Imani, in 1992. She describes organizations she is involved with, including the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children, which offers job trainings, daycare, and other services for homeless women. Gay recalls marching with Hosea Williams in Forsyth County, Georgia in 1987 and offers reflections on her life and advice to her children. She shares her hopes for the African American community and reflects upon her legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Gale Horton Gay, Section  
A2006\_172\_001\_006, TRT: 0:11:30 2006/12/14

Gale Horton Gay narrates her photographs.