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: Dori Maynard

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard,

Dates: March 9, 2011

Bulk Dates: 2011

Physical Description: 6 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:59:52).

Abstract: Journalism professor Dori Maynard (1958 - ) 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 San Francisco, 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 J. 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 combo to have received this award, as her father had been an early recipient. 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.

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 San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 6 Betacam SP videocassettes. Journalism professor Dori Maynard (1958 - ) 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

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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/15/2011 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, March 9, 2011

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_001, TRT: 0:30:17
2011/03/09
Dori Maynard was born on May 4, 1958 in New York, New York. Her mother, Elizabeth Rosen, was also born in New York City, on May 25, 1937. Maynard's maternal family were Eastern European, Orthodox Jewish immigrants who migrated to the United States. Maynard's father, Robert Clyve Maynard, was born on June 17, 1937 in New York, New York to Barbadian immigrants. Maynard describes her paternal family as intellectually rigorous and religious. As a teenager, Robert broke ties with his family and moved to Greenwich Village in New York 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 Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, New York. Maynard discusses her father's career trajectory, which includes the York, Pennsylvania's "Gazette," "Daily" and the "Washington Post." He also was the recipient of Harvard University's Nieman fellowship.

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 2011/03/09

Dori Maynard discusses her father's journalism career. He was awarded the Nieman Fellowship while working for York, Pennsylvania's "Gazette" and "Daily" newspapers. He went on to work for the "Washington Post," was the senior editor of "Encore" Magazine and wrote for "Black Enterprise" Magazine. Maynard describes her experience 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, and eventually owner, of the "Oakland Tribune." Maynard discusses the Maynard Institute, which trains multicultural managers to lead news organizations in a way that more accurately reflects all citizens. Maynard describes her earliest childhood memories and growing up in Brooklyn Heights and Fort Greene, New York.

African American fathers.
African American journalists.
Harvard University. Nieman Foundation for Journalism.
African Americans--Social life and customs--Washington (D.C.)
African American marriages.
Maynard, Nancy.
Maynard, Robert C.
African American children--Social life and customs--Fort Green (New York, N.Y).
Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_003, TRT: 0:35:59 2011/03/09

Dori Maynard discusses her childhood activities and influences. She recalls being in the newsroom with her father, and being engrossed in various world events such as the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers, and the church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama. Maynard attended the Downtown Community School, junior high school at the Woodward School in Brooklyn, New York and ninth grade at St. Ann's School. When she was fifteen, she moved to Washington, D.C. with her father, where she finished high school. While living in Washington, Maynard attended the Georgetown Day School and Woodrow Wilson High School. Maynard left high school during her last year without graduating and traveled around Africa while completing her application to attend Middlebury College. After traveling throughout Africa, Maynard returned to the U.S. and enrolled in Middlebury College in 1978.

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.)
African American students--International travel--Africa.
African American college students--Middlebury College.

Middlebury College.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_004, TRT: 0:29:40 2011/03/09

Dori Maynard discusses being a student at Middlebury College, where she majored in American history. She describes the campus as conservative, and discusses the differences between the campus and her leftist upbringing. When Maynard began attending Middlebury, her father's notoriety was just beginning to flourish, and she describes the evolution of her family's reputation as he became the editor of the "Oakland Tribune" and then owner. Maynard graduated from Middlebury College in 1982, and was hired as a reporter at "The Californian" newspaper in 1983. After working for "The Californian," Maynard worked for the "Patriot Ledger" in Quincy, Massachusetts from 1985 to 1989. After leaving the Patriot Ledger, Maynard went to work for the
"Detroit Free Press." She tells the story of living in Detroit, and the differences in attitudes between the suburbs of Detroit, and those of Boston and Quincy, Massachusetts. She describes Detroit during the 1980s.

African American students--Middlebury College.
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.

Video Oral History Interview with Dori Maynard, Section A2011_011_001_005, TRT: 0:31:28 2011/03/09

Dori Maynard discusses her career track. She worked for the "Detroit Free Press" from 1989 to 1992, after which she was granted the Nieman Fellowship. While working for the "Detroit Free Press," Maynard covered the Republican Senatorial race and the mayoral race. Maynard discusses her time as a Nieman Fellow. In 1993, Maynard's father Robert Maynard died of prostate cancer. After his death, the Institute for Journalism Education was renamed the Maynard Institute. Maynard explains "Fault Lines," a framework her father developed to look at diversity across race, class, gender, generation and geography. She discusses the instantaneous nature of information and describes this phenomenon as new tools 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 discusses her column which fought the stigmas associated with urban areas.

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 2011/03/09

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 journalism organizations to investigate the murder of Bailey. Maynard discusses how she dealt with her mother and husband's deaths. She talks about an article she wrote about being forcefully removed from a Washington, D.C. hotel without cause, and also describes her work with "America's Wire" and issues of structural racism. When looking back on her career and life, Maynard states that she does not see anything that she would do differently. She considers her legacy to be the work that she and her husband did to fix up abandoned homes in Oakland, California. She wants to be remembered as someone who helped more people begin to see each other as complex individuals, and to help journalists depict people as they are.

African American journalists.
Attitude to Death.
Bereavement.
Mothers--Death--Psychological aspects.
Spouses--Death--Psychological aspects.
Racism--United States.
Abandoned houses--California--Oakland.
Home repair and improvement--California--Oakland.