

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Caroline Hunter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hunter, Caroline, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter,
Dates:	August 9, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:44:36).
Abstract:	Community activist and educator Caroline Hunter (1946 -) established the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement with her husband Ken Williams as a boycott effort that led to sanctions against apartheid South Africa. Hunter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 9, 2014, in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_246
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Anti-Apartheid activist and educator Caroline Hunter was born on September 5, 1946 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended Xavier University Preparatory School and graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana with her B.S. degree in chemistry in 1968.

After graduation, Hunter was hired as a research bench chemist for Polaroid Corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1970, upon the discovery of her employer's involvement in the South African apartheid system as the producer of the passbook photos, she and her future husband, co-worker Ken Williams, formed the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement (PRWM). Hunter and Williams became the first American activists to challenge their employers' South African investments. They led a seven-year boycott against Polaroid that included testifying before the United Nations and Congress about American corporations profiting from assisting the South African government. In 1971, Polaroid fired both Hunter and Williams, but the PRWM prevailed and by 1977 Polaroid completely pulled out of South Africa.

After her involvement in the PRWM, Hunter went on to work as an educator. She was a secondary science and math teacher, and volunteered on a number of school-community projects for at-risk youth, advocacy and support for diverse parents, and elimination of the achievement gap. She also taught math and science to Boston, Massachusetts's public high school students in summers and Saturday workshops. In 1999, Hunter earned her M.Ed. degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and became the assistant principal of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

Hunter was invited to give the keynote at the Dr. Effie Jones Memorial Luncheon at the AASA National Conference on Education, at the Music City Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, and received the Dr. Effie Jones Humanitarian Award from the AASA – The School Superintendents Association on February 14, 2014. Hunter received the 2012 Rosa Parks Memorial Award by the National Education Association for leading the

effort that led to sanctions against apartheid in South Africa. The South African Partners presented the Amandla Award to Hunter in 2012, and the Massachusetts Teachers Association presented her with the Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award in 2011. In 1998, after her husband, Ken Williams, passed away, she and her daughter, Lisette, founded the Ken Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund (KWMS), of which Hunter served as secretary and the annual golf tournament coordinator. The KWMS Fund has awarded more than \$30,000 in college scholarships to needy high school students from Cambridge and Martha's Vineyard for outstanding social justice work and art.

Caroline Hunter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 9, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Caroline Hunter was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 9, 2014, in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Community activist and educator Caroline Hunter (1946 -) established the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement with her husband Ken Williams as a boycott effort that led to sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

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:

Hunter, Caroline, 1946-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hunter, Caroline, 1946---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Community Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Caroline Hunter, August 9, 2014. 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 Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_001, TRT: 1:29:28 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_002, TRT: 2:29:56 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_003, TRT: 3:29:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_004, TRT: 4:27:33 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_005, TRT: 5:33:47 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_006, TRT: 6:30:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_007, TRT: 7:30:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Caroline Hunter, Section A2014_246_001_008, TRT: 8:13:13 ?