

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nadine P. Winter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Winter, Nadine P., 1924-2011
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter,
Dates:	May 2, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:55:13).
Abstract:	Community activist and city council member Nadine P. Winter (1924 - 2011) is the founder of Hospitality House and Health Action Information Network, and a former member of the Washington, D.C. City Council. Winter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 2, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_115
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Former Washington, D.C. City Council member Nadine Poole Winter, founder of Hospitality House and Health Action Information Network, was born in New Bern, North Carolina on March 3, 1924. The daughter of Elnora Kenyon Poole and Sam Poole, Winter grew up in North Carolina and attended public school in Winston-Salem, where her family ran a brickyard. She graduated from Atkins High School in 1941 and enrolled in Livingstone College in nearby Salisbury, North Carolina. From there, she went to New York City where she worked as a cook while attending Brooklyn College. It was then that she first became involved as a community activist by opening a storefront community center to foster cultural understanding in her neighborhood.

In 1945, Winter came to Washington, D.C. to work on her master's thesis on urban renewal at Federal City College. In D.C., she opened a center similar to her Brooklyn facility, which she called "Unity." Throughout the 1950s, Winter worked in various positions in the federal government, yet remained committed to her outside organizing projects. In 1959, she founded Hospitality House, an organization helping low-income families in Washington, D.C. Winter's community involvement ultimately led to her role in city government. Winter represented Ward 6 on the D.C. Council from 1974 to 1990. Her ward encompassed much of Anacostia and part of Northeast Washington, including the H Street corridor. After retiring from government, she founded Health Action Information Network, a non-profit agency providing health education and a community resource.

Winter belongs to the National Association of Social Workers. She is a founding member of the National Congress of Black Women and a member of the Self-Determination for D.C. Coalition. She is active in the community of breast cancer survivors and participates in many other activities and organizations.

Nadine Winter passed away on August 26, 2011.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nadine P. Winter was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 2, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Community activist and city council member Nadine P. Winter (1924 - 2011) is the founder of Hospitality House and Health Action Information Network, and a former member of the Washington, D.C. City Council.

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:

Winter, Nadine P., 1924-2011

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Winter, Nadine P., 1924-2011--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Washington (D.C.). Board of Common Council

Occupations:

Community Activist

City Council Member

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|PoliticalMakers

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 Nadine P. Winter, May 2, 2005. 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 Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00
?

Nadine P. Winter was born on March 3, 1924 in New Bern, North Carolina. Her mother, Elnora Poole, was born in Maysville, North Carolina. Winter's maternal

grandfather, John Kenion, owned a logging business in North Carolina. During his travels, he fathered children outside of the family, unbeknownst to Winter and her family until she met her long lost half uncle later in life. Winter's mother was educated through classes at a church and later became a dietician. She was a great cook and taught Winter how to cook as well. Church was the epicenter for Winter's mother since it provided food and education for people in need. Winter's father, Sam Poole, was born in New Bern and had five brothers, all of whom were masons. Around the age of five or six, Winter's family's home was burned down, forcing them to move to Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_002, TRT: 0:31:00
?

Nadine P. Winter's maternal grandfather lost his money during the Great Depression but kept his house and farm, which enabled his family to survive. Winter remembers the smell of tobacco and the segregation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. At her father's brickyard, she was responsible for paying the workers. Her defiant nature came out when her mother bought eggs and found they were bad. The vendor denied it when confronted by Winter. Angered, she let his chickens out of the coop. Most of the chickens were recovered, and her mother refused to punish her as the man demanded. Influenced by her mother's religious faith, she attended Goler Memorial AME Zion Church. She studied home economics at Fourteenth Street Elementary School and Atkins High School. With her principal's recommendation, she attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, but after questioning a lesson, she was asked to leave. She describes searching for courthouse records on the fire that consumed her childhood home in New Bern.

Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_003, TRT: 0:30:20
?

Nadine P. Winter organized a chapter of the Baptist Young Peoples Union of America at her church. At Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, her favorite teacher was Togo D. West, Sr., father of U.S. Secretary of the Army and Secretary of Veterans Affairs HistoryMaker The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr. After graduating in 1941, she attended Livingstone College for six months. She then studied at Hampton Institute in Virginia. Working as a cook in New York City she earned enough to support her ailing parents while paying off their mortgage. She also took night classes at Brooklyn College and opened a storefront community center named Unity. Upon moving to Washington, D.C. in 1945, she studied urban renewal for her master's degree at Federal City College. She was employed at the Pentagon in various roles. While working at a home appliance store, she found herself spending more time with community outreach projects, so she founded Hospitality House Inc. to serve low-income families.

Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_004, TRT: 0:30:40
?

Nadine P. Winter's Hospitality House Inc. was saved from its mounting debt by local businesswoman Cecelia Penny Scott, who raised money from number-runners and other patrons at her bar. Scott joined the board, and Winter began running Hospitality House full time. The organization operated on a philosophy of self-help, giving aid in exchange for volunteer work. HistoryMaker The Honorable Marion Barry came to Hospitality House when he first arrived in D.C., using it as a launching pad for his own community outreach. The organization also inspired child psychiatrist HistoryMaker Dr. James Comer, who volunteered there. Winter participated in the March on Washington and Selma to Montgomery March. Winter remembers Robert F. Kennedy letting

Hospitality House children swim at his home when public pools were still segregated, the support she received from the Kennedy family, and a car accident she was involved in while traveling to Arkansas for school desegregation. She also describes her method of community outreach.

Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_005, TRT: 0:28:42
?

Nadine P. Winter shares her philosophy of outreach, which is helping people help themselves. With HistoryMaker Dick Gregory, she worked on welfare rights in Chicago, Illinois. Winter lost her first election for the Washington, D.C. school board. When Congress passed the Home Rule Act in 1974, she ran for the first Council of the District of Columbia, and her grassroots campaign beat well-funded candidates. Many other civil rights activists also served on the first council, including HistoryMaker The Honorable Marion Barry, Douglas E. Moore and Julius Hobson. As a council representative, she addressed pollution and its health impacts as well as education for the whole family. She pioneered urban homesteading, organizing the sale of housing at the price of a dollar for low-income individuals. Winter describes her concerns about funding for non-profit organizations, her friendship with Barry, and her thoughts about his time as mayor.

Video Oral History Interview with Nadine P. Winter, Section A2005_115_001_006, TRT: 0:24:31
?

Nadine P. Winter's mother was dying when Winter graduated from Federal City College. Despite this, her mother found the strength to attend the graduation ceremony and share in Winter's success. As a cancer survivor, Winter was inspired by HistoryMaker Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. to address health issues like cancer and obesity in Washington, D.C. Winter founded Health Outreach Information Network, Inc. to provide health education and a community resource. She served as a member of the Electoral College during the presidential election of 2000. Despite her membership, she strenuously objects to its existence. Winter describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She concludes by reflecting upon her life, legacy, and how she would like to be remembered.