

# D.C. Oral History Collaborative Collection 180

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 04, 2019. Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Stage

# **Table of Contents**

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents	3
Administrative Information	3
Collection Inventory	4
Series 1: Whitman-Walker Health Oral History Project	4
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	4
Sub-Series 2: Transcripts	7
Series 2: Mount Pleasant Riot Oral History Project	9
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	9
Sub-Series 2: Transcripts	14
Series 3: Buzzard Point Oral History Project	18
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	18
Sub-Series 2: Transcripts	22
Series 6: Federal City College Oral History Project	27
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	27
Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts	32
Series 7: Asian American Voices in the Making of Washington, D.C.'s Cultural Landscape Oral History	
Project	40
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	40
Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts	45
Series 11: Voices of The DC Fort Totten Storytellers Oral History Project	
Sub-Series 1: Interviews	55
Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts	59

# **Summary Information**

**Repository:** Stage

**Title:** D.C. Oral History Collaborative Collection

**ID:** 180

Date [inclusive]: 2016

**Physical Description:** 100 Gigabytes

Language of the

Material:

English

# **Scope and Contents**

D.C. Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC) is a citywide initiative to train community members in oral history skills, fund new and ongoing oral history projects, connect volunteers with oral history projects, and publicize existing oral history collections. DCOHC is a project of DC Public Library, HumanitiesDC, and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. This collection contains oral history interviews, transcripts, and indexes produced by DCOHC grantees.

# **Administrative Information**

#### **Publication Statement**

Stage

^ Return to Table of Contents

<sup>^</sup> Return to Table of Contents

<sup>^</sup> Return to Table of Contents

# **Collection Inventory**

# Series 1: Whitman-Walker Health Oral History Project

# **Biographical / Historical**

Whitman-Walker Health, formerly Whitman-Walker Clinic, is a non-profit community health center in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that specializes in HIV/AIDS treatment and LGBTQ healthcare. Founded as an affirming health center for the gay and lesbian community in 1978, Whitman-Walker was one of the first responders to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in DC and became a leader in HIV/AIDS education, prevention, diagnosis and treatment. In recent years, Whitman-Walker has expanded its services to include primary healthcare services, a stronger focus on queer women's care, and youth services.

#### **Scope and Contents**

The Whitman-Walker Health Oral History Collection contains 10 audio interviews of members of the Whitman-Walker community. The interviews were conducted by Hannah Byrne and Jewel Addy in late 2017 and early 2018 to celebrate the 40th Anniversay of Whitman-Walker Health. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

Title/Description Instances

Barbara Lewis interview, 2017-08-17

# **Biographical / Historical**

Barbara Lewis is a healthcare professional, longtime Whitman-Walker Clinic volunteer, and current Physician Assistant at Whitman-Walker Health.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Barbara Lewis discusses her healthcare background, her relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin interview (part 1 of 2), 2017-08-17

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Carl Corbin dIscusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin interview (part 2 of 2), 2017-08-17

# **Biographical / Historical**

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Carl Corbin further dIscusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

D Magrini interview (part 1 of 2), 2017-09-27

#### **Biographical / Historical**

D Magrini is the Community Committment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

D Magrini discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

D Magrini interview (part 2 of 2), 2017-10-15

# Biographical / Historical

D Magrini is the Community Committment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

### **Scope and Contents**

D Magrini further discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox interview, 2017-07-23

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox is an LGBT activist and patient at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox discusses his background, how he came to use the services at Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Gerard Tyler interview, 2017-11-19

# **Biographical / Historical**

Gerard Tyler is a patient mentor and longtime volunteer at Whitman-Walker's Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic.

# **Scope and Contents**

Gerard Tyler discusses growing up in Fairfax Village, being a mentor at Whitman-Walker, his work with Whitman-Walker's STP clinic, his menengitis diagnosis, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Joanne Sincero interview, 2017-11-13

# **Biographical / Historical**

Joanne Sincero is a Welless Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

# **Scope and Contents**

Joanne Sincero discusses her work with the Lesbian Services Program at Whitman-Walker, her transition to a full time position with Whitman-Walker, the joys of a queer-friendly workplace, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Kermit Turner interview, 2017-09-20

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Kermit Turner is a longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

# **Scope and Contents**

Kermit Turner discusses his childhood in Annapolis, MD, being the first African American page at Anne Arundel County Public Library, moving to Boston, his return to DC, his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and his Lymphoma diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Shawn Henderson interview, 2017-11-27

# **Biographical / Historical**

Shawn Henderson is an artist and longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Shawn Henderson discusses his life in Virginia and Washington, DC, his love for sports, parenthood, his religious upbringing, living with HIV, and his experiences at Whitman-Walker as a patient.

# **Sub-Series 2: Transcripts**

#### Title/Description Instances

Barbara Lewis transcript, 2017-09-15

# **Biographical / Historical**

Barbara Lewis is a healthcare professional, longtime Whitman-Walker Clinic volunteer, and current Physician Assistant at Whitman-Walker Health.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Barbara Lewis discusses her healthcare background, her relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin transcript (part 1 of 2), 2017-09-28

# **Biographical / Historical**

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

# **Scope and Contents**

Carl Corbin dIscusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin transcript (part 2 of 2), 2017-09-28

### **Biographical / Historical**

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Carl Corbin further dIscusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

D Magrini transcript (part 1 of 2), 2017-11-08

#### **Biographical / Historical**

D Magrini is the Community Committment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

D Magrini discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage,

power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

D Magrini transcript (part 2 of 2), 2017-11-08

### **Biographical / Historical**

D Magrini is the Community Committment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

D Magrini further discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox transcript, 2017-09-05

# Biographical / Historical

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox is an LGBT activist and patient at Whitman-Walker.

### **Scope and Contents**

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox discusses his background, how he came to use the services at Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Gerard Tyler transcript, 2017-11-27

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Gerard Tyler is a patient mentor and longtime volunteer at Whitman-Walker's Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gerard Tyler discusses growing up in Fairfax Village, being a mentor at Whitman-Walker, his work with Whitman-Walker's STP clinic, his menengitis diagnosis, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Joanne Sincero transcript, 2017-11-20

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Joanne Sincero is a Welless Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Joanne Sincero discusses her work with the Lesbian Services Program at Whitman-Walker, her transitiion to a full time position with Whitman-Walker, the joys of a queer-friendly workplace, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Kermit Turner transcript, 2017-09-28

### **Biographical / Historical**

Kermit Turner is a longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

# **Scope and Contents**

Kermit Turner discusses his childhood in Annapolis, MD, being the first African American page at Anne Arundel County Public Library, moving to Boston, his return to DC, his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and his Lymphoma diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Shawn Henderson transcript, 2017-11-26

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Shawn Henderson is an artist and longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

# **Scope and Contents**

Shawn Henderson discusses his life in Virginia and Washington, DC, his love for sports, parenthood, his religious upbringing, living with HIV, and his experiences at Whitman-Walker as a patient.

^ Return to Table of Contents

# Series 2: Mount Pleasant Riot Oral History Project

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Mount Pleasant is a neighborhood in Ward 1 of Washington, D.C., and is bordered by Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights, and Cleveland Park. In 1991, rioting was sparked in the neighborhood by the shooting of a Salvadoran man by an African American police officer. These interviews touch on memories of the riots, community-police relations, the history of Mount Pleasant, gentrification, and how the neighborhood changed in response to the events of 1991.

#### **Scope and Contents**

The Mount Pleasant Riot Oral History Collection contains 10 audio interviews of people who were members of the Mount Pleasant, D.C. community during the riot of 1991. The interviews were conducted by Pat Scallen in late 2017 and early 2018. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

Title/Description Instances

Alice Kelly interview, 2018-01-10

# **Biographical / Historical**

Alice Kelly has lived on Lamont Street in Mt. Pleasant since 1983. She has been actively involved in the neighborhood since, serving as chair of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) as well as working with Historic Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Main Street, the Mt. Pleasant Business Association, and the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Ms Kelly has headed the policy office of the District Department of Transportation for the past 14 years.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Alice Kelly discusses her initial move to Mount Pleasant, her original impressions of the neighborhood, the improvements at the local elementary school, community efforts to improve the main street, her involvement with the ANC, and the Mount Pleasant riot.

Arturo Griffiths interview, 2018-01-04

# **Biographical / Historical**

Arturo Griffiths is a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant and community activist. Born in Panama, he attended DC public schools from grade school through high school and studied at Howard University. He is a co-founder of the Latin American Youth Center and has worked in a variety of capacities organizing in the past several decades. Currently he runs Trabajadores Unidos, an organization which supports day laborers in the Washington, DC region.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Arturo Griffiths discusses his childhood in Panama, his family's move to DC, learning English, attending Howard University, his political awakening, DC's latino community, Mayor Barry's relationship with the latino community, the ways in which the 1991 riot affected latinos in Mount Pleasant, and the effects of gentrification in the neighborhood.

Charlene Howard interview, 2017-10-31

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Charlene Howard is a longtime Mt. Pleasant resident who lives in the same house that she grew up in on Hobart St NW. Her household is one of the few remaining multi-generational African American families in the neighborhood. She fondly recalls her formative childhood and adolescent years in Mt. Pleasant and reflects upon their importance in shaping her personal values and

understanding of the importance of community and diversity. Charlene returned to Hobart St to raise her children and remains actively engaged in local affairs.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Charlene Howard discusses her childhood in Adams Morgan, the political activism of Mount Pleasant residents in the 1970s, drug use in Washington DC, police-community language barriers, her memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and gentrification of the neighborhood.

Elinor Hart interview, 2017-11-10

# **Biographical / Historical**

Elinor Hart has been a homeowner on Hobart St. in Mt. Pleasant since 1974. During this time she has worked closely with the Mt. Pleasant Main Street Association and Historic Mt. Pleasant. Ms Hart has a strong interest in affordable housing and currently coordinates a school partnership for the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in addition to promoting statehood for Washington, DC.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Elinor Hart discusses moving to Mount Pleasant in 1974, changing demographics of the neighborhood, the controversy of the neighborhood's Historic District designation, her memories of the 1991 riot, police-community relations, and gentrification.

José "Chico" Diaz interview, 2017-12-15

#### **Biographical / Historical**

José (Chico) Diaz has been affiliated with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) for over two decades as a participant in its youth programs and later as an employee. As a child in El Salvador, Mr. Diaz battled polio while living in a zone of conflict between guerrilla and military forces. He arrived in Washington, DC, attended DC public schools, and has since made the District his home. Mr. Diaz is the Director of Information Technology at LAYC.

#### **Scope and Contents**

José Diaz discusses moving to the US at age 15, his recovery from polio, Mount Pleasant in the 1980s, tensions between latino and african-american youth, the Mount Pleasant riot, and community-police relations.

José Sueiro interview, 2017-11-25

# Biographical / Historical

José Sueiro has lived in Adams Morgan and has been intimately involved in the Washington, DC Latino community since the 1970s. He has worked with area youth as Executive Director of the Latin American Youth Center and as a soccer coach at local high schools. Mr. Sueiro is also the unofficial scribe of the Latino community, having edited several local newspapers (both in Spanish and in English) focused on DC's Latino community. He worked in city government under Mayor Anthony Williams and currently consults with Metro DC Hispanic Contractors Association while running a blog on local Latino affairs, metrodiversity.com.

#### **Scope and Contents**

José Sueiro discusses his studies at GW university, his move to Panama, his return to DC, his start in the newspaper industry and work at El Latino, DC police's lack of experience with latino youth, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and Mayor Barry's close relationship to the latino community in DC.

Mark Poletunow interview, 2017-11-18

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Mark Poletunow served the Latino community in DC for over two decades as a Capuchin friar. During this time, he worked at the Capilla Latina (now Our Lady Queen of the Americas Catholic parish), served as associate pastor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, coordinated Hispanic Catholic catechism for the Archdiocese of Washington, and was the Executive Director of the Hispanic Catholic Center. Mr. Poletunow currently is president of the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Mark Poletunow discusses his arrival in DC, teaching English as a second language to Spanish-speaking people, identification with immigrant communities, his work at the Spanish Catholic Center, poor treatment of the latino community by DC police, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot and their aftermath.

Pedro Avilés interview, 2017-11-15

### **Biographical / Historical**

Pedro Avilés is a Salvadoran American and a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant. He has worked closely with and has represented the Latino community in Washington, DC in a variety of positions, including serving as a founding member and the executive director of the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Mr. Avilés is an

organizational development specialist who has consulted for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the World Bank, the government of El Salvador, and a variety of non-profit agencies.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Pedro Avilés discusses moving to Adams Morgan in 1974, his memories of Mount Pleasant, his involvement with the Sacred Heart Church Theatre Group, racial identity, tensions between teachers at DC Public Schools and non-English-speaking students, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, his subsequent involvement with DC's Latino Task Force, and police-community relations in DC.

Robert Fleming interview, 2017-10-30

# **Biographical / Historical**

Robert Fleming is a longtime resident and homeowner in Mt. Pleasant. He moved into the neighborhood in 1975 and from the beginning was intimately involved in neighborhood affairs. He served three terms as an ANC commissioner during the 1980s and co-founded Neighbors Consejo, a local community organization that provided bilingual rehabilitation services to indigent alcoholics. Mr. Fleming has organized workshops on home security and street safety for women and is a founding board member of the Mount Pleasant Village, a mutual support organization for seniors.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Robert Fleming discusses moving to Mount Pleasant, his struggle with alcohol, his involvement in the Mount Pleasant ANC, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, gentrification, public intoxication, the improvements in community policing in the neighborhood after the riot, and inter-community relations in Mount Pleasant.

Suann Hecht interview, 2017-11-17

# **Biographical / Historical**

Suann Hecht is a social worker and community activist who has worked with at-risk youth in Washington, DC for 22 years. Known affectionately as Mama Suann during her time at the Latin American Youth Center's Drop-in Center, Ms Hecht has since devoted her efforts to working with juveniles in detention centers and as wards of the city. She retired in 2017 and spends her time between Columbia Heights and Latin America.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Suann Hecht discusses moving from New York City to a group house in Mount Pleasant in 1972, her memories of the neighborhood, her involvement with the Latin America Youth Center, the city's handling of the Mount Pleasant riot, the demographics of the neighborhood, and the aftermath of the riot.

# **Sub-Series 2: Transcripts**

# Title/Description Instances

Alice Kelly transcript, 2018-02-02

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Alice Kelly has lived on Lamont Street in Mt. Pleasant since 1983. She has been actively involved in the neighborhood since, serving as chair of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) as well as working with Historic Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Main Street, the Mt. Pleasant Business Association, and the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Ms Kelly has headed the policy office of the District Department of Transportation for the past 14 years.

# **Scope and Contents**

Alice Kelly discusses her initial move to Mount Pleasant, her original impressions of the neighborhood, the improvements at the local elementary school, community efforts to improve the main street, her involvement with the ANC, and the Mount Pleasant riot.

Arturo Griffiths transcript, 2018-02-09

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Arturo Griffiths is a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant and community activist. Born in Panama, he attended DC public schools from grade school through high school and studied at Howard University. He is a co-founder of the Latin American Youth Center and has worked in a variety of capacities organizing in the past several decades. Currently he runs Trabajadores Unidos, an organization which supports day laborers in the Washington, DC region.

# **Scope and Contents**

Arturo Griffiths discusses his childhood in Panama, his family's move to DC, learning English, attending Howard University, his political awakening, DC's latino community, Mayor Barry's relationship with the latino community, the ways in which the 1991 riot affected latinos in Mount Pleasant, and the effects of gentrification in the neighborhood.

# Biographical / Historical

Charlene Howard is a longtime Mt. Pleasant resident who lives in the same house that she grew up in on Hobart St NW. Her household is one of the few remaining multi-generational African American families in the neighborhood. She fondly recalls her formative childhood and adolescent years in Mt. Pleasant and reflects upon their importance in shaping her personal values and understanding of the importance of community and diversity. Charlene returned to Hobart St to raise her children and remains actively engaged in local affairs.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Charlene Howard discusses her childhood in Adams Morgan, the political activism of Mount Pleasant residents in the 1970s, drug use in Washington DC, police-community language barriers, her memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and gentrification of the neighborhood.

Elinor Hart transcript, 2018-01-25

# **Biographical / Historical**

Elinor Hart has been a homeowner on Hobart St. in Mt. Pleasant since 1974. During this time she has worked closely with the Mt. Pleasant Main Street Association and Historic Mt. Pleasant. Ms Hart has a strong interest in affordable housing and currently coordinates a school partnership for the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in addition to promoting statehood for Washington, DC.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Elinor Hart discusses moving to Mount Pleasant in 1974, changing demographics of the neighborhood, the controversy of the neighborhood's Historic District designation, her memories of the 1991 riot, police-community relations, and gentrification.

José "Chico" Diaz transcript, 2018-02-02

#### **Biographical / Historical**

José (Chico) Diaz has been affiliated with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) for over two decades as a participant in its youth programs and later as an employee. As a child in El Salvador, Mr. Diaz battled polio while living in a zone of conflict between guerrilla and military forces. He arrived in Washington, DC, attended DC public schools, and has since made the District his home. Mr. Diaz is the Director of Information Technology at LAYC.

# **Scope and Contents**

José Diaz discusses moving to the US at age 15, his recovery from polio, Mount Pleasant in the 1980s, tensions between latino and african-american youth, the Mount Pleasant riot, and community-police relations.

José Sueiro transcript, 2018-02-08

# **Biographical / Historical**

José Sueiro has lived in Adams Morgan and has been intimately involved in the Washington, DC Latino community since the 1970s. He has worked with area youth as Executive Director of the Latin American Youth Center and as a soccer coach at local high schools. Mr. Sueiro is also the unofficial scribe of the Latino community, having edited several local newspapers (both in Spanish and in English) focused on DC's Latino community. He worked in city government under Mayor Anthony Williams and currently consults with Metro DC Hispanic Contractors Association while running a blog on local Latino affairs, metrodiversity.com.

# **Scope and Contents**

José Sueiro discusses his studies at GW university, his move to Panama, his return to DC, his start in the newspaper industry and work at El Latino, DC police's lack of experience with latino youth, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and Mayor Barry's close relationship to the latino community in DC.

Mark Poletunow transcript, 2018-01-27

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Mark Poletunow served the Latino community in DC for over two decades as a Capuchin friar. During this time, he worked at the Capilla Latina (now Our Lady Queen of the Americas Catholic parish), served as associate pastor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, coordinated Hispanic Catholic catechism for the Archdiocese of Washington, and was the Executive Director of the Hispanic Catholic Center. Mr. Poletunow currently is president of the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Mark Poletunow discusses his arrival in DC, teaching English as a second language to Spanish-speaking people, identification with immigrant communities, his work at the Spanish Catholic Center, poor treatment of the latino community by DC police, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot and their aftermath.

Pedro Avilés transcript, 2018-02-09

# **Biographical / Historical**

Pedro Avilés is a Salvadoran American and a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant. He has worked closely with and has represented the Latino community in Washington, DC in a variety of positions, including serving as a founding member and the executive director of the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Mr. Avilés is an organizational development specialist who has consulted for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the World Bank, the government of El Salvador, and a variety of non-profit agencies.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Pedro Avilés discusses moving to Adams Morgan in 1974, his memories of Mount Pleasant, his involvement with the Sacred Heart Church Theatre Group, racial identity, tensions between teachers at DC Public Schools and non-English-speaking students, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, his subsequent involvement with DC's Latino Task Force, and police-community relations in DC.

Robert Fleming transcript, 2018-01-24

# **Biographical / Historical**

Robert Fleming is a longtime resident and homeowner in Mt. Pleasant. He moved into the neighborhood in 1975 and from the beginning was intimately involved in neighborhood affairs. He served three terms as an ANC commissioner during the 1980s and co-founded Neighbors Consejo, a local community organization that provided bilingual rehabilitation services to indigent alcoholics. Mr. Fleming has organized workshops on home security and street safety for women and is a founding board member of the Mount Pleasant Village, a mutual support organization for seniors.

# **Scope and Contents**

Robert Fleming discusses moving to Mount Pleasant, his struggle with alcohol, his involvement in the Mount Pleasant ANC, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, gentrification, public intoxication, the improvements in community policing in the neighborhood after the riot, and inter-community relations in Mount Pleasant.

Suann Hecht transcript, 2018-01-26

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Suann Hecht is a social worker and community activist who has worked with at-risk youth in Washington, DC for 22 years. Known affectionately as Mama Suann during her time at the Latin American Youth Center's Drop-in Center, Ms Hecht has since devoted her efforts to working with juveniles in detention centers and as wards of the city. She retired in 2017 and spends her time between Columbia Heights and Latin America.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Suann Hecht discusses moving from New York City to a group house in Mount Pleasant in 1972, her memories of the neighborhood, her involvement with the Latin America Youth Center, the city's handling of the Mount Pleasant riot, the demographics of the neighborhood, and the aftermath of the riot.

#### ^ Return to Table of Contents

# Series 3: Buzzard Point Oral History Project

# **Biographical / Historical**

Buzzard Point is an industrial area in Washington D.C. that is currently being redeveloped. It will be the site of the largest PEPCO substation in the city and the new D.C. United soccer stadium, as well as new high-rise condominiums and retail. These oral history interviews document family history in the neighborhood and experiences with pollution and gentrification.

#### **Scope and Contents**

The Buzzard Point Oral History Collection contains 9 audio interviews of residents of the Buzzard Point, D.C. community. The interviews were conducted by Jesse Card in 2017. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

# Title/Description

Instances

Linda Brown Interview, 2017-07-25

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Linda is a native Washingtonian, growing up and spending much of her adult life in Northwest Washington, DC in/around Columbia Heights and attending McKinley Technical High School in Eckington, Northeast Washington, DC. She has lived in public housing in Southwest for 10 years, currently at Greenleaf Senior with her daughter, Chaya. Much of Linda's adult life has been defined by her role as a caretaker for Chaya and the struggles that has necessitated due to historical inadequacies in DC disability services. Linda is active in advocating for increased disability services, organizing opportunities and activities for youth through the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and, more recently, in organizing for increased housing rights for

disadvantaged and low-income families through Empower DC.

### **Scope and Contents**

Linda Brown discusses growing up in Washington, DC and moving to Southwest; the experience of raising her daughter, Chaya, a child with disabilities, and their relationship with the community; her role as an advocate for people with disabilities and her involvement with several organizations, such as TASH, University Legal Services, and Empower DC; public housing; and the redevelopment and historical value of the Southwest neighborhood.

Carolyn Mitchell Interview, 2017-08-07

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Carolyn came to DC from Detroit, MI in 2004. She works for the American Society of Landscape Architects and spent much of her time since moving to DC helping to develop community-led visions for the future of development in Southwest. Like many Southwest residents, she has become disenchanted with the process and promises of public participation programs, feeling that officials consistently ignore the plans she and other community members create, opting instead for development initiatives that hurt rather than help residents who currently live in the neighborhoods near the Buzzard Point industrial area.

### **Scope and Contents**

Carolyn Mitchell discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the American Society of Landscape Architects; changes and issues within the Southwest neighborhood; her involvement in the community and experience working with local organizations; and gentrification and redevelopment throughout Southwest.

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert Interview, 2017-08-22

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Vanessa is a native Washingtonian, living much of her life in Southwest in the very home in which she was born. She has always been very active in her community and has come to be a significant point of access for community members to public officials and offices to ensure public services are benefitting residents of Southwest DC. She has also been passionate about expanding access to and involvement in the arts.

# **Scope and Contents**

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert discusses her early life in Washington, DC and experience living in Southwest; her involvement in the community and relationship with the children and families in the area; changes and issues related to the neighborhood and its residents; redevelopment and construction in Southwest; and her continued efforts and hopes to improve the community.

Ryan Pierce Interview, 2017-08-28

# **Biographical / Historical**

Ryan is a young professional living in Southwest DC for three and a half years. He works for the National Park Service and volunteers on the History Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. In this interview he discusses what makes DC a great place to live while addressing the many challenges associated with development, gentrification, and access to public resources.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Ryan Pierce discusses moving to Washington, DC; his educational background and work related to historic preservation; the history and architecture of Southwest; his involvement with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and its History Task Force; redevelopment and gentrification in the area, as well as residents' input and responses to these changes; and his thoughts on the future of the neighborhood.

Brian Hamilton Interview, 2017-09-06

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Brian—along with his wife, Ruth—is a co-pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC. He has lived and worked in the community for 21 years and is passionate about improving community relations and the social and economic conditions of Southwest residents. In this interview he provides a lot of historical analysis to explain how current social and economic conditions came to be, as well as how they might be improved. Brian also discusses the many initiatives Westminster Church has undertaken toward that goal.

# **Scope and Contents**

Brian Hamilton discusses moving to Washington, DC and living and raising a family in Southwest; his work with the Westminster Presbyterian Church; the history of the neighborhood and the church; the church's involvement in the Southwest community; urban renewal, gentrification,

and changes and issues in the neighborhood; and his thoughts and hopes related to the future of the area.

Bruce Kellogg Interview, 2017-09-19

# **Biographical / Historical**

Bruce is a retired 35-year resident of Southwest. He has traveled extensively in maritime service and with the Peace Corps and USAID. He married an Afghan during his travels, and his dual-nationality household has been a stable presence in the Carrollsburg neighborhood, with his wife and children also very active in local and international volunteer work.

# **Scope and Contents**

Bruce Kellogg discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and his time spent living in Southwest; his time spent working and traveling with international agencies and organizations such as the Peace Corps, USAID, and the United Seaman's Service; how he met his wife and the experience of raising their three children in DC; development plans for the neighborhood and residents' reactions; some of his hobbies and volunteer efforts; and the rivers and waterfront areas in Southwest.

David Ehrlich Interview, 2017-09-25

# **Biographical / Historical**

David is an 80-year-old resident of Southwest. He is retired, but performs chamber music locally and is, with his wife, very active in local events and the arts. In this interview he highlights some of the changes Southwest has seen over his 38 years living there as well as the many reasons he prefers living in DC to other urban and suburban areas.

#### **Scope and Contents**

David Ehrlich discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and the Southwest neighborhood, in particular; his work history and experience as a pianist and chamber music performer; his thoughts on the changes, amenities, and construction and redevelopment in the area; and his and his wife Barbara's travels and involvement in the community.

Thelma D. Jones Interview, 2017-09-26

# **Biographical / Historical**

Thelma is a passionate and life-long community advocate and retiree of the World Bank. She is a breast cancer survivor who has dedicated significant personal resources and time to helping others across the entire life cycle: from helping the youth of Southwest to become job ready through skills training and mentorship to starting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to help reduce incidence and mortality of cancer. In this interview she describes her incredible achievements through local organizations and through her career at the World Bank and discusses challenges associated with ongoing development in Southwest DC.

### **Scope and Contents**

Thelma D. Jones discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the World Bank and its summer jobs training program for youth; the history of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and her involvement with the organization and many of its task forces, especially the Youth Activities Task Force; the Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan; the creation and mission of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund; and changes and developments in the Southwest neighborhood.

Barbara Ehrlich Interview, 2017-09-28

### **Biographical / Historical**

Barbara is a 47-year resident of Southwest DC, coming to the area by way of Pennsylvania in a mid-life transition to public health work from teaching and working with the U.S. Army. She has been deeply involved in coordinating and planning large festivals along the Southwest waterfront and in establishing the Waterfront Village: a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to supporting senior members of the community in remaining in their homes as they age.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Barbara Ehrlich discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her educational background and work experience, especially in Public Health; her involvement with local organizations and events such as the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Southwest Arts Festival Committee, the DC Arts Commission, the Washington Waterfront Association, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival; changes and developments in the neighborhood; and the concept of aging in place.

# **Sub-Series 2: Transcripts**

Title/Description

Instances

Linda Brown Transcript, 2017-07-25

# **Biographical / Historical**

Linda is a native Washingtonian, growing up and spending much of her adult life in Northwest Washington, DC in/around Columbia Heights and attending McKinley Technical High School in Eckington, Northeast Washington, DC. She has lived in public housing in Southwest for 10 years, currently at Greenleaf Senior with her daughter, Chaya. Much of Linda's adult life has been defined by her role as a caretaker for Chaya and the struggles that has necessitated due to historical inadequacies in DC disability services. Linda is active in advocating for increased disability services, organizing opportunities and activities for youth through the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and, more recently, in organizing for increased housing rights for disadvantaged and low-income families through Empower DC.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Linda Brown discusses growing up in Washington, DC and moving to Southwest; the experience of raising her daughter, Chaya, a child with disabilities, and their relationship with the community; her role as an advocate for people with disabilities and her involvement with several organizations, such as TASH, University Legal Services, and Empower DC; public housing; and the redevelopment and historical value of the Southwest neighborhood.

Carolyn Mitchell Transcript, 2017-08-07

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Carolyn came to DC from Detroit, MI in 2004. She works for the American Society of Landscape Architects and spent much of her time since moving to DC helping to develop community-led visions for the future of development in Southwest. Like many Southwest residents, she has become disenchanted with the process and promises of public participation programs, feeling that officials consistently ignore the plans she and other community members create, opting instead for development initiatives that hurt rather than help residents who currently live in the neighborhoods near the Buzzard Point industrial area.

# **Scope and Contents**

Carolyn Mitchell discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the American Society of Landscape Architects; changes and issues within the Southwest neighborhood; her involvement in the community and experience working with local organizations; and gentrification and redevelopment throughout Southwest.

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert Transcript, 2017-08-22

# **Biographical / Historical**

Vanessa is a native Washingtonian, living much of her life in Southwest in the very home in which she was born. She has always been very active in her community and has come to be a significant point of access for community members to public officials and offices to ensure public services are benefitting residents of Southwest DC. She has also been passionate about expanding access to and involvement in the arts.

# **Scope and Contents**

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert discusses her early life in Washington, DC and experience living in Southwest; her involvement in the community and relationship with the children and families in the area; changes and issues related to the neighborhood and its residents; redevelopment and construction in Southwest; and her continued efforts and hopes to improve the community.

Ryan Pierce Transcript, 2017-08-28

# **Biographical / Historical**

Ryan is a young professional living in Southwest DC for three and a half years. He works for the National Park Service and volunteers on the History Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. In this interview he discusses what makes DC a great place to live while addressing the many challenges associated with development, gentrification, and access to public resources.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Ryan Pierce discusses moving to Washington, DC; his educational background and work related to historic preservation; the history and architecture of Southwest; his involvement with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and its History Task Force; redevelopment and gentrification in the area, as well as residents' input and responses to these changes; and his thoughts on the future of the neighborhood.

Brian Hamilton Transcript, 2017-09-06

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Brian—along with his wife, Ruth—is a co-pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC. He has lived and worked in the community for 21 years and is

passionate about improving community relations and the social and economic conditions of Southwest residents. In this interview he provides a lot of historical analysis to explain how current social and economic conditions came to be, as well as how they might be improved. Brian also discusses the many initiatives Westminster Church has undertaken toward that goal.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Brian Hamilton discusses moving to Washington, DC and living and raising a family in Southwest; his work with the Westminster Presbyterian Church; the history of the neighborhood and the church; the church's involvement in the Southwest community; urban renewal, gentrification, and changes and issues in the neighborhood; and his thoughts and hopes related to the future of the area.

Bruce Kellogg Transcript, 2017-09-19

# **Biographical / Historical**

Bruce is a retired 35-year resident of Southwest. He has traveled extensively in maritime service and with the Peace Corps and USAID. He married an Afghan during his travels, and his dual-nationality household has been a stable presence in the Carrollsburg neighborhood, with his wife and children also very active in local and international volunteer work.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Bruce Kellogg discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and his time spent living in Southwest; his time spent working and traveling with international agencies and organizations such as the Peace Corps, USAID, and the United Seaman's Service; how he met his wife and the experience of raising their three children in DC; development plans for the neighborhood and residents' reactions; some of his hobbies and volunteer efforts; and the rivers and waterfront areas in Southwest.

David Ehrlich Transcript, 2017-09-25

#### **Biographical / Historical**

David is an 80-year-old resident of Southwest. He is retired, but performs chamber music locally and is, with his wife, very active in local events and the arts. In this interview he highlights some of the changes Southwest has seen over his 38 years living there as well as the many reasons he prefers living in DC to other urban and suburban areas.

# **Scope and Contents**

David Ehrlich discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and the Southwest neighborhood, in particular; his work history and experience as a pianist and chamber music performer; his thoughts on the changes, amenities, and construction and redevelopment in the area; and his and his wife Barbara's travels and involvement in the community.

Thelma D. Jones Transcript, 2017-09-26

# **Biographical / Historical**

Thelma is a passionate and life-long community advocate and retiree of the World Bank. She is a breast cancer survivor who has dedicated significant personal resources and time to helping others across the entire life cycle: from helping the youth of Southwest to become job ready through skills training and mentorship to starting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to help reduce incidence and mortality of cancer. In this interview she describes her incredible achievements through local organizations and through her career at the World Bank and discusses challenges associated with ongoing development in Southwest DC.

# **Scope and Contents**

Thelma D. Jones discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the World Bank and its summer jobs training program for youth; the history of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and her involvement with the organization and many of its task forces, especially the Youth Activities Task Force; the Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan; the creation and mission of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund; and changes and developments in the Southwest neighborhood.

Barbara Ehrlich Transcript, 2017-09-28

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Barbara is a 47-year resident of Southwest DC, coming to the area by way of Pennsylvania in a mid-life transition to public health work from teaching and working with the U.S. Army. She has been deeply involved in coordinating and planning large festivals along the Southwest waterfront and in establishing the Waterfront Village: a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to supporting senior members of the community in remaining in their homes as they age.

# **Scope and Contents**

Barbara Ehrlich discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her educational background and work experience, especially in Public Health; her involvement with local organizations and events such as the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Southwest Arts Festival Committee, the DC Arts Commission, the Washington Waterfront Association, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival; changes and developments in the neighborhood; and the concept of aging in place.

#### ^ Return to Table of Contents

# Series 6: Federal City College Oral History Project

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Federal City College was D.C.'s first four-year public college. Upon opening in 1968, it was flooded with eager students, including Vietnam veterans, men incarcerated at Lorton Prison, civil rights activists, and young single mothers, almost entirely working-class and African-American. As a brand-new college serving the disenfranchised people of D.C., FCC attracted faculty from all over the country. They included poet Gil Scott-Heron; C.L.R. James, perhaps the most important black Marxist of the 20th century; and civil rights activist James Garrett, who led the fight for Black Studies at San Francisco State University before helping found FCC. FCC only existed independently for eight years: in 1976, it was folded in with two other schools to create the University of the District of Columbia. But these were a fertile eight years in the city's history, encompassing the 1968 eruptions and aftermath, the civil rights organizing that led to Home Rule in 1974, and, in 1975, the launching of a city government that strove to bring progressive democracy to the place that was becoming known as Chocolate City. Students, faculty, and staff from FCC played key roles in all of this.

#### **Scope and Contents**

This project documents the history of Federal City College (FCC), an experiment in public higher education for the people of Washington, D.C.

**Instances** 

### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

Title/Description

Lawrence Bradford interview, 2018-07-04

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Lawrence Bradford was born in 1944 in Washington, D.C. He attended J.O. Wilson Elementary School, St. Augustine Catholic School, Francis Junior High School, Bell Vocational High School, and Western High School. After graduating high school, Bradford was part of the first class of students to enter Federal City College in the fall of 1968. He majored in computer information, played on the basketball team, and was close with members of student government. Throughout this time, he was involved in community action work and organizing for

racial equity. Bradford went on to work in computer programming and information sciences at Washington Technical Institute, and later at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He retired from UDC in the 1990s and has since been teaching hand dance, the official dance of Washington, D.C.

# **Scope and Contents**

Lawrence Bradford discusses his childhood growing up in Happy Hollow, Adams Morgan, Washingonton, D.C., early experiences with segregation, attending Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study computer information, his campus extracurricular activities including basketball and student government, his involvement in community organizing for racial equality, his career at Washington Techinal Institute and the University of the District of Columbia, and his post-retirment career as a hand dance instructor.

Howard Croft interview, 2018-07-17

# **Biographical / Historical**

Howard Croft was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1941. He attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennslyvania where he was involved in civil rights organizing before earning a graduate degree at Columbia University in New York, New York. Croft moved to Washington, D.C. 1969 where he worked for different anti-poverty groups and taught in the community planning, development program, and later the urban studies program at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia). He was very interested in encouraging experiential learning among students, and was involved with the Lorton Prison College Program. Croft helped found the faculty union at the University of the District of Columbia, and was involved in labor organizing city-wide. He left University of the District of Columbia in 1995 and went on to work for several different social justice and labor organizations, including the Service Employees International Union.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Howard Croft discusses his childhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, attending Duquesne University and Columbia University, moving to Washington, D.C., involvement with anti-poverty groups and community organizing, his career as a professor at Federal City College (now the University of the Distoric of Columbia), his innovative and expereiment approach to education, his work with the Lorton Prison College Program, his work with faculty and city-wide unioniziation, and his work with the Service Employees International Union after leaving academics.

Raymond Henderson interview, 2018-07-02

# **Biographical / Historical**

Raymond Henderson was born in 1948 in Washington, D.C., and grew up in different parts of the city, though mostly in Anacostia. He attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School, Davis Elementary School, Plummer Elementary School, Sousa Junior High School, Kelly Miller Junior High School, Gordon Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School. In 1966 Henderson dropped out of high school, joined the Marine Corps, and was sent to fight in Vietnam. Upon his return, he earned his GED and enrolled in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) in 1970. Henderson developed a political consciousness while serving in Vietnam and became involved in student activism while at Federal City College. He was a writer and editor for the student newspapers, along with other movement newspapers, and founded a student organization, the Black Jaguars, modeled on the Black Panthers. Henderson was part of a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba in 1974, where they met with people involved in liberation movements all over the world. After graduating from Federal City College, where he majored in political science, Henderson studied for a masters degree in political science at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he focused on China. After struggles with post traumatic stress disorder and drug addiction, Henderson went back to graduate school for photography in 1996. Today he lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and works as a photographer.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Raymond Henderson, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses his childhood mostly spent in the Anacostia neighborhood, attending different elementary and junior high schools before dropping out of high school to join the Marine Corps at the age of 17, his experiences during the Vietnam War, earning his GED and enrolling in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study political science, the evlution of his political conscieness and his involvment with student activistm and organization including forming the Black Leopards (a student group based on the Black Panthers), his contributions to student newspapers as a journalists and editor, his participation in a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba to participate in global liberation movement activism, his graduate studies focused on China at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, his struggles with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and drug addition, his return to graduate school to study photography, and his career as a photographer.

# Biographical / Historical

Jennifer Ragins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950 and attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Bunker Hill Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Roosevelt Senior High School graduating in 1968. She was a member of the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), enrolling in the fall of 1968. She majored in community planning and development. As a student Ragins worked on plans for the Shaw urban renewal project, among other experiential learning experiences. Ragins was a member of the first graduating class in 1972, and went on to receive a scholarship to earn a masters degree in social work (with a focus on community organizing) at Columbia University in New York, New York. Ragins has served her community through her career in city policy and planning, working for several different agencies and on many different projects.

# **Scope and Contents**

Jennifer Ragins, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her childhood and how she was influenced by the curriculum at her schools, attending Federal City College (now the University fo the District of Columbia) as part of the first class, contributing to teh plans for the Shaw neighborhood uban renewal project, earning a scholarship to attend the Columbia Univsity Institute for Urban and Mintiory Education in New York, New York, the impact the diversity of the students at Columbia University had on her sutdies, her professional work with the city government of Washington, D.C., including public health and community planning, her work with Anacostic Economic Delvement Corporation and Development Corporation of Columbia Heights, her travels to Moscow, Russia to particpalte in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and reflections on the impact Federal City College had on her career.

Jennifer Ragins interview part 2, 2018-07-06

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Jennifer Ragins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950 and attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Bunker Hill Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Roosevelt Senior High School graduating in 1968. She was a member of the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), enrolling in the fall of 1968. She majored in community planning and development. As a student Ragins worked on plans for the Shaw urban renewal project, among other experiential learning experiences. Ragins was a member of the first graduating class in 1972, and went on to receive a scholarship to

earn a masters degree in social work (with a focus on community organizing) at Columbia University in New York, New York. Ragins has served her community through her career in city policy and planning, working for several different agencies and on many different projects.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Jennifer Ragins, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her childhood and how she was influenced by the curriculum at her schools, attending Federal City College (now the University fo the District of Columbia) as part of the first class, contributing to teh plans for the Shaw neighborhood uban renewal project, earning a scholarship to attend the Columbia Univsity Institute for Urban and Mintiory Education in New York, New York, the impact the diversity of the students at Columbia University had on her sutdies, her professional work with the city government of Washington, D.C., including public health and community planning, her work with Anacostic **Economic Delvement Corporation and Development** Corporation of Columbia Heights, her travels to Moscow, Russia to particpalte in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and reflections on the impact Federal City College had on her career.

Vanella Crawford interview, 2018-07-11

# **Biographical / Historical**

Vanella Crawford was born in Washington, D.C. in 1948. Her family lived in a public housing project in LeDroit Park until she was nine, at which point they moved to 16th Street and Monroe Street NW. She attended Lucretia Mott Elementary School, Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School, graduating in 1965. Crawford attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Washington, D.C. to enroll in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) when it opened in the fall of 1968. One of her most profound experiences at Federal City College was spending a semester traveling with other students in Europe and Africa. Crawford majored in social work and after graduation attended Howard University School of Social Work for a graduate degree. She went on to work as a therapist and counselor.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Vanella Crawford, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her family history, living in public housing before moving to the Columbia Height neighborhood, attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and then enrolling in the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), her awakening the the catholic faith and political awareness, traveling to Europe and Africa as part of Experiments

in International Living program, her family's concerns about perceived political radicilization, the community reaction to the asscination of Dr. Martin Luther Kin, Jr., faculty influences on her decision to study social work, attending the Howard University School of Social Work, her professional work as a therapist and counselor, and her insights on parenting and attending college as a parent.

# **Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts**

Title/Description Instances

Lawrence Bradford interview index, 2018-07-04

# **Biographical / Historical**

Lawrence Bradford was born in 1944 in Washington, D.C. He attended J.O. Wilson Elementary School, St. Augustine Catholic School, Francis Junior High School, Bell Vocational High School, and Western High School. After graduating high school, Bradford was part of the first class of students to enter Federal City College in the fall of 1968. He majored in computer information, played on the basketball team, and was close with members of student government. Throughout this time, he was involved in community action work and organizing for racial equity. Bradford went on to work in computer programming and information sciences at Washington Technical Institute, and later at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He retired from UDC in the 1990s and has since been teaching hand dance, the official dance of Washington, D.C.

# **Scope and Contents**

Lawrence Bradford discusses his childhood growing up in Happy Hollow, Adams Morgan, Washingonton, D.C., early experiences with segregation, attending Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study computer information, his campus extracurricular activities including basketball and student government, his involvement in community organizing for racial equality, his career at Washington Techinal Institute and the University of the District of Columbia, and his post-retirment career as a hand dance instructor.

Lawrence Bradford interview transcript, 2018-07-05

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Lawrence Bradford was born in 1944 in Washington, D.C. He attended J.O. Wilson Elementary School, St. Augustine Catholic School, Francis Junior High School, Bell Vocational High School, and Western High School. After graduating high school, Bradford was part of the first class of students to enter Federal City College in the fall of 1968. He majored in computer information, played

on the basketball team, and was close with members of student government. Throughout this time, he was involved in community action work and organizing for racial equity. Bradford went on to work in computer programming and information sciences at Washington Technical Institute, and later at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He retired from UDC in the 1990s and has since been teaching hand dance, the official dance of Washington, D.C.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Lawrence Bradford discusses his childhood growing up in Happy Hollow, Adams Morgan, Washingonton, D.C., early experiences with segregation, attending Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study computer information, his campus extracurricular activities including basketball and student government, his involvement in community organizing for racial equality, his career at Washington Techinal Institute and the University of the District of Columbia, and his post-retirment career as a hand dance instructor.

Howard Croft interview index, 2018-07-17

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Howard Croft was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1941. He attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennslyvania where he was involved in civil rights organizing before earning a graduate degree at Columbia University in New York, New York. Croft moved to Washington, D.C. 1969 where he worked for different anti-poverty groups and taught in the community planning, development program, and later the urban studies program at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia). He was very interested in encouraging experiential learning among students, and was involved with the Lorton Prison College Program. Croft helped found the faculty union at the University of the District of Columbia, and was involved in labor organizing city-wide. He left University of the District of Columbia in 1995 and went on to work for several different social justice and labor organizations, including the Service Employees International Union.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Howard Croft discusses his childhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, attending Duquesne University and Columbia University, moving to Washington, D.C., involvement with anti-poverty groups and community organizing, his career as a professor at Federal City College (now the University of the Distoric of Columbia), his innovative and expereiment approach to education, his work with the Lorton Prison College Program, his work with faculty and city-wide unioniziation, and his work

with the Service Employees International Union after leaving academics.

Howard Croft interview transcript, 2018-07-17

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Howard Croft was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1941. He attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennslyvania where he was involved in civil rights organizing before earning a graduate degree at Columbia University in New York, New York. Croft moved to Washington, D.C. 1969 where he worked for different anti-poverty groups and taught in the community planning, development program, and later the urban studies program at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia). He was very interested in encouraging experiential learning among students, and was involved with the Lorton Prison College Program. Croft helped found the faculty union at the University of the District of Columbia, and was involved in labor organizing city-wide. He left University of the District of Columbia in 1995 and went on to work for several different social justice and labor organizations, including the Service Employees International Union.

# **Scope and Contents**

Howard Croft discusses his childhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, attending Duquesne University and Columbia University, moving to Washington, D.C., involvement with anti-poverty groups and community organizing, his career as a professor at Federal City College (now the University of the Distoric of Columbia), his innovative and expereiment approach to education, his work with the Lorton Prison College Program, his work with faculty and city-wide unioniziation, and his work with the Service Employees International Union after leaving academics.

Raymond Henderson interview index, 2018-07-02

### **Biographical / Historical**

Raymond Henderson was born in 1948 in Washington, D.C., and grew up in different parts of the city, though mostly in Anacostia. He attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School, Davis Elementary School, Plummer Elementary School, Sousa Junior High School, Kelly Miller Junior High School, Gordon Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School. In 1966 Henderson dropped out of high school, joined the Marine Corps, and was sent to fight in Vietnam. Upon his return, he earned his GED and enrolled in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) in 1970. Henderson developed a political consciousness while serving in Vietnam and became

involved in student activism while at Federal City College. He was a writer and editor for the student newspapers, along with other movement newspapers, and founded a student organization, the Black Jaguars, modeled on the Black Panthers. Henderson was part of a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba in 1974, where they met with people involved in liberation movements all over the world. After graduating from Federal City College, where he majored in political science, Henderson studied for a masters degree in political science at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he focused on China. After struggles with post traumatic stress disorder and drug addiction, Henderson went back to graduate school for photography in 1996. Today he lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and works as a photographer.

# **Scope and Contents**

Raymond Henderson, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses his childhood mostly spent in the Anacostia neighborhood, attending different elementary and junior high schools before dropping out of high school to join the Marine Corps at the age of 17, his experiences during the Vietnam War, earning his GED and enrolling in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study political science, the evlution of his political conscieness and his involvment with student activistm and organization including forming the Black Leopards (a student group based on the Black Panthers), his contributions to student newspapers as a journalists and editor, his participation in a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba to participate in global liberation movement activism, his graduate studies focused on China at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, his struggles with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and drug addition, his return to graduate school to study photography, and his career as a photographer.

Raymond Henderson interview transcript, 2018-07-02

# **Biographical / Historical**

Raymond Henderson was born in 1948 in Washington, D.C., and grew up in different parts of the city, though mostly in Anacostia. He attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School, Davis Elementary School, Plummer Elementary School, Sousa Junior High School, Kelly Miller Junior High School, Gordon Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School. In 1966 Henderson dropped out of high school, joined the Marine Corps, and was sent to fight in Vietnam. Upon his return, he earned his GED and enrolled in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) in 1970. Henderson developed a political consciousness while serving in Vietnam and became involved in student activism while at Federal City College. He was a writer and editor for the student newspapers,

along with other movement newspapers, and founded a student organization, the Black Jaguars, modeled on the Black Panthers. Henderson was part of a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba in 1974, where they met with people involved in liberation movements all over the world. After graduating from Federal City College, where he majored in political science, Henderson studied for a masters degree in political science at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he focused on China. After struggles with post traumatic stress disorder and drug addiction, Henderson went back to graduate school for photography in 1996. Today he lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and works as a photographer.

# **Scope and Contents**

Raymond Henderson, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses his childhood mostly spent in the Anacostia neighborhood, attending different elementary and junior high schools before dropping out of high school to join the Marine Corps at the age of 17, his experiences during the Vietnam War, earning his GED and enrolling in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) to study political science, the evlution of his political conscieness and his involvment with student activistm and organization including forming the Black Leopards (a student group based on the Black Panthers), his contributions to student newspapers as a journalists and editor, his participation in a delegation of black college students who visited Cuba to participate in global liberation movement activism, his graduate studies focused on China at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, his struggles with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and drug addition, his return to graduate school to study photography, and his career as a photographer.

Jennifer Ragins interview index, 2018-07-06

### **Biographical / Historical**

Jennifer Ragins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950 and attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Bunker Hill Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Roosevelt Senior High School graduating in 1968. She was a member of the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), enrolling in the fall of 1968. She majored in community planning and development. As a student Ragins worked on plans for the Shaw urban renewal project, among other experiential learning experiences. Ragins was a member of the first graduating class in 1972, and went on to receive a scholarship to earn a masters degree in social work (with a focus on community organizing) at Columbia University in New York, New York. Ragins has served her community

through her career in city policy and planning, working for several different agencies and on many different projects.

## **Scope and Contents**

Jennifer Ragins, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her childhood and how she was influenced by the curriculum at her schools, attending Federal City College (now the University fo the District of Columbia) as part of the first class, contributing to teh plans for the Shaw neighborhood uban renewal project, earning a scholarship to attend the Columbia Univsity Institute for Urban and Mintiory Education in New York, New York, the impact the diversity of the students at Columbia University had on her sutdies, her professional work with the city government of Washington, D.C., including public health and community planning, her work with Anacostic **Economic Delvement Corporation and Development** Corporation of Columbia Heights, her travels to Moscow, Russia to participalte in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and reflections on the impact Federal City College had on her career.

Jennifer Ragins interview transcript part 1, 2018-07-06

#### Biographical / Historical

Jennifer Ragins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950 and attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Bunker Hill Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Roosevelt Senior High School graduating in 1968. She was a member of the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), enrolling in the fall of 1968. She majored in community planning and development. As a student Ragins worked on plans for the Shaw urban renewal project, among other experiential learning experiences. Ragins was a member of the first graduating class in 1972, and went on to receive a scholarship to earn a masters degree in social work (with a focus on community organizing) at Columbia University in New York, New York. Ragins has served her community through her career in city policy and planning, working for several different agencies and on many different projects.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Jennifer Ragins, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her childhood and how she was influenced by the curriculum at her schools, attending Federal City College (now the University fo the District of Columbia) as part of the first class, contributing to teh plans for the Shaw neighborhood uban renewal project, earning a scholarship to attend the Columbia University Institute for Urban and Mintiory Education in New York, New York, the impact the diversity of the students at Columbia University had on her sutdies, her professional work with

the city government of Washington, D.C., including public health and community planning, her work with Anacostic Economic Delvement Corporation and Development Corporation of Columbia Heights, her travels to Moscow, Russia to participalte in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and reflections on the impact Federal City College had on her career.

Jennifer Ragins interview transcript part 2, 2018-07-06

## **Biographical / Historical**

Jennifer Ragins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1950 and attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Bunker Hill Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Roosevelt Senior High School graduating in 1968. She was a member of the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), enrolling in the fall of 1968. She majored in community planning and development. As a student Ragins worked on plans for the Shaw urban renewal project, among other experiential learning experiences. Ragins was a member of the first graduating class in 1972, and went on to receive a scholarship to earn a masters degree in social work (with a focus on community organizing) at Columbia University in New York, New York. Ragins has served her community through her career in city policy and planning, working for several different agencies and on many different projects.

## **Scope and Contents**

Jennifer Ragins, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her childhood and how she was influenced by the curriculum at her schools, attending Federal City College (now the University fo the District of Columbia) as part of the first class, contributing to teh plans for the Shaw neighborhood uban renewal project, earning a scholarship to attend the Columbia Univsity Institute for Urban and Mintiory Education in New York, New York, the impact the diversity of the students at Columbia University had on her sutdies, her professional work with the city government of Washington, D.C., including public health and community planning, her work with Anacostic Economic Delvement Corporation and Development Corporation of Columbia Heights, her travels to Moscow, Russia to particpalte in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, and reflections on the impact Federal City College had on her career.

Vanella Crawford interview index, 2018-07-11

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Vanella Crawford was born in Washington, D.C. in 1948. Her family lived in a public housing project in LeDroit Park until she was nine, at which point they moved to 16th Street and Monroe Street NW. She attended Lucretia Mott Elementary School, Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School, graduating in 1965. Crawford attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Washington, D.C. to enroll in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) when it opened in the fall of 1968. One of her most profound experiences at Federal City College was spending a semester traveling with other students in Europe and Africa. Crawford majored in social work and after graduation attended Howard University School of Social Work for a graduate degree. She went on to work as a therapist and counselor.

## **Scope and Contents**

Vanella Crawford, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her family history, living in public housing before moving to the Columbia Height neighborhood, attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and then enrolling in the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), her awakening the the catholic faith and political awareness, traveling to Europe and Africa as part of Experiments in International Living program, her family's concerns about perceived political radicilization, the community reaction to the asscination of Dr. Martin Luther Kin, Jr., faculty influences on her decision to study social work, attending the Howard University School of Social Work, her professional work as a therapist and counselor, and her insights on parenting and attending college as a parent.

Vanella Crawford interview transcript, 2018-07-11

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Vanella Crawford was born in Washington, D.C. in 1948. Her family lived in a public housing project in LeDroit Park until she was nine, at which point they moved to 16th Street and Monroe Street NW. She attended Lucretia Mott Elementary School, Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, and Cardozo Senior High School, graduating in 1965. Crawford attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Washington, D.C. to enroll in Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) when it opened in the fall of 1968. One of her most profound experiences at Federal City College was spending a semester traveling with other students in Europe and Africa. Crawford majored in social work and after graduation attended Howard University School of Social Work for a graduate degree. She went on to work as a therapist and counselor.

## **Scope and Contents**

Vanella Crawford, a native of Washington, D.C., discusses her family history, living in public housing before moving to the Columbia Height neighborhood, attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and then enrolling in the first class at Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia), her awakening the the catholic faith and political awareness, traveling to Europe and Africa as part of Experiments in International Living program, her family's concerns about perceived political radicilization, the community reaction to the asscination of Dr. Martin Luther Kin, Jr., faculty influences on her decision to study social work, attending the Howard University School of Social Work, her professional work as a therapist and counselor, and her insights on parenting and attending college as a parent.

#### ^ Return to Table of Contents

# Series 7: Asian American Voices in the Making of Washington, D.C.'s Cultural Landscape Oral History Project

#### **Biographical / Historical**

This project documents the stories of Asian American immigrant-entrepreneurs and restaurateurs in Washington, D.C. Despite their small population size (they are four percent of the District's total population), Asian American restaurateurs have played a critical role in shaping the culinary landscape in Washington D.C. even beyond the Chinatown in Ward 2 for several decades. Many American Chinese take-out restaurants have long permeated every corner in the District. With the recent development of foodie culture, Asian American restaurateurs are introducing their heritage cuisines, diversifying Washingtonians' palates. The cultural and commercial practices of the food industry function as a valuable lens for understanding struggles and adjustments of Asian American small business owners in D.C.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

Title/Description Instances

Bobby Pradachith interview, 2018-05-29

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Bobby Pradachith was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1993 to Lao immigrant parents. As a child he was exposed to Lao cuisines through family gatherings, his mother's catering business, and the family restaurant Padaek. While attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School in Annandale, Virginia, Pradachith became interested in pursuing a career as a professional chef. He attended Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York and completed externships in restaurants with Asian American chefs. He worked at Washington, D.C. restaurants Toki Underground and barmini before partnering with his mother Seng Luangrath to open Thip Khao in Columbia Heights. Pradachith is active in the Washington, D.C. chef community and uses food to tell the story of his family's Lao heritage.

## **Scope and Contents**

Bobby Pradachith discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Lao culture, food, and language, attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School, attending the Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York, externing with Asian American chefs, working at his family's restaurants, and building relationships with chefs in Washington, D.C. Pradachith also discusses his strong relationship with his family and learning of his parents' difficult departure from Laos.

Danny Lee interview, 2018-08-20

## **Biographical / Historical**

Danny Lee was born in Washington, D.C. in 1981 to Korean immigrant parents. He grew up in Falls Church and Vienna, Virginia and attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. While Lee was in high school his father passed away, which led his mother to open an American Chinese franchise restaurant in Reagan National Airport to support the family. After graduating from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, Lee worked as a paralegal and then an office manager/event coordinator at Oceanaire Seafood Room. There Lee was trained by chef Rob Klink on both managerial and culinary side of food business. Lee and his mother Yesoon Lee opened Mandu in two locations in Washington, D.C., Dupont Circle and later Mount Vernon Triangle. In 2017, Lee, along with Fried Rice Collective members Scott Drewno and Andrew Kim, opened CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Danny Lee discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Korean culture, food, and language, attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact of his father's early death on the family, his mother's restaurant enterprises, attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, his culinary training, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with his mother, collaborating with other Washington, D.C. area chefs to form the Fried Rice Collective, opening CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., his emphasis on providing a healthy work environment, and the impact Korean and Chinese fine dining has made in his life.

Edward Lee interview, 2018-07-10

## Biographical / Historical

Edward Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York. During his childhood Lee spent time with his grandmother watching her cook, peaking his interest in the culinary arts. He entered the foodservice industry as a busboy at 14 and later worked in the kitchen of the restaurant. He opened Clay, a Korean restaurant, near Chinatown in Manhattan, New York in the 1990s. After the 9/11 terrorist attack Lee moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he opened the restaurants 610 Magnolia, MilkWood, and Whiskey Dry. Lee is the author of a cookbook Smoke & Pickles and a food memoir titled Buttermilk Graffiti. He has made numerous appearances on television shows, including Top Chef, The Mind of a Chef, and Culinary Genius. He opened a southern cuisine restaurant, Succotash, in National Harbor, Maryland and later Penn Quarter, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Contents**

Edward Lee discusses his childhood in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York, his desire from a young age to be in the kitchen, entering the foodservice industry at the age of 14 as a busboy, his short stint at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, opening his first restaurant Clay, the enormous strain of his early success, moving to Louisville, Kentucky to reset personally and professionally, opening Succotash in National Harbor, Maryland then Washington, D.C., his views on foodie culture, his work in mentoring women in the food industry through The LEE Initiate, the differences between life in Louisville, Kentucky and Washington, D.C., Korean culture and patriarchy, and his views on gentrification.

Seng Luangrath interview part 1, 2018-09-25

#### Biographical / Historical

Seng Luangrath was born in Vientiane, Laos where she grew up in a multi-generational home and learned to cook from her grandmother. At the age of 12, Luangrath fled Laos with her mother and brothers; her sister, who was viewed to be braver than Luangrath, stayed behind to care for her grandmother. Her family lived in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. While living in a refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, her mother remarried and Luangrath learned to cook various Lao regional cuisines from her stepfather. In the Philippines her family attended an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California in the United States. Luangrath attended Berkeley High School and then Laney College. In 1988 Luangrath married a man through a courtship her mother arranged, and moved with her new

husband to Northern Virginia. Luangrath worked as a bank teller and accountant while her husband worked in manufacturing, food service, and flooring before the pair started a construction business for military housing. The business ultimately failed leaving the couple looking for new options. Luangrath dreamed of opening her own restaurant and the opportunity arose to take over a Thai restaurant, Bangkok Golden (now Padaek) in Falls Church, Virginia. The original menu featured Thai food but included secret Lao dishes. After a positive review from a Washington Post food critic, Luangrath began serving both Thai and Lao dishes. With encouragement from her customers and the Washington, D.C. chef community, she opened Thip Khao in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. with her son, Bobby Pradachith. Together Luangrath and Pradachith lead the Lao Food Movement which promotes Lao cuisine and culture and encourages ethnic minorities to be proud of their identities and cultures.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Seng Luangrath discusses her childhood in Vientiane, Laos, living in a multi-generational home, learning to cook from her grandmother, the impact of the Laotian Civil War and the Vietnam War on her family, attending a French-language school, learning that her family would be escaping Laos but that her sister would remain with her grandmother, the experience of being smuggled across the Laos border into Thailand, life as a refugee in Thailand then the Philippines, attending an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California, her marriage arranged by her mother, moving to Virginia and establishing a life with her new husband, her professional life before becoming a chef, opening her first restaurant and then expanding into Washington, D.C., her lifelong passion for cooking and serving her community, and the impact the community of chefs in Washington, D.C. have had on her career.

Seng Luangrath interview part 2, 2018-09-25

## **Biographical / Historical**

Seng Luangrath was born in Vientiane, Laos where she grew up in a multi-generational home and learned to cook from her grandmother. At the age of 12, Luangrath fled Laos with her mother and brothers; her sister, who was viewed to be braver than Luangrath, stayed behind to care for her grandmother. Her family lived in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. While living in a refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, her mother remarried and Luangrath learned to cook various Lao regional cuisines from her stepfather. In the Philippines her family attended an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California in the United States. Luangrath attended Berkeley High School and then Laney

College. In 1988 Luangrath married a man through a courtship her mother arranged, and moved with her new husband to Northern Virginia. Luangrath worked as a bank teller and accountant while her husband worked in manufacturing, food service, and flooring before the pair started a construction business for military housing. The business ultimately failed leaving the couple looking for new options. Luangrath dreamed of opening her own restaurant and the opportunity arose to take over a Thai restaurant, Bangkok Golden (now Padaek) in Falls Church, Virginia. The original menu featured Thai food but included secret Lao dishes. After a positive review from a Washington Post food critic, Luangrath began serving both Thai and Lao dishes. With encouragement from her customers and the Washington, D.C. chef community, she opened Thip Khao in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. with her son, Bobby Pradachith. Together Luangrath and Pradachith lead the Lao Food Movement which promotes Lao cuisine and culture and encourages ethnic minorities to be proud of their identities and cultures.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Seng Luangrath discusses her childhood in Vientiane, Laos, living in a multi-generational home, learning to cook from her grandmother, the impact of the Laotian Civil War and the Vietnam War on her family, attending a French-language school, learning that her family would be escaping Laos but that her sister would remain with her grandmother, the experience of being smuggled across the Laos border into Thailand, life as a refugee in Thailand then the Philippines, attending an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California, her marriage arranged by her mother, moving to Virginia and establishing a life with her new husband, her professional life before becoming a chef, opening her first restaurant and then expanding into Washington, D.C., her lifelong passion for cooking and serving her community, and the impact the community of chefs in Washington, D.C. have had on her career.

Yesoon Lee interview, 2019-08-20

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Yesoon Lee was born in Seoul, Korea in 1946. She attended South Gate Elementary School, Sudo Girl's High School, and Lee University. Lee attended graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where she met and married her husband. Lee and her husband moved to Northern Virginia where she taught at Averett College in Danville, Virginia and operated Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia with a friend. Lee's husband passed away from cancer, leaving her looking for new ways to support her family. She operated a Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan

National Airport and later opened Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Square, Washington, D.C. with her son, Danny Lee. Yeeson is a member of McLean Bible Church.

## **Scope and Contents**

Yesoon Lee discusses her childhood in Seoul, Korea during and after the Korean War, attending graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she met and married her husband, moving to Northern Virginia, teaching at Averett College in Danville, Virginia, operating Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact the early death of her husband had on her life, opening Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan National Airport, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with her son Danny Lee, her religious beliefs, her perspective on the chef community in Washington, D.C., and her family.

# **Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts**

Title/Description Instances

Bobby Pradachith interview index, 2018-05-29

## Biographical / Historical

Bobby Pradachith was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1993 to Lao immigrant parents. As a child he was exposed to Lao cuisines through family gatherings, his mother's catering business, and the family restaurant Padaek. While attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School in Annandale, Virginia, Pradachith became interested in pursuing a career as a professional chef. He attended Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York and completed externships in restaurants with Asian American chefs. He worked at Washington, D.C. restaurants Toki Underground and barmini before partnering with his mother Seng Luangrath to open Thip Khao in Columbia Heights. Pradachith is active in the Washington, D.C. chef community and uses food to tell the story of his family's Lao heritage.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Bobby Pradachith discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Lao culture, food, and language, attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School, attending the Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York, externing with Asian American chefs, working at his family's restaurants, and building relationships with chefs in Washington, D.C. Pradachith also discusses his strong relationship with his

family and learning of his parents' difficult departure from Laos.

Bobby Pradachith interview transcript, 2018-05-29

## **Biographical / Historical**

Bobby Pradachith was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1993 to Lao immigrant parents. As a child he was exposed to Lao cuisines through family gatherings, his mother's catering business, and the family restaurant Padaek. While attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School in Annandale, Virginia, Pradachith became interested in pursuing a career as a professional chef. He attended Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York and completed externships in restaurants with Asian American chefs. He worked at Washington, D.C. restaurants Toki Underground and barmini before partnering with his mother Seng Luangrath to open Thip Khao in Columbia Heights. Pradachith is active in the Washington, D.C. chef community and uses food to tell the story of his family's Lao heritage.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Bobby Pradachith discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Lao culture, food, and language, attending the culinary arts program at Annandale High School, attending the Culinary Institute of America in New York, New York, externing with Asian American chefs, working at his family's restaurants, and building relationships with chefs in Washington, D.C. Pradachith also discusses his strong relationship with his family and learning of his parents' difficult departure from Laos.

Danny Lee interview index, 2018-08-21

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Danny Lee was born in Washington, D.C. in 1981 to Korean immigrant parents. He grew up in Falls Church and Vienna, Virginia and attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. While Lee was in high school his father passed away, which led his mother to open an American Chinese franchise restaurant in Reagan National Airport to support the family. After graduating from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, Lee worked as a paralegal and then an office manager/event coordinator at Oceanaire Seafood Room. There Lee was trained by chef Rob Klink on both managerial and culinary side of food business. Lee and his mother Yesoon Lee opened Mandu in two locations in Washington, D.C., Dupont Circle and later Mount Vernon Triangle. In 2017, Lee, along with

Fried Rice Collective members Scott Drewno and Andrew Kim, opened CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Contents**

Danny Lee discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Korean culture, food, and language, attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact of his father's early death on the family, his mother's restaurant enterprises, attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, his culinary training, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with his mother, collaborating with other Washington, D.C. area chefs to form the Fried Rice Collective, opening CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., his emphasis on providing a healthy work environment, and the impact Korean and Chinese fine dining has made in his life.

Danny Lee interview transcript, 2018-08-22

## **Biographical / Historical**

Danny Lee was born in Washington, D.C. in 1981 to Korean immigrant parents. He grew up in Falls Church and Vienna, Virginia and attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. While Lee was in high school his father passed away, which led his mother to open an American Chinese franchise restaurant in Reagan National Airport to support the family. After graduating from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, Lee worked as a paralegal and then an office manager/event coordinator at Oceanaire Seafood Room. There Lee was trained by chef Rob Klink on both managerial and culinary side of food business. Lee and his mother Yesoon Lee opened Mandu in two locations in Washington, D.C., Dupont Circle and later Mount Vernon Triangle. In 2017, Lee, along with Fried Rice Collective members Scott Drewno and Andrew Kim, opened CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Danny Lee discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Korean culture, food, and language, attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact of his father's early death on the family, his mother's restaurant enterprises, attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, his culinary training, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with his mother, collaborating with other Washington, D.C. area chefs to form the Fried Rice Collective, opening CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., his emphasis on providing a healthy

work environment, and the impact Korean and Chinese fine dining has made in his life.

Danny Lee interview Mandu menu, 2018-08-22

## **Biographical / Historical**

Danny Lee was born in Washington, D.C. in 1981 to Korean immigrant parents. He grew up in Falls Church and Vienna, Virginia and attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. While Lee was in high school his father passed away, which led his mother to open an American Chinese franchise restaurant in Reagan National Airport to support the family. After graduating from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, Lee worked as a paralegal and then an office manager/event coordinator at Oceanaire Seafood Room. There Lee was trained by chef Rob Klink on both managerial and culinary side of food business. Lee and his mother Yesoon Lee opened Mandu in two locations in Washington, D.C., Dupont Circle and later Mount Vernon Triangle. In 2017, Lee, along with Fried Rice Collective members Scott Drewno and Andrew Kim, opened CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Contents**

Danny Lee discusses growing up the child of immigrants with influences of Korean culture, food, and language, attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact of his father's early death on the family, his mother's restaurant enterprises, attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, his culinary training, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with his mother, collaborating with other Washington, D.C. area chefs to form the Fried Rice Collective, opening CHIKO in Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., his emphasis on providing a healthy work environment, and the impact Korean and Chinese fine dining has made in his life.

Edward Lee interview index, 2018-07-11

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Edward Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York. During his childhood Lee spent time with his grandmother watching her cook, peaking his interest in the culinary arts. He entered the foodservice industry as a busboy at 14 and later worked in the kitchen of the restaurant. He opened Clay, a Korean restaurant, near Chinatown in Manhattan, New York in the 1990s. After the 9/11 terrorist attack Lee moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he opened the restaurants 610 Magnolia, MilkWood, and Whiskey Dry. Lee is the author of a

cookbook Smoke & Pickles and a food memoir titled Buttermilk Graffiti. He has made numerous appearances on television shows, including Top Chef, The Mind of a Chef, and Culinary Genius. He opened a southern cuisine restaurant, Succotash, in National Harbor, Maryland and later Penn Quarter, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Contents**

Edward Lee discusses his childhood in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York, his desire from a young age to be in the kitchen, entering the foodservice industry at the age of 14 as a busboy, his short stint at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, opening his first restaurant Clay, the enormous strain of his early success, moving to Louisville, Kentucky to reset personally and professionally, opening Succotash in National Harbor, Maryland then Washington, D.C., his views on foodie culture, his work in mentoring women in the food industry through The LEE Initiate, the differences between life in Louisville, Kentucky and Washington, D.C., Korean culture and patriarchy, and his views on gentrification.

Edward Lee interview transcript, 2018-07-12

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Edward Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York. During his childhood Lee spent time with his grandmother watching her cook, peaking his interest in the culinary arts. He entered the foodservice industry as a busboy at 14 and later worked in the kitchen of the restaurant. He opened Clay, a Korean restaurant, near Chinatown in Manhattan, New York in the 1990s. After the 9/11 terrorist attack Lee moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he opened the restaurants 610 Magnolia, MilkWood, and Whiskey Dry. Lee is the author of a cookbook Smoke & Pickles and a food memoir titled Buttermilk Graffiti. He has made numerous appearances on television shows, including Top Chef, The Mind of a Chef, and Culinary Genius. He opened a southern cuisine restaurant, Succotash, in National Harbor, Maryland and later Penn Quarter, Washington, D.C.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Edward Lee discusses his childhood in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York, his desire from a young age to be in the kitchen, entering the foodservice industry at the age of 14 as a busboy, his short stint at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, opening his first restaurant Clay, the enormous strain of his early success, moving to Louisville, Kentucky to reset personally and professionally, opening Succotash in National Harbor, Maryland then Washington, D.C., his

views on foodie culture, his work in mentoring women in the food industry through The LEE Initiate, the differences between life in Louisville, Kentucky and Washington, D.C., Korean culture and patriarchy, and his views on gentrification.

Edward Lee interview Succotash menu, 2018-07-12

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Edward Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York. During his childhood Lee spent time with his grandmother watching her cook, peaking his interest in the culinary arts. He entered the foodservice industry as a busboy at 14 and later worked in the kitchen of the restaurant. He opened Clay, a Korean restaurant, near Chinatown in Manhattan, New York in the 1990s. After the 9/11 terrorist attack Lee moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he opened the restaurants 610 Magnolia, MilkWood, and Whiskey Dry. Lee is the author of a cookbook Smoke & Pickles and a food memoir titled Buttermilk Graffiti. He has made numerous appearances on television shows, including Top Chef, The Mind of a Chef, and Culinary Genius. He opened a southern cuisine restaurant, Succotash, in National Harbor, Maryland and later Penn Quarter, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Contents**

Edward Lee discusses his childhood in the Canarsie neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, New York, his desire from a young age to be in the kitchen, entering the foodservice industry at the age of 14 as a busboy, his short stint at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, opening his first restaurant Clay, the enormous strain of his early success, moving to Louisville, Kentucky to reset personally and professionally, opening Succotash in National Harbor, Maryland then Washington, D.C., his views on foodie culture, his work in mentoring women in the food industry through The LEE Initiate, the differences between life in Louisville, Kentucky and Washington, D.C., Korean culture and patriarchy, and his views on gentrification.

Seng Luangrath interview index, 2018-09-25

## **Biographical / Historical**

Seng Luangrath was born in Vientiane, Laos where she grew up in a multi-generational home and learned to cook from her grandmother. At the age of 12, Luangrath fled Laos with her mother and brothers; her sister, who was viewed to be braver than Luangrath, stayed behind to care for her grandmother. Her family lived in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. While living in a refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, her mother remarried

and Luangrath learned to cook various Lao regional cuisines from her stepfather. In the Philippines her family attended an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California in the United States. Luangrath attended Berkeley High School and then Laney College. In 1988 Luangrath married a man through a courtship her mother arranged, and moved with her new husband to Northern Virginia. Luangrath worked as a bank teller and accountant while her husband worked in manufacturing, food service, and flooring before the pair started a construction business for military housing. The business ultimately failed leaving the couple looking for new options. Luangrath dreamed of opening her own restaurant and the opportunity arose to take over a Thai restaurant, Bangkok Golden (now Padaek) in Falls Church, Virginia. The original menu featured Thai food but included secret Lao dishes. After a positive review from a Washington Post food critic, Luangrath began serving both Thai and Lao dishes. With encouragement from her customers and the Washington, D.C. chef community, she opened Thip Khao in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. with her son, Bobby Pradachith. Together Luangrath and Pradachith lead the Lao Food Movement which promotes Lao cuisine and culture and encourages ethnic minorities to be proud of their identities and cultures.

## **Scope and Contents**

Seng Luangrath discusses her childhood in Vientiane, Laos, living in a multi-generational home, learning to cook from her grandmother, the impact of the Laotian Civil War and the Vietnam War on her family, attending a French-language school, learning that her family would be escaping Laos but that her sister would remain with her grandmother, the experience of being smuggled across the Laos border into Thailand, life as a refugee in Thailand then the Philippines, attending an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California, her marriage arranged by her mother, moving to Virginia and establishing a life with her new husband, her professional life before becoming a chef, opening her first restaurant and then expanding into Washington, D.C., her lifelong passion for cooking and serving her community, and the impact the community of chefs in Washington, D.C. have had on her career.

Seng Luangrath interview transcript, 2018-09-25

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Seng Luangrath was born in Vientiane, Laos where she grew up in a multi-generational home and learned to cook from her grandmother. At the age of 12, Luangrath fled Laos with her mother and brothers; her sister, who was viewed to be braver than Luangrath, stayed behind to care for her grandmother. Her family lived in refugee camps

in Thailand and the Philippines. While living in a refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, her mother remarried and Luangrath learned to cook various Lao regional cuisines from her stepfather. In the Philippines her family attended an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California in the United States. Luangrath attended Berkeley High School and then Laney College. In 1988 Luangrath married a man through a courtship her mother arranged, and moved with her new husband to Northern Virginia. Luangrath worked as a bank teller and accountant while her husband worked in manufacturing, food service, and flooring before the pair started a construction business for military housing. The business ultimately failed leaving the couple looking for new options. Luangrath dreamed of opening her own restaurant and the opportunity arose to take over a Thai restaurant, Bangkok Golden (now Padaek) in Falls Church, Virginia. The original menu featured Thai food but included secret Lao dishes. After a positive review from a Washington Post food critic, Luangrath began serving both Thai and Lao dishes. With encouragement from her customers and the Washington, D.C. chef community, she opened Thip Khao in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. with her son, Bobby Pradachith. Together Luangrath and Pradachith lead the Lao Food Movement which promotes Lao cuisine and culture and encourages ethnic minorities to be proud of their identities and cultures.

## **Scope and Contents**

Seng Luangrath discusses her childhood in Vientiane, Laos, living in a multi-generational home, learning to cook from her grandmother, the impact of the Laotian Civil War and the Vietnam War on her family, attending a French-language school, learning that her family would be escaping Laos but that her sister would remain with her grandmother, the experience of being smuggled across the Laos border into Thailand, life as a refugee in Thailand then the Philippines, attending an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California, her marriage arranged by her mother, moving to Virginia and establishing a life with her new husband, her professional life before becoming a chef, opening her first restaurant and then expanding into Washington, D.C., her lifelong passion for cooking and serving her community, and the impact the community of chefs in Washington, D.C. have had on her career.

Seng Luangrath Thip Khao menu, 2018-09-25

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Seng Luangrath was born in Vientiane, Laos where she grew up in a multi-generational home and learned to cook from her grandmother. At the age of 12, Luangrath fled Laos with her mother and brothers; her sister, who was

viewed to be braver than Luangrath, stayed behind to care for her grandmother. Her family lived in refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. While living in a refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, her mother remarried and Luangrath learned to cook various Lao regional cuisines from her stepfather. In the Philippines her family attended an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California in the United States. Luangrath attended Berkeley High School and then Laney College. In 1988 Luangrath married a man through a courtship her mother arranged, and moved with her new husband to Northern Virginia. Luangrath worked as a bank teller and accountant while her husband worked in manufacturing, food service, and flooring before the pair started a construction business for military housing. The business ultimately failed leaving the couple looking for new options. Luangrath dreamed of opening her own restaurant and the opportunity arose to take over a Thai restaurant, Bangkok Golden (now Padaek) in Falls Church, Virginia. The original menu featured Thai food but included secret Lao dishes. After a positive review from a Washington Post food critic, Luangrath began serving both Thai and Lao dishes. With encouragement from her customers and the Washington, D.C. chef community, she opened Thip Khao in Columbia Heights, Washington, D.C. with her son, Bobby Pradachith. Together Luangrath and Pradachith lead the Lao Food Movement which promotes Lao cuisine and culture and encourages ethnic minorities to be proud of their identities and cultures.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Seng Luangrath discusses her childhood in Vientiane, Laos, living in a multi-generational home, learning to cook from her grandmother, the impact of the Laotian Civil War and the Vietnam War on her family, attending a French-language school, learning that her family would be escaping Laos but that her sister would remain with her grandmother, the experience of being smuggled across the Laos border into Thailand, life as a refugee in Thailand then the Philippines, attending an English language school in preparation for moving to Berkeley, California, her marriage arranged by her mother, moving to Virginia and establishing a life with her new husband, her professional life before becoming a chef, opening her first restaurant and then expanding into Washington, D.C., her lifelong passion for cooking and serving her community, and the impact the community of chefs in Washington, D.C. have had on her career.

Yesoon Lee interview index, 2019-08-20

## **Biographical / Historical**

Yesoon Lee was born in Seoul, Korea in 1946. She attended South Gate Elementary School, Sudo Girl's

High School, and Lee University. Lee attended graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where she met and married her husband. Lee and her husband moved to Northern Virginia where she taught at Averett College in Danville, Virginia and operated Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia with a friend. Lee's husband passed away from cancer, leaving her looking for new ways to support her family. She operated a Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan National Airport and later opened Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Square, Washington, D.C. with her son, Danny Lee. Yeeson is a member of McLean Bible Church.

## **Scope and Contents**

Yesoon Lee discusses her childhood in Seoul, Korea during and after the Korean War, attending graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she met and married her husband, moving to Northern Virginia, teaching at Averett College in Danville, Virginia, operating Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact the early death of her husband had on her life, opening Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan National Airport, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with her son Danny Lee, her religious beliefs, her perspective on the chef community in Washington, D.C., and her family.

Yesoon Lee interview transcript, 2019-08-20

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Yesoon Lee was born in Seoul, Korea in 1946. She attended South Gate Elementary School, Sudo Girl's High School, and Lee University. Lee attended graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where she met and married her husband. Lee and her husband moved to Northern Virginia where she taught at Averett College in Danville, Virginia and operated Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia with a friend. Lee's husband passed away from cancer, leaving her looking for new ways to support her family. She operated a Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan National Airport and later opened Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Square, Washington, D.C. with her son, Danny Lee. Yeeson is a member of McLean Bible Church.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Yesoon Lee discusses her childhood in Seoul, Korea during and after the Korean War, attending graduate school for music composition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she met and married her husband, moving to Northern Virginia, teaching at Averett

College in Danville, Virginia, operating Pica-deli in Alexandria, Virginia, the impact the early death of her husband had on her life, opening Charlie Chiang's Kwai in Ronald Reagan National Airport, opening Mandu in Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle, Washington, D.C. with her son Danny Lee, her religious beliefs, her perspective on the chef community in Washington, D.C., and her family.

#### ^ Return to Table of Contents

# Series 11: Voices of The DC Fort Totten Storytellers Oral History Project

## **Biographical / Historical**

This project documents the stories of residents of Fort Totten, Washington, D.C., a neighborhood nestled between Fort Totten Park, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and Rock Creek Cemetery. Fort Totten is an area in which African Americans began to enjoy equal opportunity in purchasing homes in the 1950s and 1960s. The neighborhood's rowhouses were built by Colony Construction Company in the 1930s, developed by Morris Cafritz, and designed by architect George T. Santmyers.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Interviews**

**Title/Description** 

**Instances** 

Gale Griffin interview part 1, 2018-04-16

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

## Biographical / Historical

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

Gale Griffin interview part 3, 2018-04-16

## **Biographical / Historical**

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

Marvin Kirby interview, 2018-06-21

## **Biographical / Historical**

Marvin Kirby was born in Washington, DC. He moved with his wife and children to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1964. He attended Bruce Elementary School, Banneker Junior High School, and Cardozo High School. He served two years in the Army and then attended Cortez Peters Business School. He worked for the federal government for several years.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Marvin Kirby discusses his neighbors and memories of living in the Fort Totten community as well as changes gentrification has brought Fort Totten.

Michael Stanley interview, 2018-06-05

## **Biographical / Historical**

Michael Stanley was born in Washington, DC. His family first lived on Savannah Terrace in Southeast Washington before moving to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1955. Mr. Stanley attended Keene Elementary School until the sixth grade, MacFarland Middle School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Theodore Roosevelt High School. Stanley was drafted into the Army where he served for two years and nine months in Vietnam. Upon leaving the military Mr. Stanley attending the University of the District of Columbia, studying business management. Stanley was the Branch Chief for DC Courts.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Michael Stanley discusses the close-knit Fort Totten neighborhood of his childhood, his summers spent with other children from the neighborhood, his extracurricular school activities and social life as a teenager, and the changes that gentrification has brought to the DC area.

Patrice Brown interview, 2018-05-12

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Patrice Brown was born in Washington, DC. As a young child, Ms. Brown and her siblings spent weekdays with their grandparents in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood and weekends with their parents. Ms. Brown attended H.D. Cooke Elementary School and Morgan Elementary School before moving to the Fort Totten neighborhood with her family where she attended Bertie Backus Junior High and Theodore Roosevelt High School. Ms. Brown attended Dumbarton College and The George Washignton University. She is currently an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration.

## **Scope and Contents**

Patrice Brown discusses the important role civic associations have played in making Fort Totten a community and remembers the Orange Hat patrols. She discusses gentrification and the changing demographics of the Fort Totten neighborhood. Ms. Brown also discusses her family's deep roots in the DC metro area.

Philip Purvis interview, 2018-08-23

#### Biographical / Historical

Philip Purvis was born in Washington, DC in 1955. In 1969, he moved to Woodridge. Following high school, he did go through some tough times with addiction and homelessness. He spent his entire life in Washington and recollects fond memories.

#### **Scope and Contents**

He talks about his childhood experiences growing up in Fort Totten with his family and friends, remembering past businesses he frequented.

Sharon Brown interview, 2018-05-12

## **Biographical / Historical**

This oral history interview was conducted with Sharon Brown by Stephanie Mills Trice in Washington, DC. Sharon Brown was born at Columbia Hospital in Washington, DC. From kindergarten to sixth grade, she split her time between her grandparent's home in the Mount Pleasant area, where she attended Morgan Elementary and H.D. Cooke, and her family's home in the Fort Totten neighborhood. She attended Backus Junior High and Roosevelt High School. Sharon Brown graduated from Catholic University and worked as nurse for a few years before returning to college to get a degree in information technology and a master's in library science. She has worked as a librarian since. She talks about being a teenager in the quiet and friendly neighborhood of Fort Totten and discusses how gentrification and changing demographics have affected both the Fort Totten community and her church in LeDroit Park.

Vannie Kirby interview, 2018-06-21

#### **Biographical / Historical**

This oral history interview was conducted with Vannie Kirby by Stephanie Mills Trice in Washington, DC. Vannie Kirby was born in Rockingham, North Carolina and moved to Washington, DC to attend business school. Mrs. Kirby and her husband moved to the Fort Totten

neighborhood in 1964. She talks about raising her children in Fort Totten. She attended Cortez Peters Business School for two years and worked for the Department of Public Health for 31 years. She talks about the changes gentrification has brought to the Fort Totten area where she still resides.

Wendell Moore interview part 1, 2018-07-05

## **Biographical / Historical**

This oral history interview was conducted with Wendell Moore by Jules Johnson in Washington, DC. Wendell Moore was born in Northwest Washington and moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood when he was in fourth grade. He talks about his early memories of playing in the alleys and the woods by Fort Totten with the other neighborhood children. He attended Barnard Elementary, Rabaut Junior High, and Calvin Coolidge Senior High School. Wendell Moore studied business administration at Bowie State University. After graduating, he secured a management position at Giant Food. He continued his education while working and received his master's and PhD. He also works as a professor at Bowie State University. Wendell Moore talks about the demographic changes he's seen throughout Washington, DC over the decades and the importance of being proactive.

Wendell Moore interview part 2, 2018-07-05

# **Sub-Series 2: Indexes and Transcripts**

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

Title/Description Instances

Gale Griffin interview index, 2018-04-16

## **Biographical / Historical**

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

Gale Griffin interview transcript part 1, 2018-04-16

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Gale Griffin was born in Alexandria, Virginia and moved with her family to Washington, DC when she was six months old. Her family then moved to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1956 when she was four years old. She talks about the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. She attended Keene Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, the new Rabaut Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School. She attended Federal City College for two years. She worked for the postal service for 33 years. She talks about the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

## **Scope and Contents**

Gale Griffin discusses the close-knit nature of the Fort Totten community and the long-lasting friendships that formed among neighborhood children. Griffin also discusses the changes that gentrification has brought both to her current Nicholson Street neighborhood and the Fort Totten area where her mother still resides.

Gale Griffin interview transcript part 2, 2018-04-16

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Marvin Kirby was born in Washington, DC. He moved with his wife and children to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1964. He attended Bruce Elementary School, Banneker Junior High School, and Cardozo High School. He served

two years in the Army and then attended Cortez Peters Business School. He worked for the federal government for several years.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Marvin Kirby discusses his neighbors and memories of living in the Fort Totten community as well as changes gentrification has brought Fort Totten.

Marvin Kirby interview index, 2018-06-21

## **Biographical / Historical**

Marvin Kirby was born in Washington, DC. He moved with his wife and children to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1964. He attended Bruce Elementary School, Banneker Junior High School, and Cardozo High School. He served two years in the Army and then attended Cortez Peters Business School. He worked for the federal government for several years.

## **Scope and Contents**

Marvin Kirby discusses his neighbors and memories of living in the Fort Totten community as well as changes gentrification has brought Fort Totten.

Marvin Kirby interview transcript, 2018-06-21

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Michael Stanley was born in Washington, DC. His family first lived on Savannah Terrace in Southeast Washington before moving to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1955. Mr. Stanley attended Keene Elementary School until the sixth grade, MacFarland Middle School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Theodore Roosevelt High School. Stanley was drafted into the Army where he served for two years and nine months in Vietnam. Upon leaving the military Mr. Stanley attending the University of the District of Columbia, studying business management. Stanley was the Branch Chief for DC Courts.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Michael Stanley discusses the close-knit Fort Totten neighborhood of his childhood, his summers spent with other children from the neighborhood, his extracurricular school activities and social life as a teenager, and the changes that gentrification has brought to the DC area.

Michael Stanley interview transcript, 2018-06-05

## **Biographical / Historical**

Michael Stanley was born in Washington, DC. His family first lived on Savannah Terrace in Southeast Washington before moving to the Fort Totten neighborhood in 1955. Mr. Stanley attended Keene Elementary School until the sixth grade, MacFarland Middle School, Bertie Backus Middle School, and Theodore Roosevelt High School. Stanley was drafted into the Army where he served for two years and nine months in Vietnam. Upon leaving the military Mr. Stanley attending the University of the District of Columbia, studying business management. Stanley was the Branch Chief for DC Courts.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Michael Stanley discusses the close-knit Fort Totten neighborhood of his childhood, his summers spent with other children from the neighborhood, his extracurricular school activities and social life as a teenager, and the changes that gentrification has brought to the DC area.

Michael Stanley interview index, 2018-06-05
Patrice Brown interview index, 2018-05-12
Patrice Brown interview transcript, 2018-05-12
Philip Purvis interview index, 2018-08-23
Philip Purvis interview transcript, 2018-08-23
Sharon Brown interview index, 2018-05-12
Sharon Brown interview transcript, 2018-05-12
Vannie Kirby interview index, 2018-06-21
Vannie Kirby interview transcript, 2018-06-21
Wendell Moore interview index, 2018-07-05

^ Return to Table of Contents