



EILEEN WILSON- OYELARAN INTERVIEW ONE ABSTRACT

Oral history interview with Eileen Wilson- Oyelaran, Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society Engaging the Wisdom African- American Literature Archive Project. Interviewed on April 27, 2015. Interviewed at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Interviewed by Lauren Perlaki.

Interview 1

Time segment Index:

Minutes	Description of Interview Content
0:00	Introduction
1:15	Parents' choice to move from Harlem, NY to California
1:57	Memories of growing up in all black neighborhood in LA
3:11	Description of parents' jobs, father as attorney and minister, mother stayed home and then vocational rehabilitation
4:08	Memories of school, Girl Scouts, neighborhood activities, and coming of age
6:44	Memories of Watts Riots and subsequent changes in family and neighborhood
10:40	Story of mother's Afro
11:28	Stories of attending private Catholic middle and high school
15:00	Description of great teachers and their lifelong friendships

16:02	Personal awareness of racial segregation and its effects on Wilson- Oyelaran
18:09	Memories of coming of age during Civil Rights Movement, events in Birmingham, parents going to NAACP convention, picketing in solidarity
21:06	Description of going to Pomona College and the difficulties the institution posed to African Americans
21:20	Story of meeting the only two other women of color at college and feeling duty bound to carry the burden of race
22:25	Story of choosing major and using it to pursue interest in education
23:30	Memories of race relations class and its profound and lasting impression
26:14	Recollection of hearing MLK speak
28:25	Explanation of choice study abroad in England and experiences while studying abroad
31:24	Story of being called N-word for the first time while in England
34:02	Reason for applying for Thomas J. Watson Traveling Fellowship and going to Africa
37:04	Choice to move to Nigeria for 14 years postgraduate school
39:19	Description of raising a family in Nigeria as opposed to own childhood in United States
41:29	Recollection of political turmoil in Nigeria, its effects, and its difficulties
43:51	Description of being an American living in Nigeria
44:46	Explanation for move back to United States from Nigeria and noticeable changes in the United States
48:22	Description of differences between teaching in Nigeria versus United States
50:43	Concluding remarks