



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Jill Nelson papers

1984-1991

Sc MG 457

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Nelson, Jill

Title: Jill Nelson papers

Date: 1984-1991

Size: 1.21 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift, Jill Nelson, 2002

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: Jill Nelson (1952-) is a journalist and writer. The Jill Nelson papers consist of notebooks kept by Nelson during her time as a journalist with *The Village Voice*, as well as material documenting her time as a press agent for C. Vernon Mason's campaign for Manhattan District Attorney.

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Preferred citation: [Item], Jill Nelson papers, Sc MG 457, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound (MIRS) Division: audio materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Creator History

Jill Nelson (1952-) is a journalist and writer. She is the author of the memoirs *Volunteer Slavery: My Authentic Negro Experience* (1993) and *Straight, No Chaser: How I Became A Grown-Up Black Woman* (1997), the novel *Sexual Healing* (2003), and the nonfiction work *Finding Martha's Vineyard: African Americans at Home on an Island* (2005), as well as the editor of *Police Brutality: An Anthology*

(2000). Nelson's work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Essence*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Ms.*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Village Voice*.

Scope and Content Note

The Jill Nelson papers consist of notebooks kept by Nelson during her time as a journalist with *The Village Voice*. Subjects include: Marion Barry's 1990 trial, the Grenada invasion, Haiti during the events that occurred in 1986, Alton Maddox, and Nelson Mandela. In addition, there is material from Nelson's stint as press agent for C. Vernon Mason's campaign for Manhattan District Attorney.

Audiotapes from the collection, featuring interviews with politicians, celebrities and historians such as Naim Akbar, Marion Barry, Avery Brooks, Solomon Brown, Nelson Mandela, Diana Ross, and Oprah Winfrey, were transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American journalists
African American women
Black author
Haiti -- History -- 1986-

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Notebooks

Names

Barry, Marion, 1936-2014
Mandela, Nelson, 1918-2013
Nelson, Jill

Container List

Notebooks

B

- b. 1 f. 1 Black Family
- b. 1 f. 1 Blake, John
- b. 1 f. 1 Boat Ride
- b. 1 f. 1 Business
- b. 1 f. 2 Barry, Marion Trial 1990

C

- b. 1 f. 3 Cheeks, Cassandra Jones 1987
- b. 1 f. 3 Carter, Sharon
- b. 1 f. 3 Columbia, 1983
- b. 1 f. 3 Clark, [Ramsey?]
- b. 1 f. 3 Crawford Meeting
- b. 1 f. 3 City Limits
- b. 1 f. 3 Chadsworth
- b. 1 f. 4 Cotillion 1988
- b. 1 f. 5 Crack/Drugs 1989

E-H

- b. 1 f. 6 Election
- b. 1 f. 6 Go-Go Queens
- b. 1 f. 6 Gallo
- b. 1 f. 6 Haiti
- b. 1 f. 7 Elsea, Shay 1990
- Grenada
- b. 1 f. 8 Writings
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Information packet

Haiti

- b. 1 f. 11 Clippings 1986
- b. 1 f. 12 Information packet

J-M

- b. 1 f. 13 Junior High School 1990
- b. 1 f. 13 Medical Education 1985
- b. 1 f. 13 Mimi and Tracie 1989
- b. 1 f. 13 Muslims
- b. 1 f. 14 Junkyard Bands 1989
- b. 1 f. 15 Maddox, Alton 1987
- b. 1 f. 16 Mandela, Nelson 1984-1985

S

- b. 1 f. 17 Step Show

Notebooks (cont.)

S (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 17 School Count
- b. 1 f. 18 Washington Post School Innovation 1991
- W
- b. 2 f. 1 Wills, Frank
- b. 2 f. 1 What's the Word
- b. 2 f. 1 Women
- b. 2 f. 1 Woodard, Alfre
- b. 2 f. 2 Unlabeled
- b. 2 f. 3 C. Vernon Mason—Campaign for Manhattan District Attorney 1985