

Maria Rogers Oral History Program

2019 Annual Report



Manager's Moment

Inside this report, you will read stories of extremely cool projects as well as productivity. To complement those highlights, I'll use this Moment to note a few subtle advancements that have rocked my world—in a good way.

1. Josh Phares, from the city's Innovation and Technology department, developed an "OH Tracker" app that helps keep tabs on all interviews throughout all stages of production. Approximately 30 discrete steps—usually involving five different people—must be accomplished before an oral history is processed, archived, and made publicly available. And dozens of interviews are being worked on simultaneously. The OH tracking tool

brings a new level of order and oversight to this sprawling undertaking.

2. For the first time since assuming the manager's position, I jumped in to conduct interviews and captured four oral histories about Boulder Public Library's Makerspace, BLDG 61.

This topic ignites my passion: documenting and explaining the leading-edge work of the library, while demonstrating the impact. You will know more about this project in the coming year; I mention it here as a note of personal satisfaction from 2019. And ...

3. Through the course of planning the BLDG 61 interviews, we discovered a magnificent location for staging recordings: Main Library's Teen Space has a digital foundry, which is a separate, soundproof room with its own key access. MROHP is allowed to use this space whenever teens aren't present—thanks to Anne Ledford and Leanne Slater! Sometimes with oral history, the basic consideration of soundscape gets lost amidst the host of other details requiring coordination. This secure room, in a public location, quietly advances our program's overall objectives.

My thanks to everyone involved with MROHP. Cheers to 2020!

– Cyns Nelson, MROHP Program Manager

"Didn't realize I, and the Margolis family, could access the video so readily!! I've been listening and watching Don and Barbara (may she rest in peace) with a smile on my face."

2019 ... By the Numbers

- 3045 total interviews in the collection
- 35 new interviews registered
- 33 interviews newly available to the public via the Carnegie website
- 15,015 oral-history page views
- 4,161 audio interactions
- 33 active volunteers
- 1,017 hours contributed
- 11 outreach activities

Collaboration

APPLES, HOUSING, FAITH AND SERVICE LEARNING = COLLABORATION

With a program that receives steady support and has an approach for handling every stage in the oral-history life cycle, MROHP is a natural partner for collaborative projects. Over the course of two years, we've worked with CU students who are enrolled in a service-learning practicum that ties into religious dimensions of the human experience. Students learn about oral history and conduct interviews as a means of understanding and evaluating religious life in Boulder. They critically reflect on their interactions with interviewees, and further consider how engaged citizens shape their communities. Most of these interviews are added to the MROHP collection; students connect their work to the mission of our local-history archive.

History Colorado's "Lost Highways" podcast used oral histories from our collection. Listen to the first episode: **Six Gay Weddings and a Horse.**

<https://www.historycolorado.org/lost-highways>



Boulder Apple Tree Project

The Boulder Apple Tree Project explores the natural and cultural history of apple varieties in Boulder and the surrounding area. The science side of the project collects data on location, age and health, morphology, and cultivar identification; the human side of the project (aka, oral history) collects memories of baking pies, pressing cider, greeting neighbors, and tasting the original fruit of the Garden of Eden. With six interviews recorded, we anticipate more, as we'll be working with graduate students involved in POP-CURE: Power of Place, Course-related Undergraduate Research Experience.

Check it out: <https://appletreeproject.org/>

Finally, we maintain a relationship with the Boulder Affordable Housing Research Initiative, which focuses on individuals living in, seeking, or supporting affordable housing options in Boulder. MROHP trained their researchers and undergraduate assistants to collect oral histories; these recordings (transcribed and archived with Carnegie) complement other types of observation by centering the individual as the narrator of her own story and reducing intervention or prompting by the researcher.

New Voices 2019 - Interviews Added to Online Archive:

Alan Snyder
Bert Tolbert
Beth Kroger
Cary Wolfson
Charles Robinson
Cherry Moore
Cheryl Glenn
Frank Sampson
Gene Langlois
Helen Risley
Henry Lee Troy

Janice Zelazo
Jeanne Nauenberg
Jonathan Hough
Joseph Clark
Judah Levine
Lisa Potter
Lisa Tedesco
Maggie Wegrzyn
Marcia Lattanzi Licht
Margaret Aiko Taniwaki
Marjorie Jordan

Nina Meyers
Ollie Shepherd
Raymond Crowder
Renee Sereff
Richard Behrmann
Richard McCray
Richard Stockton
Robert Law
Rose Shepherd
Virginia Stonier
Zeb Dennis

Volunteers



Jerry Jacobson

Early in 2019, we had a very special volunteer meeting that acknowledged and celebrated the contributions of Jerry Jacobson, long-time interviewer for MROHP. After years of masterfully facilitating oral histories, Jerry found himself the subject of an interview (thanks, Sue Boorman!) that details his history and experiences in Boulder, dating back to 1958 when he settled in as one of only three psychiatrists in town. With Jerry and part of his family present at the volunteer meeting, we listened to excerpts and soaked up Jerry's wit and wisdom, as he reflected on his past and the feeling of being interviewed versus conducting the interview. Jerry remains an inspiration to all associated with MROHP. (Listen to his full oral history, OH2080.)

Speaking of inspired, during 2019 we had seven different volunteers who recorded interviews for MROHP, covering life stories as well topics: KGNU radio station, Boulder ACLU, IBM, Boulder Valley School District, Apples, and Peoples Clinic. Volunteer Susan Becker shepherded the file transfer and processing of two unique collections—one related to the Joint Institute for Laboratory and Astrophysics (JILA), and the other a “Fusing Identities” project (circa 2005) in which teens and adults interviewed one another. Other volunteers continue with transcribing interviews, assisting with sound editing, and responding to archival needs as they emerge. We enjoy an abundance of interest from the community, translating to hours of time and talent.

“Thank you so much for making these interviews possible. It was such a joy and so meaningful. And Jerry Jacobson was an amazing interviewer.”



Micaela Cruce

From May through early August, intern Micaela Cruce tackled a variety of tasks and tallied a whopping 250 hours of work toward MROHP. Micaela set goals that would enhance her professional development while making substantial and meaningful contributions to the oral history program. She learned the art of transcription, conducted three interviews of her own, tested and analyzed aspects of the Carnegie website (especially related to oral history), launched a project to digitize paper files associated with the first 40 years of MROHP, and led discussion at one of the volunteer meetings. Micaela was an amazing worker, a tremendous asset, and a complete joy to be around. Congratulations, Micaela, on your bright future!

Boulder Valley School District
Apple Tree Project
Open Space and Mountain Parks
KGNU
Boulder Affordable Housing
BLDG 61 IBM
Peoples Clinic
Boulder ACLU

People Who Make it Happen

Volunteers

Jill Ascher
Connor Awaya
Chealsye Bowley
Susan Becker
Bill Benjamin
Sue Boorman
Megan Bowes
Dorothy Ciarlo
Kelly Crandall
Edie DeWeese
John Dungan

Marty Frick
Cynthia Girand
Joyce Gordon
Jane Imber
Jerry Jacobson
Annie Jay
Carol Jordan
Sheryl Kippen
Leslie Lomas
Luke Lorenz
Jack Mack

Isabella Luna Martinez
Miriam Murcutt
Jessica Oppen
Anne Marie Pois
Diane Rabson
Patty Templeton
Christine Tracy
Jo Walsh
Carol Witz
Marvin Woolf
Tom Worrall

Supporters

Carnegie Staff · BPL Staff · Boulder Library Commission · Boulder Library Foundation · Boulder County Parks and Open Space · Chris and Cathy Rogers · The Estate of George Bragg · Jim Beall & Susan Becker

A Special Thank You

Thanks to the Boulder Library Foundation for continuing to manage the MROHP endowment as well as donations that support our program. BLF can be found at www.boulderlibraryfoundation.org.

*“What fabulous work you are doing!
Thanks to you and your volunteers for
keeping this program strong, and for
the creative new applications you
have found for our community’s oral
histories.”*

Carnegie Website: <https://localhistory.boulderlibrary.org>

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