

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Funnye, Capers Charles, 1952-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye,
Dates:	October 8, 2021
Bulk Dates:	2021
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:59:15).
Abstract:	Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr., (1952 -) was installed as chief rabbi of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis in 2015. He has led the Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago since 1991. Funnye was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 8, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2021_005
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr., was born on April 14, 1952, in Georgetown, South Carolina, to Verdelle (Robinson) Funnye and Capers C. Funnye, Sr. He attended Howard University, in Washington, D.C., and received a B.A. degree in Hebrew literature and rabbinic ordination from the Israelite Board of Rabbis, Inc., in Queens, New York, and a B.A. degree in Jewish studies and an M.A. degree in human services administration from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, in Chicago, Illinois.

Funnye, who was raised in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, underwent his first Jewish conversion ritual in 1972. In 1985, after completing a five-year course of study, he was ordained by Rabbi Levi Ben Levy through the Israelite Rabbinical Academy of Brooklyn, underwent his second conversion ritual, and became assistant rabbi at the Beth Shalom Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago. Funnye became rabbi of Beth Shalom after the death of Rabbi Abihu Ben Reuben in 1991. Beth Shalom merged with the congregation of B'nai Zaken to form Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in 1993. In 1995, Funnye, Michelle Stein-Evers, and Robin Washington founded the National Conference of Black Jews (later Alliance of Black Jews). In 1997, Funnye became the first African American member of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. In 2015, Funnye was installed as Chief Rabbi of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis, in New York. Funnye also has served as rabbi for several congregations in Nigeria, Uganda, and other sub-Saharan African nations.

Funnye has served as a consultant to the DuSable Museum of African American History, the Chicago Historical Society, and the Spertus Museum of Judaica, all in Chicago, Illinois; the Black Holocaust Museum, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, in San Francisco, California; and the Afro-American Museum, in Los Angeles, California. Funnye has served on the boards of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, the American Jewish Congress of the Midwest, the Akiba Schechter Jewish Day School, the Israelite Board of Rabbis, and Kulanu.

Funnye and his wife, Mary White, live in Chicago, Illinois. They have four children.

Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr., was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 8, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 8, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr., (1952 -) was installed as chief rabbi of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis in 2015. He has led the Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago since 1991.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Funnye, Capers Charles, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Funnye, Capers Charles, 1952---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Religious Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, October 8, 2021. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_001, TRT: 1:28:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_002, TRT: 2:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_003, TRT: 3:30:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_004, TRT: 4:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_005, TRT: 5:30:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_006, TRT: 6:29:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_007, TRT: 7:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Section A2021_005_001_008, TRT: 8:31:28 ?