

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Roger Nissly ([00:01](#)):

We've been here about 40 years.

Betsy Nissly ([00:03](#)):

Betsy Nissly.

Roger Nissly ([00:04](#)):

Roger Nissly, 632 Deep Dean Road, Baltimore.

Betsy Nissly ([00:09](#)):

I taught French for 34 years. I taught school at Herring Run, it was a wing school. And then I moved to City College, because they opened it up, of course, to women.

Roger Nissly ([00:22](#)):

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

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Just as we got married, I needed a job. I applied several newspapers. I went to the Baltimore Afro-American, and they hired me. And it was really exciting times. Of course, it was the '60s in Baltimore. It was one of the best jobs I've ever had.

Roger Nissly ([00:42](#)):

Well, generally, I think I was the only White person there at the time. It was really voice of the minority population in Baltimore at that time. One of the first major stories that I went to was a police killing. And it was so similar, I hate to say this, the story was so similar to all the things that we're seeing now of police shootings. I can still remember that Sunday morning being out on that block and all the people with their side of the story, then of course there was the police side afterwards, but it was so similar to all the stories that we're seeing now. It was 1965, I believe.

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