

Interviewee: Pamela Bobay
Interviewers: Ashley Goyette and Mina Kelley
Date of Interview: October 4, 2017
Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Transcribers: Ashley Goyette and Mina Kelley



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Abstract:

Pamela Joy Greene was born in San Diego, California, on April 23, 1944. Her married name is Pamela Bobay. Pamela is the president of the Steering Committee of the Worcester Women's History Project. Some of her notable areas of work are at a food pantry for the Quinsigamond Valley Community Center and on the board for the Oak Hill Community Development Corporation. These areas of work showcase her core values of generosity and innovation. In this interview, Pamela expresses a great passion for travel including her time in California, Nevada, and Washington all of which have brought her here to Worcester. Pamela believes that the strong history of women is an integral part of Worcester. She has found that this immense diversity, which she embraces and lives in her everyday life, is central to the energy that she has found in Worcester. She emphasizes the need for collaboration among different generations of women in order to move forward and create significant change. Pamela serves as a model of inspiration for young women everywhere searching for a sense of independence and self-discovery.

***Note:** Ashley Goyette and Mina Kelley received the permission of Ms. Pamela Bobay before initiating the recording session. The informed consent and permission are evident in the papers signed by Ms. Bobay. The interviewers wanted to receive her permission before starting the recording for the sake of respect.

PB: Okay...

MK: Alright, so we're going to start with some general questions, just like your background, so, what is your full name including both your maiden name and your married name, if it's applicable to you?

PB: Oh okay, I'm Pamela Joy Greene, with an 'e' on the end and Bobay is my married name.

MK: Okay. When were you born?

PB: 1944...[laughs] in San Diego.

MK: Ohhh.

AG: Oh wow, you traveled far!

MK: Yeah!

PB: Well, I just sort of worked my way back here [laughs].

MK: Interesting. Were you...okay, never mind.

PB: I'm a native Californian.

MK: Okay!

PB: I lived most my life there...15 years I lived in Reno, Nevada. And then my daughter and son-in-law came back here, he got a job teaching at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology], and she had a job. About a year later, a grandson appeared, and it was time to close the gallery (was coming up ???), so I moved back.

MK: Okay. (___???)

AG: Do you see a big distinction between the west coast and the east coast, or?

PB: Yes.

AG: Yeah?

MK: Yeah, a bit [laughs].

PB: Oh, yes. 'Cause I grew up in L.A.[Los Angeles] mostly...

AG: Yeah.

MK: Oh, okay.

PB: Then lived in the Bay Area for many years...

AG: Okay.

MK: Interesting.

PB: And, I lived in Washington state (so in Nevada ???), so I, basically--- four states.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Yeah.

AG: Always cities, or a little bit of both?

PB: Always cities, except for Washington state, I lived on a reservation in the summers and when I was little...because it was right after the war and my parents were getting their teachers' certificates and I was on the reservation for three years with my grandparents, or four years, excuse me.

MK: Interesting [quietly]. Alright, well, we'll get back to that later, it's interesting.

PB: Oh, okay [laughs].

MK: [quietly laughs], Have you, okay, well you already answered this, but have you ever married, and if so, what is the name of your spouse?

PB: Yes. Oh, Gary Joseph.

MK: Okay. Do you have any children?

PB: I have a daughter, it's Yverre Jolais. It's Y-V-E-R-R-E, which is winter, we Anglicized winter in French.

MK: Oh.

PB: Because it's H-I-V-E-R, we were looking for a name, so [laughs], my [laughs] ex-husband and I were tremendously into wine [laughs] in our lives together, and so her middle name was Jolais, like a wine, Yverre Jolais [laughs].

MK: That's funny.

PB: [laughs].

AG: That's very unique, I like it.

MK: It is unique.

PB: [laughs].

MK: Do you - do you have any grandchildren?

PB: I have two, Marcellus and Jolie. He's 12 and my granddaughter is nine.

MK: Oh, that's nice.

PB: And they're delightful.

AG: (___???)

PB: They live in Carlisle, so I'm going there this weekend. Their parents are going to New York for the weekend. We're going to tough it out together [laughs].

MK: That's nice. So following up, what cultures or ethnicities do you identify with?

PB: Well, I guess several,...I'm a registered tribal member of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington state. I grew up in (El Sandros... ???) several years with my aunt and uncle, and my uncle who is Jewish, so I attended temple, I did this. My grandmother was from Wales and most of her family was in Canada, just (Mattenin ???), and, so we'd go across a lot and visit. My father's family... I grew up in very distinct cultures. My father's family were Russian/German descent, and when Catherine the Great brought over Russian farmers to along the Volga River to farm, they were allowed to keep German cities, townships, so the school, the government, everything was German language. When they changed and they started drafting the German farmers, they left...Russia, and came here in Endicott, Washington as pretty much the descendants of the same town in Russia. They came in a group, came across, and then settled in Washington state. So, I grew up in L.A., Jewish culture, travelled to this German culture for a week or two every year where everyone in the town spoke German except me [laughs] and, then to the reservation, so...

MK: Hmmm.

AG: Wow.

MK: That's quite a lot.

PB: [laughs] I learned, just, just to be aware and I enjoyed the differences. It was always, I guess that's why it was always so interesting because everything was unique.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Yeah, definitely.

PB: So...

AG: Did you pick up on any other languages as you like traveled, or?

PB: No.

AG: No?

PB: I tried Spanish, I-I could, I did Spanish very well..., because it's Los Angeles.

AG: Right.

MK: Right.

PB: But I've lost a lot of that now, but I like the Hispanic culture because it's, it's really Los Angeles.

AG: Yeah.

PB: It's—there's a feeling in there and you have to know it, and, they have a long time recognizing their own roots...some of the historical people and things or residence and things to report weren't used for like they are back here, you have home like (P.O.P. ??) codes place in L.A. would have been a house to go and see for the history of the area if you were living back here, but in L.A. until years later...No [laughs].

MK: Also, so that was very interesting [laughs] ...

PB: [laughs].

MK: I like all of the different experiences you've had, so could you tell us about your parents? Anything about them?

PB: Both parents were teachers. My father was a principal, elementary school principal, and coach in different times and my mother taught second grade...and she had gone to Indian school, they had removed her from Washington, and sent her to Chihuahua in Oregon State where she went to school. It was not a good experience for her, everyone left, it was for her generation it was an unspoken...time. When they got together, when I saw her with my aunts, it wasn't until years later that I could piece together because no one ever openly talked about it. I learned more about it. I had a job when I was living in Reno before I opened the gallery—was Stewart Indian School Museum, for three years. There I worked with a lot of people who had gone to the Stuart Indian school, and I could hear their anger and what it was like, and I learned kind of through a back door, and then it helped me understand what the family didn't really want to discuss...

MK: Interesting. well you did answer this, but...

PB: One of the interesting parts about living in L.A. with my uncle, my uncle was a screenwriter's agent.

MK: Oh, really?

PB: So, that was really a lot of fun because I got to go to places, and, I got to step on (the spilled milk ???) (of some well-known ???) celebrities and it was great fun [laughs]. Because that's happened twice. One was riding up the Academy Awards, and, oh, what's his—he'd been a vet [veteran] in the war and he won an Academy Award. We ran a restaurant, my uncle was

introducing us and I knocked my milk on him, so I [laughs]...

AG: Were you young at the time, or...?

PB: Yes, I was a kid [laughter in background].

MK: Oh.

PB: No, it was interesting. It was also interesting because one of the first places they lived was called Box Canyon in California. So, we're talking a nine-year-old, eight or nine-year-old girl, learning about McCarthyism in Box Canyon where groups of families, who were writing for T.V. series at the time, but were writing under fictitious names because they had been blacklisted and I was playing Barbies [Barbie Dolls] with one of my friends one day and she used a name and I didn't really catch it, but she burst into tears because she had broken a family rule and revealed their actual name. So, that night when my uncle came home, I wanted to know why [laughs] this wasn't a good thing to do, and found out that most of people I was going to school with were children of people who had been blacklisted.

AG: Oh, wow.

PB: [laughs].

MK: It must have been very confusing at that age, to...

PB: I guess it was because I was in and out of different places and just rolled with it.

MK: Yeah, I guess so. I guess that's what you had to do. So, you mentioned already, where, the places you lived were, where you were raised, and, what was your neighborhood like that you were raised in, generally? If you could describe it...

PB: In Los Angeles, it was in the history as well, there was Box Canyon, and I won't go to my (other homes ???), but later on we were in Sherman Oaks, Studio City apartments, but very well kept up because it was Studio City and it was all apart. So, the schools were excellent in California at that time, there wasn't a year that went by that you didn't go to three museums and an opera or something and plus, the elementary school would have (long ex ???) cowboys and things come to the schools and do rope tricks, ride horses, and, so we had a lot of entertainment [laughs].

MK: Sounds like it [laughs]. Very enriching.

PB: But the teachers at the schools were good, I think that I always felt prepared.

MK: That's good. When did you arrive to Worcester? How old were you?

PB: Gosh, well I was 63.

MK: Oh, okay. Wow.

PB: Yes.

MK: How did you come to live here?

PB: I basically followed my daughter because it was time to close the art gallery. My—we were looking at capital infusion requirement, and it just so happened that the woman who was my business partner was getting a divorce. She didn't want to live in Reno, she wanted out of Reno [laughs] and I didn't want another partner, so I sold my house there and we bought this and moved here [referring to her Worcester apartment].

MK: Okay, interesting.

PB: But I've mostly—since I lived in apartments in between my aunt and uncle, then we had apartments, and then when I was married, I mostly lived in homes that we bought and sold.

MK: Okay...[unintelligible talking].

PB: This is my first urban experience.

MK: Oh! Okay!

PB: So, I'll put that in [laughs].

MK: Yeah that is, that's a good point [laughs].

PB: This is my first because I've always lived in the suburbs.

AG: Is it, like, a big change for you? Was it hard to adjust living in an urban setting opposed to the suburbs?

PB: Yes, there's some—there's, there's a difference. This building has some difficulty with neighbors across the street. With the kids and the respect for our private property and things which I've never had in the suburbs, and we've had to have cars towed and called the police at times, so that is, that is a difference.

MK: That's a big contrast.

AG: Yeah, that's a big difference.

PB: It is a big contrast because you don't think about these things in a suburban environment.

MK: Yeah, it's very different.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Yeah, as I know, I live, where I live, I live in a very suburban area, so I came to college and I was exposed to like, the Worcester area it was very different, so [laughs]...

PB: Very. Very much.

MK: Yeah, so I understand that [brief laugh]. So, besides your daughter, do you have any other family members that live around this area, or, just you two?

PB: No, no. My mother came back with me and she went into assisted living because she'd been living in Reno, separately, but she's since passed, so... And my father had passed years before. My other relatives are in Washington state and some in central California.

MK: Let's see.

PB: The family has not—is, is more scattered than it ever was when I was growing up.

MK: Yeah, I bet, sounds like it.

PB: We went—we all really went home, to go home to Washington state every, every summer. Whether people came for two weeks, or something, there was always something, and at my grandparents or at my aunt and uncle had plenty of room, there are enough people to stay with [laughs].

MK: Yeah, that's nice [brief laugh].

AG: It's good to get back together.

MK: Yeah.

PB: Yeah, so it's, it's more scattered. I'm the one who's really in contact with all of them. Reno seemed to have been a place where people wanted to come to, so they drove through if they were going elsewhere or they came down, so since I've left Reno that has really---that contact has changed.

MK: Yeah, definitely, so, moving on to, like, more about Worcester, what challenges, if any, do you think this city still faces, based on what you know about the city itself?

PB: I think the city has to help areas of development more, such as the Canal District. I got involved when I opened my gallery in Reno. I got involved in redevelopment. And, the city was

really there, behind you and helped in a lot of ways. And they allowed me a lot of access to information and assistance. Here you don't have it, they're not—Reno had a downtown improvement board and you covered everything from liquor stores with every advertisement pasted in the window, to taking them down to make them safer and to have them look better. Let's do this, it was—it had gone to Supreme Court and more help in a lot of areas to help solidify and develop, and I'm on the board and I'm an associate member of the board in the Canal District too, and I can see them not—they haven't come together as exactly what their vision is yet, but I'm going to be helping next year with art. Because they had a hard time getting artists and things. I have found, of course, but that's because I just nattered people about what do you do, and I'm an artist, and I found a whole bunch [laughs].

MK: That's awesome, that's amazing.

AG: That's really cool.

PB: So, it's just, there, the people are out there and then I'm working on a group of documentations we're going to throw on the website, so people can sign-up. We can take the sign-ups, then we could advertise, you know, so it's step-by-step and, I like that, I like the energy, I, I love that, and, in Reno...

MK: It sounds like, that energy has changed since you've come here. Because the way you [unintelligible talking]...

PB: Well, I think it--- I---in Reno, then Reno has already got put holds in their things. They're becoming small California now because of Apple and the others that have moved in, it's really very different cultures, so [laughs]...

MK: Sounds like it. In, what—so, what are other challenges that you think...

PB: Oh, that Worcester has?

MK: Yeah.

PB: I don't know, I think the city can help more with the planning and vision because they have the interest and the money and coming here, I think the city, does very well. I think every step you make is an improvement in the city since I moved here, and I think the city has more non-profits than I ever knew existed.

MK: Mhm.

PB: Doing everything under the sun, which is tremendous because that's--- a lot of that is just people's experiences and things and it's offered, I don't know, I think maybe just a little bit more communication, but that's not a bad thing because I think they really--- they work on it now.

MK: Mmm. Okay. Going off of that, have you seen any specific changes since you've been here in Worcester?

PB: Yes, more restaurants, better restaurants to choose from. Downtown I think is---will get into shape. Their Thursday's are good, yes, I think it's moving. It's not---it's moving.

MK: That's good.

PB: It fits in strife, but maybe that's redevelopment odds are up development on its own. I would like to see, more help to risk areas like this.

MK: I agree. What distinct characteristics do you think makes Worcester what it is? If you could say anything about that.

PB: I think the immigration, the diversity in this city makes---is part of the energy of the city. I think that's an asset. And, I think that's what makes Worcester and also, if you take a visit to the history museum and look at the wide variety of things that were manufactured and created here, it's tremendous. So, there's something going on here [laughs]. I think it's also the colleges. We have to think about them and the input they put into the community because it's tremendous, and you have so many, so that's a nice fertile ground for growth and development. So, we're very lucky to have them.

AG: It's a very large college city for sure.

MK: Yeah.

PB: Yes, and we're better than Boston.

AG: Oh yeah, for sure.

PB: [heartily laughs].

MK: [laughing] Definitely.

MK: So, based on the diversity you're talking about, what do you think, specifically women's experience in Worcester has been, generally, if you have an opinion?

PB: I think they've probably been very good. You've started with the 1850 convention was held here, so there had to have been some history here already. And the goal—one of the goals for suffrage from that convention was the diversity. It was all of us go together to get the vote. It wasn't like Seneca Falls, which the intelligent white women should get the vote first and then everyone else. The city has stayed true to its core. And I don't know if you know that Worcester Women's History Project is working on 2020 celebration, starting next year.

AG: Oh, really?

PB: We're (___???) and we've already talked to Erin Williams and the city. We're going to have a suffrage march in 2020.

AG: That's good.

MK: Oh, that's good.

PB: [heartily laughs]. So this, I want that spirit to be out there. That's the thing I love most, and it is the inclusion of everybody. And you have a lot of people, as I mention it to women wherever I am because no one ever doesn't hear about it from me. They beam. Even if they're not feminist or think of themselves as feminists you want to put a label on. They're proud to be women and they're proud of their lives. It makes them stop for a minute and go, "Hey, I'm pretty good." [laughs]

AG: So you think that's unique of Worcester women?

PB: Yes.

AG: As opposed to where you lived before, do you think they had that same sort of pride about being a woman, or do you think that's specific...

PB: No I think it's, I think it's here, but maybe a little bit stronger here because maybe the depth of history and things.

AG: Right.

MK: Good point.

PB: When I lived in Reno, I went a lot up to Virginia City, which had a history night and a 150-year-old building in the area. But there doesn't--- even in all the studies of the Western women or the women who came forth or the brothels, there wasn't that, here there is, I think there is a difference here. It's probably just because, this is the older history that's gone on here a lot longer.

AG: Yeah.

PB: But I find it brings a smile or I get people who stop and they'll say, "You know, my mother said when she finally got a chance to vote, she was pregnant. She stopped on the way to the hospital to stop and vote before she went to the hospital."

MK: [laughs]

PB: But I get these stories, which are wonderful. So, they're going back to their mothers and grandmothers and seeing the, the vote, seeing the---so that's really nice. I didn't expect that.

AG: Yeah.

PB: [heartily laughs]

MK: It's a great thing.

PB: It is a great thing.

MK: [tiny laugh]

AG: Alright, so we're going to move on to some questions about education. Okay, so where did you attend school?

PB: For my undergraduate degree I went to Los Angeles College, then I went back years later, I went to San Mateo Community College, and then I went to San Francisco State University. I'd started out in history and then when everyone and I separated, I got an alimony scholarship. [laughs] I went to San Francisco State and they weren't hiring teachers at that time. There seemed to be quite a few, so I took my history and I went into international finance. So I really did both.

AG: Okay.

MK: Interesting.

PB: And then I graduated, because I worked in Silicon Valley, I did my graduate degree at night.

AG: Okay.

MK: Mhm.

PB: It was local, I should've gone to Santa Clara, but I went at night to Notre Dame, which was next to San Carlos, where I was living, because of my daughter, it was just easier to do that, but the companies I worked for paid for mine.

AG: Oh that's good.

MK: That's really nice.

PB: They do in Silicon Valley [laughs].

MK: Wow.

AG: What years did you graduate, from like undergrad and grad school, by the time you were done?

PB: Oh I can't remember, 79' and 82', 82' I think, yeah.

MK: Okay.

AG: Did you have any challenges in education? Like, what were the challenges that you faced when you were being educated? When you went to school, were there any in particular?

PB: No.

AG: No?

MK: [laughs]

PB: No, except that---this is not a brag or anything, but I got, some, some areas I was educated separately.

AG: Yeah.

PB: They let me do something different. When I went to high school, I got to go over to Marymount [Marymount California University] over the hill and take a couple of classes. And when I was at San Francisco State, I wrote two of our finals.

AG: Oh, wow.

MK: Oh my gosh.

PB: Which was [laughs] hard. But I, I did that.

MK: So it sounds like you did a lot of independent work while you were there rather than what everyone else was doing in the classes.

PB: I did. I did do independent work.

AG: Did that help in you in a way to shape your own education?

PB: Probably.

AG: Probably?

MK: Yeah, definitely.

PB: I used reading as a kid. I'd read, read, and read.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Mmm.

PB: And I had friends, I had a bike, I could do things, but I still spent a lot of time in books.

AG: Yeah.

MK: So you really enjoyed learning on your own?

PB: I did. Well, two teachers and an uncle who would always give me books and encouraged it. It was just...

MK: It was definitely in the background [laughs].

PB: It, it was good.

MK: Yeah.

AG: Well, upon finishing your formal education what did you see as your options leaving school?

PB: Well, I was not---I was independent I didn't really have clues as to how to shape it. So I left, we were at San Francisco State International Students' Union and was also working with all of the freight forwarders and international companies and international banking groups. They'd take us to dinner once a month and we'd go to these meetings and things. I never thought of going and picking up the phone and talking to the same people that I knew for a couple of years and saying, "Well what about a job?"

MK: [laughs].

PB: You know, so I went on the peninsula and started---I started just to get some experience doing credit and collections which I did and, then eventually, that led to doing credit and collections with international clients, so that got to be more of a specialty. And then I got to use my international experience on letters of credit and designing them and playing with them and working with bans, so that was fun.

MK: Can you explain more of what that is?

PB: What, credit and collections?

MK: Yeah, I'm just not sure...

PB: Well, for a company, a credit manager helps to work with the company and set the risk. And then, you do collect the amounts outgoing but you try up front to go through a process, like, you look up purchase orders, you look at the product, you look at the customer, and you look at their financial statement, and you put together a picture. And you decide where it can go and then if you have a delinquent customer, you have to find out what's going on, why are you having difficulty, and you, you work with them. You establish a relationship and then most companies... Well I always had to do a monthly report, the why is this not being paid, or what's being done on it, and you work closely with them down in finance section, but your sales team... And the sales team were quite demanding, so you have to be pretty sure your answers are right on spot [laughs]. Because it's everybody's income on this. Because a lot of companies will charge a charge back on a salesman's. If it's something that he could have avoided or not helping with or something, it's there, it's a leverage to get them involved.

AG: Yeah.

PB: So, that's it, it's really risk management, establishing relationships, and you have to establish relationships in the house too, like, customer service, so you know what's going on the other side, the deliveries.

AG: Yeah.

PB: Paperworks come in.

AG: I know you mentioned your parents a lot and your uncle, what other support networks and mentoring have been important to you throughout your life?

PB: I think female friends; friends' network has been very good.

AG: Yeah.

PB: Because I've had a lot of strong women friends, so I think that's been important. You know they've been out doing their own businesses or their long-term jobs, that's been good.

AG: Yeah. Friends around your age or..?

PB: Friends my age, yeah.

AG: I think it kind of helps especially like, going through life reaching similar challenges, especially in school. It's important to have those friends.

PB: It is.

AG: Your struggles are the same at the same time.

PB: School, school was kind of fun because I was older when I went back, and some of the students in the International Students Union with me and stuff were a lot younger, but that was fine. That was enjoyable because I learned from them, too.

MK: Other perspective...

PB: Yes, you always need, you need to get out and do that.

MK: Very true. So we're moving onto the work section. What was your first job ever?

PB: My first job... I did--- I worked for Piper Acceptance, so I was a credit manager for Piper Financing Arm. That led me to a great experience I've never had before. As I got into a plane, we flew to Oregon and the sales manager had a big thing of clippers and I had the paperwork. I dropped off the paperwork in the airport office, while he was breaking the chain to the small plane that he flew off and then I flew back [heartily laughs].

MK: [laughs]

PB: But that was a whole---that was another experience, too, on its own. We had people who would call up and say, "I want a plane tomorrow," and they had the money.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Yeah. Very expensive, I know.

PB: [laughs] So, that was, that was Piper, then I went on to work for the original Memorex.

MK: Oh, that rings a bell, that brand.

PB: Memorex? Yes, they were located in Silicon Valley. When I went to work for them, they were going through changes. They were growing. In a couple years later, they sold off their divisions and then they re-formed years later. But, everything you learned in business school, they weren't doing [laughs]. So even though I'm in my 30's, I'm looking around going, this doesn't make sense. But you know it's not bad, because I learned.

AG: Yeah.

PB: I really learned. And one of the things I knew when they were really bad, is that I used to go down to the billing area, to the customer service and I'd talk about taxes to this one gentleman. Well one day I went down to ask him a question and he said, "Good luck to you, today's my last day." I said, "Oh no, I didn't know." He was from the state of California, he had

been sitting there for months because he was auditing off their information [laughs]. So, I thought that, that was always fun. The other thing they did with me, I think I had only been there about six months, the next thing I know I had a whole bunch of papers on my desk. And Memorex had gotten caught shipping product to East Germany. I had to go down to L.A. Customs, even though I didn't get the equipment, but try to hand over all the stuff, and to show we had made an effort, and get some customs information and take it back so the attorneys could work it out. But they confiscated all this equipment that we had apparently been shipping to East Germany, and it was not permitted at the time.

MK + AG: Ooooo.

PB: No, that's alright, I had already gone months, a year before, one of our planes dropped in the Bay and it was loaded with drugs.

MK: Oh.

PB: So, I went to court for that one and handed all the things to the DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency] on the plane [laughs].

MK: Wow. That's crazy.

PB: So, credit collections has not been (...?)

MK: It sounds like it. Lots of interesting things going on, never a dull moment.

PB: But I liked that, so it was fun. But the DEA plane was just so funny because everyone knew you weren't going to get it.

MK: Sounds like you really enjoyed the line of work you did, though.

PB: I did. It's the people again.

MK: Yeah.

PB: And it's being able to talk to them and listen.

MK: Did you have any other jobs besides the ones you talked about?

PB: From time to time, I've been self-employed, in Reno. When I left the Bay area, the company I had been working for had been sold to another company in the Midwest. So for six months or nine months I worked as a consultant for a group for companies that were closing their doors. I worked for a division of GE [General Electric], CadCam. I worked on there and I worked for DEC [Digital Equipment Corporation] while they were closing their doors. And my, it was credit and collections, and for GE it was taxes. They had been hit with several audits. I

was to go back and go through the findings and make sure the states hadn't overstated their things, so I did that. So that was kind of interesting because I thought some of these businesses walked away from a lot of money. I was there to clean up. But then I decided I didn't want to because when you work in Silicon Valley and I lived on the San Francisco peninsula, you got up at 5:30, you were on the freeway by 6 or 6:30, you got to work by quarter of 8, you stayed until 6 or 6:30.

AG: It's a long day.

PB: It's a long day and I wanted something different. So, when I went to Reno, I did odd jobs, odd part-time collection jobs. And then, I got the—I worked at the museum, then that closed. We didn't get a grant to keep us open, but it was very nice. It was just really enjoyable. I learned to put on a powwow, while I managed it. They put on the annual Father's Day powwow. I wasn't all that familiar with the laws of selling Indian product, Indian made. But I had to interview every vendor we had for the powwow and make sure they had their certification and everything. But that was interesting because I met the people and I ended up, I had a website called Native Spirits for many years, with all these people who I had met on there. My girlfriend, who became my partner in the gallery did all my HTML [Hypertext Markup Language] work and everything, so I was lucky to have her as a friend [laughs].

MK: Yeah, definitely.

AG: You had a lot of different job experiences.

MK: Yeah, I would say.

PB: I have and I would say it just builds in. And then Reno also gave me a lot of experience, once we opened the gallery, my partner really didn't want to be as involved in the community as I was. We ended up doing the city Reno Finance Committee, Mayor's Downtown Task Force, the Better Business Improvement Area Task Force, and the county-wide task force for business. And then I worked with a group putting on art month in Reno for July. So I was busy, just going around meddling [heartily laughs]. But I learned a tremendous amount, I met some interesting people, and I loved the artists, and I still keep in contact with many of them.

MK: That's nice.

PB: Creative, creative people, and they were all ages.

MK: Yeah?

PB: So, that was very nice. I miss that, but I'm getting in touch again.

MK: Yeah, making new connections.

PB: Yes, well yes here for the art walk. So this, you can't go to only one source. I work at a food pantry now, I found three artists there over the last six months [heartily laughs].

MK: That's really cool.

PB: Yes, they brought their work in, and I can see it, and they're going to come down next spring when we get reorganized and have a table.

MK: That's wonderful. You never know who you're going to meet, right?

PB: That's right.

MK: Interesting. So you said you work in a food pantry now?

PB: That's right. I work in Quinsigamond Village Community Center Food Pantry. I do intake and advocacy at the food pantry.

MK: Do you work anywhere else?

PB: Women's History [laughs].

MK: Well yeah, of course [laughs].

PB: And I'm on the board for Oak Hill CDC [Community Development Corporation], which are wonderful, they really believe in organization. They keep my accounting skills up with classes that their finance group does, and I get to go along. I'm going to L.A. next week on a leadership. Last year I got to go with Neighborworks, which they are associated with, to Detroit for classes on strategic planning, fundraising and things, but what a nice group of such---I guess I'm just so amazed at how creative we are as human beings, we just don't see it all the time. You know in people, that's the thing that's just so nice when you get into a group of people who are doing it.

AG: Yeah.

PB: And doing it well. It's an honor.

MK: How did you get to these jobs here in Worcester? Like, how did you find them?

PB: Well when I first came here, I was lost. As you can see, I came busy, and then I came here and there was like nothing. I did credit and collections again because I have the experience and then, [pause] I left that because they had moved all the jobs at that time down to South Carolina, which they eventually brought all back because you got what you paid for [laughs lightly]. And then I worked jobs, the last one I worked for in credit and collections. I left because they really didn't want my skills. They just wanted you to collect and not give them any answers, you

know. If you have a problem, here's what it is and their sales group didn't want to get involved, they were too busy climbing, basically they were doing debt service, the company. And the organizations that owed their debt were their biggest customers, they were housing developers [heartily laughs]. It was very incestuous.

MK: [laughs]

PB: And I dig and I ask questions, so I'm beginning to know. So I quit, I didn't work for a while. I started volunteering at the library, in the bookstore. I met a wonderful woman named Mary Plummer, who told me about this great group of women that she knew. I got involved in the history group. And then I was looking for work, something that was meaningful, and I found the job at QVCC [Quinsigamond Village Community Center] and I've loved it. I work for a group, where income is a little lower for senior citizens, but my time is up, but we're trying to figure a way for me to stay. But, it's been a pleasure.

MK: What does QVCC stand for?

PB: Quinsigamond Village Community Center.

MK: Oh, okay.

PB: They used to have an after-school program with a lot of things. A lot of that has gone to the by way. An African church bought the building. It's in the old Swedish church on Greenwood Street because the Swedish settled a lot of that Quinsigamond Village area, so we have another year or so on the bottom floor, and the church has the upper floor. But they're growing all the time, so they're eyeing us very carefully.

MK: Yeah sounds like it.

PB: Yeah, but you can understand that, you know, they've been in business for four years so they (____???)

MK: What has all of this work meant to you, personally? Like, what has it done for you? I know you've already talked about that a little bit, but if you could elaborate.

PB: Well, out of all of the jobs I've had, I always did policy and procedures. I think it's just a use of my mind and creative, I could create things, forms, policies, procedures. I like credit and collections because it also gave me an operational view of a company, so I was able to look at it in a different way. I don't know, I guess at 73 there's—you asked me this question---there is a satisfaction of having done something well. I don't know, I guess that those experiences are different now.

MK: Yeah, that makes sense. So, this is related to work, it's a little different, but what are your primary responsibilities in terms of housework or childcare, or what were they, maybe, when your daughter was younger?

PB: Well, I wasn't working when I was married, so my childcare was babysitting others sometimes, playgroups, play at home. Cooking, I like cooking. My husband's job with Northrop Corporation, Northrop went through a period of time where there was some talk about payoffs between the government and everything, so I got to do entertaining. So, that was nice because I liked to cook. Julia Childs was on T.V.

MK: [laughs].

AG: [laughs] Yeah.

PB: And I was learning and we were having a good time and I said we were into wine, so Northrop basically paid us---the woman who cleaned my house to serve and our wine, and then they even paid for four days in Napa for Simone Beck to get us drunk for four days while we're doing sauces [heartily laughs].

MK: Wow [laughs].

PB: You know, we entertained a lot of military.

MK: Oh, okay.

PB: Which was different...

MK: Yeah.

PB: So, I've also---and then I also because that was a different time and we first married and it changed over several years. I had to learn to play bridge, and I don't like playing bridge. But I would go, and I was always luckily the dummy. Someone could play opposite. I have these great hands, but they could play off them. Because I never really understood how to play the game [laughs]. My ex loved it and he kept always trying to help, and I didn't want it. But women's lunches, things like that, I went, we went. I was what you would call a corporate wife, I guess, at that time.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Did you share housework with your husband, or was it mainly...?

PB: It was mainly me, but if I needed help... If I said, "Can you run the vacuum," he would run the vacuum [laughs]. He wasn't incapable of something I asked.

MK: How has this changed for you over time? I mean, since your daughter is all grown up now and everything.

PB: Well, I live alone, but I've been alone for a long time. Here, I don't have pets. That's a change because I just don't want---I'm too lazy to take the damn dog out. I've always had dogs.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Mhm.

PB: When my daughter was---we'll go back, when my daughter was in high school, I did carpooling even though I was working. I made sure that I had the time, and she got into games on sports, and after-school activities, and things like that. So, I was always---and then weekends, either with her father. He took her to high altitude, hiking, camping, and things. I took her into ballet, museums, so we had a nice balance of what we shared.

MK: That's good. I like that [laughs].

PB: [laughs] Well, they do a nice balance, she and my son-in-law. I think they're great parents. The kids get a lot of activities and they're both involved in scouting, after-school music, so the Carlisle schools are excellent. I guess they're at the top in the nation, one of the top.

MK: Oh, wow.

AG: The education is really important, so that's good.

PB: It is. I think that's going to be a different thing in the future. You'll have to look at that. I think there will be more and more differences between people who are educated and not educated.

AG: Well, do you think that difference would be a lot larger than it is now? Because, like, there's still a difference.

PB: Yes. Yes.

MK: [coughs].

PB: Part of the reason is the education is different.

AG: Yeah.

PB: The discipline and learning, reading, why you read books at a certain time, how you read books in a certain way, report on them. Now it's just random books, or books you are just recommended to read. So, there will be a depth of education and I think the jobs are going to

change tremendously. I mean, they're already talking about retail changes and things, but think of it ten years from now. I mean we already have---GM [General Motors] announced that after 2022 no more combustion engines. China I think has it sooner than that. And then more and more intelligent vacuums [laughs], phones, light switches, you know, it's...

MK: Definitely phones...

PB: It's just going to be big changes.

AG: Definitely with technology alone in the job market has influenced a lot, so, it's only going to get worse as we get older.

MK: Mhm! [laughs].

PB: No, it, it really is. And the only thing I think Ivanka Trump has ever said that's really good is to get into coding.

AG + MK: [snickers]. Yeah,[awkwardly laughs]. Yeah.

PB: [heartily laughs] Sorry to bring that up.

AG: No, it's fine [laughs].

MK: We appreciate the commentary [laughs]. It's funny. So, moving on to another question, how did you balance all of these different priorities, responsibilities, and roles that you had in your life? Even your interests that you had...

PB: You know, sometimes you don't think it's a balance, it's just what you expect for your role to be. When I married, I expected to be a wife, but educated somehow is going to (____???). And some of the things I saw in magazines, I was, I was, you know, some of my form came from peer media. I joined for a year until it drove me insane. Oh God, I can't even think of it. Women's organization... Anyway, in Southern California I think we talked about (____???) [laughs] until I went screaming. Now they're not that kind of organization anymore. No, I was always trying to choose an intellectual place for me on that.

AG: Yeah.

MK: Mmm. So would you say the intellectual aspect of whatever you were doing was sort of a priority for you?

PB: Yes.

MK: Always?

PB: Always.

MK: Okay. What do you think, if any, were the pros and cons of the path you've chosen in your life? Everywhere you've been.

PB: I don't think of myself as a disciplined enough person.

MK: [laughs].

PB: Because I've had too much independence and I didn't have parents above me who looked at that and focus that more. Whereas, I see it with my grandchildren... I see both of my---their parents focusing and discussing pathways and alternatives and things, and part of that is because my son-in-law mentors, still mentors students at MIT every so often. And I didn't have that. I didn't have a discipline. I was always trying to find, and I just sort of---it just was like running into something, and it worked and I was off. And I think in the past if I could have had better focus and someone helping me frame a future, it may have been easier and simpler rather than always looking.

MK: Yeah. Would you say that's a regret of yours?

PB: No.

MK: No? Okay.

PB: But, yes, it is a regret and it's not. Because I've stepped off paths and so many things. I just ---you just sort of every now and then wonder what if, but...

MK: Definitely.

AG: Yeah.

PB: [laughs].

MK: Like, you're happy with where you are, but could you have changed something, yes.

PB: Yes.

MK: I get that. I think everyone will reflect on something that they've done, and they'll always think well what if I did this instead of that, where would I be now?

PB: Yes, I think it's-it's, it hasn't---I've seen people who've been paralyzed by that.

MK: Mmmm.

AG: Yeah.

PB: Or are seriously depressed... And I probably went through some, but I can't remember what it was now [laughs]. Because the art gallery was a risk, and I had money for it at the time when I went to it. That's basically---they don't make money unless you do framing, and other things with it, and there were already enough frame shops. But, that was well worth it because that was a passion. And then, plus I got to learn this whole other thing and meddle around. And learn and keep learning. Oh, and I got to go into brothels.

MK: [laughs].

AG: There you go.

PB: We had a show called Exposed. It was our moneymaker and what it was is we—Reno had a lot of strip clubs, so it was organic to the area. So, I was thinking what do we do for a show? And I kept seeing all of these taxis with these strip clubs advertisements on top of the taxi. So, I came up with the idea of Exposed. So, I went to the strip clubs, and talked to the girls [lightly laughing throughout], had to go through the bouncers and everything, then found a couple of the girls. And one of our artists worked in the brothels. And one of our artists was a girlfriend of a gentleman that owned the Kit Kat Club.

MK: Oh, wow!

PB: So, I went with her one time to talk to him. And then in our last two shows, Dennis Hopper who owns the Moonlight Bunny Ranch, was on T.V. and the big personality budget. He would come with three or four ladies from the brothel and a couple of security guys, big guys like this [gestures to demonstrate their size] and it turned into a white chardonnay party with the people from the suburbs coming to view the people coming to look at the artwork of the strippers, photographs, or the paintings and stuff, but they're the ones that bought two of them, the club owners. So, I'll just, I'll throw that in because it just always cracked me up [heartily laughs].

MK: That's really interesting. I've just never---you know, you don't hear about that. That's, that's, kind of cool.

AG: Yeah.

PB: Well, it's not the greatest life. They're all trailers and some of them have some housing things and then they're surrounded by wire. I mean not wire, but like a chain link fence or something. Not too glamorous [heartily laughs].

MK: No. Doesn't sound like it [laughs]. Definitely not what it appears.

AG: Alright, so more along the lines of politics and community involvement, do you consider yourself actively political?

PB: Yes...

AG: Yes

PB: I'm a Democrat. I do phone banks, like next week I'm doing a phone bank for Joe Petty. Well, I do a phone bank for him, I do it for Dan Donahue.

AG: Have you always been active politically from a young age? Did you register to vote immediately when you could?

PB: Yes. I was the only Democrat because we were living in Orange County at the time, California, which is part of the John Birch Society. I was the only Democrat in our precinct, so they made a big fuss, but a nice fuss. I came in, "Here she is!" And I'm crying because I think this is such a fantastic honor [laughs].

AG: Yeah.

MK: I just find that funny how you were the only one.

PB: I was the only one. I was their big Democrat.

MK: At least they were respectful.

AG: Yeah.

PB: They were.

MK: Good.

AG: That's good, I know you mentioned working at the food pantry, but is there any other volunteer and community work you do? I know you mentioned kind of a lot of it.

PB: Oak Hill, this is the month, there's an evil witch that appears at Halloween, up on the hill.

AG: Oh yeah?

PB: Yes, there's a witch who comes, this will be her third year as a witch, and she pinches children and she says, "Mmmm, would you like to see my oven or have some candy? You'd make a good cookie." [laughs].

MK: [laughs] That's funny. Did that scare them?

PB: Some of them it does. I did it when my daughter was little. She and her girlfriend wouldn't come near me. They couldn't believe it. Then I did it when my grandson and granddaughter were living in Belmont. And for a couple of years I sat on their porch and I could scare kids. Now I do it up here, through a collaboration between the Academy, the Worcester Police, and Oak Hill CDC, and we do it next to the St. Vincent's walk on Providence Street. And last year we had 1,500 kids.

AG: Wow, that's awesome.

MK: Oh wow, that's great.

PB: So, it's fun...it's cold.

MK: I bet.

AG: Okay, this is a little non-related, but what role has religion played in your life, has it played any role?

PB: Very little.

AG: Very little?

PB: I'm too into history...

AG: Right.

PB: I have doubts about religious organizations, especially when you look at all the times, burning books, prohibiting, controlling thought.

MK: Mmm. Feel free to tell us more about how you feel about it.

PB: There it is, right there.

AG: Definitely more of an intellectual.

PB: It's more of an intellectual. Even...the (___?), the one I did learn is a lot more open. So, I didn't find any barriers there, but I don't know that much about the religion at that time...

AG: As a kid, were you brought up under some religion? I know you mentioned having Jewish family.

PB: I went to temple. I tried for a couple of years, I tried a Protestant Sunday school, and then I went my last two years of high school were at a parochial school. The nuns, early on were the

ones that sent me over the hill, so they were very open and a lot of the girls, I think were Jewish, too, because it was San Fernando Valley at that time [laughs].

MK: Would you say you're spiritual? Like maybe without the...

PB: Yeah, probably. I think everyone is, to your own spiritual...

AG: Yeah. I would agree with that.

MK: Yeah, I think so.

AG: As far as health is concerned, how have health issues impacted your life or those in your family?

PB: My father had heart issues, he died at 65, so I think that's early, no excuse me 62. My mother died at 80 from cancer.

AG: I'm sorry

PB: So, let's see, everyone else, my aunt did too, but she was in her 80's and my health has been excellent, until the last couple of years. I had a heart attack last November.

MK: I'm sorry to hear that.

PB: Well, I'm lucky because I went over to take my medicine in the morning, my vitamins because I had chest pain, it hurt so bad that I had to google it, then it wouldn't go away. I tried laying down, I thought this would get better if I just laid down, but finally it didn't get better, so I called [heartily laughs].

AG: Ahh, I'm an EMT [Emergency Medical Technician], you should definitely call if you have chest pain.

PB: I tried to google it first [heartily laughs]

MK: We all do that.

PB: I know, it's like you have an argument with someone, well I'll google the answer [laughs].

MK: Yeah!

AG: So many sources...

MK: They give you so many symptoms for other things and you can freak yourself out.

PB: But I thought I had excellent care.

AG: Yeah?

PB: I had excellent care there, so less than 25 minutes I had found I had a blood clot.

AG: Oh wow, so they found it right away.

PB: They found it right away, slammed me through those doors, and in less than 25 minutes they had the clot out, and I went through here.

AG: Yeah, the hospitals around here...

PB: But that's muscle. They say every minute counts for muscle in your heart so, I thought that was a good team in there, shoving you through so quickly.

MK: Yeah, definitely.

AG: What are your experiences in accessing quality and affordable health care?

PB: It can be difficult.

AG: Difficult, yeah.

PB: Yes. I believe we should have a national health insurance. You go to Europe, and you're covered. I think that we have to make some hard choices. I did medical collections at some time, temporary thing for about nine months or something. Some people have inequality in life and they just stay in a darkened room with their dialysis and everything. Maybe if you let nature in sometimes, that's a hard choice. I believe though at a certain point, you could say, "I've had it with my health," and you could say goodbye.

AG: Yeah. A little bit of help your neighbor too. Everyone's affected by different things so...

PB: Yes, but no, I think this state delivers a good –you have struggle, but a part of my advocacy sometimes is helping write a letter, or refax paperwork like this to a customer service, deep, dark hole, but you just keep going and it eventually takes care.

MK: Not to go into politics, but I'm curious, how do you feel about all the healthcare issues that are going on right now?

PB: Well, that's kind of a two-prong thing. One of it is, what's wrong with saying let's fix Obamacare [Affordable Care Act]? I mean, it seems like anything he touched, people want to erase and you're going let's fix it. These Republicans are not the Republicans I used to know.

AG: Mm.

PB: Yes, we differed on the national debt, we differed on this, and some other things, but this drive to just obliterate and just replace with anything that's nowhere near—I mean women are faced with the same issues that they were in 1850. Birth, child care...

AG: Right.

PB: ...birth control, abortion, it still has not gone away and you just sit there and you go, this doesn't make sense. When I grew up in LA, we had Tijuana right across the border, so abortions were right within a half hour or two hours away, in good clinics, and sleazy clinics, unfortunately. But we went through the same thing, it's true. They found these abortion dens in the dirtiest parts of the cities and stuff like this. Everyone thought, even the Republicans then, were like let's change this, let's not—a life is a life, let's make sure this woman goes forward. You have all this religion that gets involved now, now you have things coming up about the gay community. I thought we were just making some strides for the gay community, or other people, or our neighbors who are gay, and now we're having to go back.

AG: A little bit of a step back...

PB: But you see, I went to college for the first time during Vietnam [Vietnam War], which I cannot tell you how fabulous that was. We would go to the theatres, the big, classroom theatres, and you would have people, just like you would see in the French Revolution, and they would be shouting this, and someone would be saying this, and people knew their facts, and you could argue it. You would have maybe a couple hundred people rally and yelling at one another. These professors (___?) it. But that, that was ---your blood was flowing, and then that was the time too, if you ever write to anyone who were in the service when they get over there, young men, it was always young men at the time, who were thinking, when I get home, I want do this, I want do that, I want be this, and they're your friends. You went to school with them, they're in the neighborhood, and then they're dead. I used to keep the letters, I buried the letters in the desert when I moved here. I went to too many funerals, so that's, that's really the sad thing, but on the same token, the dialogue at that time was a lot cleaner than it is now, I guess that's the point I'm trying to make.

AG: Yeah.

PB: We were loggerheads (???), people against the war, people for the war, people the same, but the dialogue was healthier, even though people were angry or if somebody burnt a flag, or their draft card, you know. And it's just like this bending of the knee for the national anthem, but we've had the Olympics, with the black athletes going like this and protesting, and a couple didn't pick up their awards.

AG: Right.

PB: So, it's nothing new under the sun.

MK: Yeah.

AG: Yeah., so just one more question on the health thing, it doesn't really relate to what we were talking about, but whose health are you responsible for besides your own, anyone's or...?

PB: Just mine.

AG: Just yours.

MK: So, we're nearing the end of the interview.

PB: Good [laughs].

MK: So, some concluding questions we're going to ask, they're pretty basic, so one of them is how do you get through tough times? What kind of thoughts keep you going?

[pause]

MK: If you have tough times, I don't know...

PB: I do have tough times, you always have tough times. You just have a talk with yourself. I've been depressed, where I've had to take medication for it, when I first moved back here, since I had been so busy, and I had dropped into nothing. And I've always had a therapist, I should've mentioned that earlier, so that's always been helpful. I haven't in the past four years, he moved [laughs]. But he was great, and it was a good experience. We were already stretching, we were already saying goodbye over that. I took medication for two years and then stopped. You know, I didn't need it. I guess have a talk with yourself, let your friends kick you in the buns [laughs heartily].

MK: That's true. That's what we do [laughs].

PB: You have your friends shake you up and you move forward.

AG: Right.

PB: I guess that's the only thing because you'll find yourself repeating some patterns, and you're like, "I have done it again."

MK: Mm.

PB: You know--- and I think when I was much younger, I was harder on myself than I am now.

MK: How do you define success in your life? And has the definition of success changed in your life?

PB: Oh it changes all the time. I think you can have a success as a good day, a good conversation, a project that you've done and it's completed, so...

MK: It's always changing.

PB: It's always changing...

AG: Something to strive for...

PB: Yes, I think you have to. My goal right now is 2020 celebrations, I want the world to know about Worcester [laughs].

MK: That's a good goal, I like that. So, based on all your life experiences, everything you've told us, and more, what advice would you give to women of today and even future generations?

PB: Well, be yourself and explore. Be open to opportunities knocking on your door or drifting into an area to see if you might find it interesting. Enjoy. Enjoy the adventure because it is an adventure.

AG: Yeah. We have a few more questions, that are mostly related to women and the class that we're taking right now, women's studies, but you mentioned a lot that the dialogue has changed from the generation when you were younger, to now, but do you think that feminism has changed during your lifetime?

PB: Yes.

AG: How so?

PB: Well, in the '70's, you had the strive for Equal Rights Amendment and you had an argument between housewives and feminists, you had (___?) that there isn't.....you know, there was just strong women. I think more women today think of themselves as assertive, rather than aggressive, that was something you had to work through earlier on, so I think there's a change. But I think women with more quality in work, in school, and experiences, and the encouragement of what's good for my son, is good for my daughter, get them educated, and into a career, is a broadening experience. I think there's a difference, women have accomplished more. I don't know how you feel coming out, if you see there's a difference between your mothers and yourselves.

AG: So you think women today have accomplished more?

PB: Yes. Just because they can and there's an environment for...

AG: Maybe more opportunities.

PB: More opportunities and that's really good. Also, more involved in politics. On October 26th we have an annual meeting and it's a forum and Harriet Chandler will be there, Susan Bump, Chantel Bethea with Women in Action, and Maritza Cruz from the Y [YWCA] and we have a panel to discuss women in leadership and let's get more women in politics. Let's get a woman president elected.

MK: [laughs]

AG: If you could change one thing about how society views women, what would it be? Do you think there's one thing you would change? It's kind of a broad one...

PB: It's a broad one, I guess just to the religious right that the women is not second place to her husband. I mean you have someone like [Vice President] Mike Pence... "I don't break bread with anyone unless my wife's there." [laughs].

MK: It is silly when you step back and you look at what's going on and you're like, "Why does this matter, why?" I know what you mean though, it's a bit ridiculous.

PB: No, I think that today's woman has not has as much of a struggle about her identity, I know I used the terms assertive, confident, rather than aggressive.

AG: Right.

PB: Because I grew up and I've been called aggressive, more than assertive, but that's how it is, you know?

AG: Just going off that, do you think being a woman has caused you some setbacks or disadvantages?

PB: No.

AG: Not at all?

PB: No, I'd rather enjoyed being a woman so... [laughs].

MK: That's good. I like to hear that.

PB: [laughs] No, I don't. Despite all the other issues and things, I mean look at Silicon Valley now, you had over the last several years, you had a wrangle over women not getting equal....There was discrimination, discreet though it is, but it's discrimination. Now you have men forming consulting groups on how to keep their rights in Silicon Valley and I'm just

laughing because...The one thing I do like is the European man spreader, when the men sit like this and I just love it, and you'll find it creeping into conversation, and you'll find it creeping into conversation, like "well he's a manspreader anyways!" [laughs heartily].

MK: That's funny.

PB: I just wish our generation had found that.

MK: I think my brother was complaining about that to me once and I kind of laughed at him and I was like, what are you even complaining about, come on [laughs]. It's a joke, you know, he takes it so seriously.

PB: Well he's a man.

MK: Exactly, so he's very defensive so, but we always butt heads with things so...

PB: That's good.

MK: That is good. I think that's it.

AG: I think that's about all the questions that we have.

PB: Okay those were great questions. I'm sorry I was (___?)

MK: No. Everything you said was very helpful.

AG: No.

PB: I think this is so positive.

AG: I don't think we have enough in our generation of just sitting down and talking to people and having conversations, like as much as we're students and we're in classrooms talking to people, I think it's also important to talk to people in generations before you, who have different experiences, because you gain just such a different insight.

PB: We talked about that, too, and there's some things we want to do and maybe through your class, and some of these things could happen. Go to the library and somebody could show up from one generation and somebody from another. We could do something like that and talk because that's how you---my mother would say a few things, and not much but my aunt was an RN [registered nurse], and my other aunt was an accountant. The RN had no challenge, except she was a nurse and the doctors knew everything, now you patients and doctors' assistants and you have all these things. I just think it's good to learn. And also, if you go through relationship breakups and things, the emotional ride that you have, I went around very embarrassed for years, I could barely say I was divorced. [muffled with hand] I'm divorced. [laughs] And it took me

years to accept the fact and it's also accepting yourself. You know who you really are and why you left, why the relationship ended.

AG: Right.

MK: Well, it was a good conversation.

PB: It was a great conversation, you two, I want to ask you questions [laughs]. So what is your class? Oh, I've got these to fill out [ruffles papers].

MK: Oh yeah, do you have a pen over there?

PB: Yeah.

MK: Oh, okay.

AG: Our class, it's a women's images class. It's basically an intro class.

MK: A women's studies major. Yeah.

AG: We're both not actually—we're not history majors or we're not women's studies, either. I'm a bio [biology] major, she's a psych [psychology] major [something clunks]. The class is just really---it's really interesting. [voices overlapping].

PB: Well, it covers a lot of that.

AG: It does, it covers a lot.

MK: And you're learning, you know, it's not just women. Like, I think---one of the things I hate about, like, the stigma with that class is how people hear the name and they're like, "Oh I don't want to go to that because it's a woman's class," like especially guys or, you know, there's always just that negative connotation where they hear the word 'women's in front of something and they immediately think 'oh it's feminism' and they think 'feminism is bad and I don't want to be associated with that.'

AG: Yeah.

MK: But you take the course and you learn about so many things, it's not just women's experiences, it's like everything. We just learned about racism in the 1800's, like, towards black people and slaves and everything, and it's affecting everyone, you know, but people don't see it that way I guess.

PB: Well, look at how it's been buried in our society now and it's come back.

AG: Yeah.

MK: And that's what we're learning about, how ingrained it is.

PB: [talking over] What's the date?

AG: It's the fourth. I think it's also interesting that like we've learned about obviously the women's movement in the past and all of the like leaps and bounds that we've made. But, like, [MK coughs] there's still so many leaps and bounds to be made today, just looking at media today it's still such a big issue.

PB: Mhm.

MK: Mmm. Yeah, so there's always something new going on that we have to learn about and I don't know, it's just, so much change we still need to do.

PB: Well, you know, I was lucky. I was going to say, I had a literature class when I went to school the first time...and it was during—and the teacher was getting at looking at the literature and (____???) were having to come to terms with women older than me in this class, and reading *A Doll's House* and some other things and books like this. Where they had thought that there was nothing else in their life and now—now they're confronted with someone, so they would cry.

MK: Mmm.

PB: A teacher taught the class from a Greek perspective, you know, whatever you do in your life comes back to you.

MK: I believe that [short laugh].

AG: Yeah, that's definitely true.

MK: Karma.

PB: Yes, so he was interpreting literature like that and...

MK: What time is it?

AG: It is, I'm not sure, 4:30 maybe.

PB: So what do you want to do with biology?

AG: I want to be a P.A., physician's assistant.

PB: Oh okay, that's great [enthusiastically]. My daughter's degree is in biology.

AG: Oh, really?

PB: Yeah, she does (___???) work.

AG: Okay.

PB: (___???) work, and...she's enjoyed that. My son-in-law is also a biologist.

AG: Oh, yeah?

MK: [short laugh].

PB: Should've seen it when my grandson was born, looked like a lab.

MK: [laughs].

PB: She had all of this stuff measured out [heartily laughs].

MK: That's funny [laughs]...my boyfriend is also in biology, so he also wants to be a physician's assistant, so...

PB: Oh, that's really---it's so nice, you know, they work as a team. My cardiologist has a team, but I know they talk to one another because I can hear phrases and stuff and commentary, that, you know, in my dialogue of whoever I talked to last. So, I know that they sit down and, so...

MK: Oh, okay.

PB: So, I think that's...

AG: A lot of collaboration...

PB: Yeah.

MK: That's nice.

PB: And then what do you want to do with your degree in psychology?

MK: I'm still figuring it out, but I really, I want to go into therapy or counseling because I have like my own experiences with mental health and everything. So I want to be able to help people, and make sure they have support because I know when I was going through things, I didn't have that much support and I just want to have a career where I can be person for someone, so... That's the plan for now [laughs].

PB: And what do, do I just leave this blank, ‘women’s history project’ and ‘WWOHP’? For scholarly and education?

MK: I’m not sure.

AG: Let me go over there and check [sirens being heard in the background].

AG: ...‘I hereby give to the Women’s Worcester History Project and ‘blank’ for scholarly and educational, would that be our class Mina, do you want to look at this? I think it might be our class.

MK: I guess...

PB: You can fill it in, I signed it.

MK: Yeah, we’ll figure that out.

PB: [laughs]. I trust you.

MK: We’ll have to look that up.

AG: I’m going to check with the professors to make sure on that one.

MK: Yeah, I agree. I’m going to turn the thing off.