

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

Interviewee: Dr. Amy Gazin-Schwartz
Interviewers: Allison Dixon & Andrea Kolodziej
Date: November 13, 2012
Place: Worcester, Massachusetts
Transcribers: Allison Dixon and Andrea Kolodziej



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ABSTRACT: Amy Gazin-Schwartz was born in Troy, New York in 1952. After her father graduated from college and got a job in Massachusetts, she moved to Natick, Massachusetts and later Duxbury, Massachusetts where she enjoyed both elementary and high school, constantly reading and exploring the outdoors. Amy discusses the importance of developing oneself freely and becoming whoever we are destined to be. The development of self is something she still encourages young women to recognize in growing up. After attending Vassar College as an undergraduate earning her Bachelor's Degree in Medieval Studies, Amy travelled to England, furthering her education as an archaeologist where she participated in both site digging and receiving her Master's Degree. Amy discusses the events leading up to meeting her husband, Ave, in New York after leaving England and the later to come struggle of balancing work life while raising her daughter, Elizabeth, all while earning her PhD in Anthropology at University of Massachusetts Amherst. In this interview, Amy uncovers the theme of family/societal tradition and speaks of her struggle on where to keep it alive in raising Elizabeth. She illuminates and explores the issue of making sure our children succeed in society but also remain free people. Regardless of the struggle, Amy's "I am who I am" attitude, or in her words, "I was going to be whoever I was going to be," ultimately leads to her success as a mother, professor, archaeologist, woman, and individual.

AD: So, first can you state your full maiden name?

AGS: My full maiden name?

AD: Mhmm.

AGS: Amy Gazin.

AD: And your married name?

AGS: Amy Gazin-Schwartz.

AD: Okay. And when and where were you born?

AGS: I was born in Troy, New York. Do you want my actual birthday? [] 1952.

AD: Okay, why did you move from New York?

AGS: My father graduated from college and got a job in Massachusetts.

AD: Oh, wow.

AGS: So he was in college when I was born.

AD: Oh, wow. And you're married obviously.

AGS: Yep.

AD: And what is the name of your husband?

AGS: Ave Schwartz.

AD: And do you have any children?

AGS: I have one daughter named, Elizabeth.

AD: How old is Elizabeth?

AGS: Twenty-eight.

AD: And did she go to school? Yeah? Okay.

AGS: Yeah. Well, she doesn't go to school now. But, yeah.

AD: What school did she go to?

AGS: She went to...she went to Vassar College.

AD: Okay. So I'm curious as to what your childhood was like when you were little. What were interests and hobbies?

AGS: (laughs) my interests and hobbies? So, I grew up mostly in Natick, Massachusetts and Duxbury, Massachusetts. And...I don't know that I had interests and hobbies. I played outdoors. I played outdoors, I went to the beach when I lived in Duxbury. I dug holes in the ground (laughs)...when I was living in Natick. I liked to read. I always, always, always liked to read...and I liked animals.

AD: Me too (laughs).

AGS: What else did I...yeah, that's pretty much me... reading books and playing outdoors (laughs).

AD: And was there any influence from your parents to be any particular way?

AGS: What do you mean by be any particular way?

AD: Like, did they push you more towards, you know, playing inside or did they, were they more okay with you playing outside all the time?

AGS: Yeah, no. So my mother always had this idea about being polite and proper, which didn't really take too well (laughs). And she, you know, eventually as we were teenagers in the sixties she gave up on that stuff. But no there was no...when I was growing up in the fifties everybody just went outdoors and played.

AD: Yeah.

AGS: You know, you just went out and played all day and then they would call you in for dinner and then you went out and played some more. So, I don't remember any influence to be any particular way. I just was...whoever I was going to be was who I was going to be.

AD: And you said, so you said your mother had all these ideas about being polite and everything?

AGS: Yes.

AD: Was that, was that just for her or was that kind of like a cultural thing?

AGS: I think this is the thing that she got from her mother...and she had...and my, my mother was a teenager mother so I was born when she was nineteen, she was really young. She was in college, believe it or not. And, I think that she was just sort of... not really sure of how to bring up kids 'cause... it had never, it hadn't occurred to her. So, yeah, from her mother who was always wanted to be socially correct. She had these crazy ideas, you know, like they used to have to wear a skirt if they went to the next town over. It was just rinky-dink towns, like big whoop (laughs). So, you know, we weaned her from those ideas.

AD: So, you have a daughter?

AGS: Yes.

AD: I'm curious is there anything that you took from your mother than you preach to your daughter as well? Or is it the opposite?

AGS: (laughs) I remember when my daughter was little, having the idea that I had to raise her somehow differently. And what it was, was...so even though I just said that there was no way I had, there was no way I was supposed to be, clearly I had some idea when my daughter was little that she really needed to be encouraged to be her own person and think for herself. And, that was probably because at that time in my life my mother was thinking that I was just like her...and...I wasn't (laughs). So, I didn't want my daughter to have to think that she had to be any way, as well. So, I probably I got that from my mother and just at the time that I was raising her thought that I got it from her. Because thirty years later I think, oh yeah, it was probably the same.

AD: And, so you are a sociology and anthropology person?

AGS: Yes.

AD: And so I'm really curious as to what you think about, I guess society's view of motherhood. Did you feel any pressures to raise your daughter a certain way or make sure she appeared a certain way in school, or?

AGS: So here's the deal with me, I'm really resistant to those things. And, and I came of age in the sixties...or I was a teenager in the sixties. So, I was aware of other people thinking that their kids, their daughters had to be certain ways or that their daughters had to you know, had to be very social, and that their daughters had to participate in a million different activities. And...and I resisted that. I love my daughter for whom...for whom I think...I still think the sun shines out of her. I mean, she is it. So I thought whatever she did and whatever she wanted to do was perfectly fine. To the, you know, to the extent of when she was in daycare and she would agree to get dressed (laughs) the fact that she thought stripes when with stripes and that colors made no difference...she went to daycare wearing whatever she wanted to pick out to wear because that meant she picked out and put those clothes on and I didn't have to fight with her about it. So really I didn't feel pressure from society to raise her any way except from my...except the degree that I grew up in society that was very challenging of social norms and so I thought that she should just be who she is, and she should be encouraged to be a person who thinks for herself and who is...I don't know, kind. So, that was it.

AD: Does your husband think similarly?

AGS: Yes.

AD: Yes?

AGS: Yes.

AD: What about your father?

AGS: My father died when I was twenty. But, I am sure, I don't have any doubt that he would have thought the same thing. My father was very proud of his daughters.

AD: Your daughter sounds like she had the freedom to be, you know, her own self growing up which is wonderful.

AGS: That's what I think (laughs) you can ask her what she thinks? She's probably saying are you still on there? At the moment I was having a text with her (laughs). But, you can ask her.

AD: So, as far as you growing up and, and going to school and you said you liked to play outside and you liked animals and you liked to read all the time...did you feel like you were different from other girls? Or, the same?

AGS: I was different from some and the same as others.

AD: Yeah.

AGS: So, in high school...so I was never, I never thought of myself and really never was a popular kid... but I didn't really understand how you got to be one of those. I probably sometimes wished I was but mostly I just decided that I was cool and I was who I was. And there were other girls who were my friends (laughs) we were all sort of friends together and we were like each other. And, there were others who thought we were, you know, those geeky, creepy kids and we weren't like them. We were proud of it. So, yeah...what was the question?

AD: So is there any, I guess, major difference between...like you said?

AGS: Me and them? Yeah. No, I was like some of my friends and not like some others.

AD: And, I'm curious...was there any difference between what you wanted to be growing up when you were little and then in high school? Did it change at all?

AGS: I don't remember what I wanted to be when I was little. Or really...so here's one of the things that's different from when I was growing up from when you were growing up (laughs). We didn't really think about what we wanted to be when we grew up, a lot. I was just on this sort of back edge of when you thought about that, so the idea of growing up and you know, picking what you wanted to be...people like you want to be a ballerina or some kind of crazy thing, but, we really thinking about what would you want to be...I didn't think about that until I was in college. And, even then clearly, I didn't think about it very carefully 'cause here I am (laughs).

AD: (laughs) So what made you, I guess, want to be a professor and an archaeologist, right?

AGS: Yes, yes. What I really wanted to be, what I wanted to be first was an archaeologist. Well, what I wanted to be first...what did I want to be first? I never knew. I took like, kept taking these like...they would give me these preferences tests and I would come out to be, in high school I took one and it said I would be a lawyer or a farmer...and they thought I failed, I had done it

wrong and I had to go sit down with guidance counselor to check it out and I came out to be a lawyer and farmer again.

AD: (laughs)

AGS: (laughs) And it's like, I didn't know what the problem was. And in college I came out to be a weatherman but I was a senior and it was too late for that. So, I basically just studied stuff that I was interested in studying with no idea what I would do with that stuff. But I really like history, I really, really liked history...and I majored in Medieval Studies. Of course, there's not really a job in being a Medieval Studies person. So, I sort of became an archaeologist because I went to graduate school in England and studied archaeology. I just didn't want to come home, so I worked as an archaeologist and that's how I got to be an archaeologist. I fell into it.

AD: And what school did you go to?

AGS: As an undergraduate I went to Vassar College.

AD: So where have you, where was your first trip for archaeology? Where have you been?

AGS: So, I went, I went to graduate school, first graduate school in England, I got a Master's Degree... and I've been...the first archaeology project was in Orkney Island, it was Norse Vikings settlement in Orkney, a tiny little island and it was so much fun. It was so much fun that that was it, that I said that's it I want to be an archaeologist now.

AD: And so...

AGS: So I stayed there for two...about two and a half years just travelling around, digging.

AD: So were you married at the time?

AGS: I was not.

AD: You were not married at the time. Have you travelled while you've been married and had your daughter?

AGS: Yes.

AD: Is that difficult?

AGS: No, no. We've always travelled. We both love travelling and so, so we've travelled when Elizabeth was I think, two, and I worked for a month on an expedition in Scotland and Ave took care of her. I guess we also hired a nanny because he was also doing some kind of project but we had a nanny and Ave and then I would dig and she'd come visit me on the side and then go back. And when I was working on my dissertation she was ten and we were just living in Scotland for

the summer...so no, it's always been good and she's the world's best traveler... I think it's probably 'cause she has...she's so good.

AD: She just adapts nicely?

AGS: Oh, yeah.

AD: Very quickly?

AGS: Oh yeah, she's brilliant. She's better than anyone. Wherever she goes that's good, she's you know...she enjoys it.

AD: So for archaeological digs, how does it function, I guess? Are there different jobs are there different people and what job do you have?

AGS: Yeah, so when I started off I was just a digger. Or, in this country it would be called field crew...and it was basically just the person and people in charge would say go dig over there and scrape around and I'd scrape around and I'd find stuff and it was the best job...it really is the best jobs (laughs). And then there are there is a hierarchy, there is supervisors who supervise areas of the excavation and there's the director of the whole excavation of the whole project who's in charge of getting all the material and organizing everything and basically is in charge of synthesizing and starting to write it up, and writing the report. So, I have done that job as well, you know, as I've grown up, more recently. I started a digging, I did some supervising and then after I got my PhD...so my recent work is two kinds. One, is I do surveys and there I am just a part of the survey crew for some people in Scotland and the other is a project directing the project...I directed with another person in Scotland in the very far end of Scotland...and there my job was sort of organizing things, writing it up afterwards and helping to write it up afterwards. And while we were there we were digging and teaching, we had students there so we would sort of be teaching students how to do it.

AD: Were there any particular challenges to your job? Something that's difficult to do constantly?

AGS: Getting enough...getting the money to do it. Getting funding so you could have people in the field...that's the big challenge.

AD: How do you go about overcoming that? What's the best way to get money?

AGS: I don't (laughs). So, so when we were doing the Stranraer Project we got funding by our faculty development grant which paid my way over there, we got funding from small grant, grant making institutions in Scotland mostly, we applied to the National Science Foundation but didn't get funding. So it's basically just going around scrounging up grants from various little you know, 1000 dollars here 1000 dollars there. Two years we ran it as a field school and got fees from the field school students, so that was a lot of it...but it's a humungous amount of work. So

much work it's just sort of, we couldn't face it the next year and then my colleague got a, had a baby. So we have a little more on this project that we could do but we can't quite bring ourselves to face it (laughs).

AD: So how did you transition into doing both archaeology and teaching?

AGS: So I, so when I was thirty-nine my husband had finished, he had gone to graduate school for social work and he was done and we were thinking what we were going to do next? And I just thought, either I become an archaeologist now, and I was doing a lot of other stuff in between. So I came back from Britain in 1978...1978 until 1990 I was working as a secretary, I was teaching child birth classes, I was having a kid, I was doing all that kind of stuff and well we were figuring out well what are we going to do next and I just thought I just want to be an archaeologist. I just wanted to do it. So then I went to graduate school at UMass [University of Massachusetts] and got my PhD in archaeol...—in anthropology. And once you have a PhD in anthropology you really (laughs)—I could be, I could continue to be a field archaeologist but I would have to do that here because it was just not going to be possible for my family to move to Britain which is really where I really only care about doing archaeology...and nowhere else. But me getting a job over there was beyond unlikely because they have plenty of archaeologists over there (laughs), so, so the best way to do that would be to teach which I also enjoyed doing...I did as part of my graduate thing. I had this, you know, nice image of having this nice office which you can see and sit in and do research. And you know, then in the summer times you go and you do your research, that's the theory (laughs). So, that's you know, that how I did it, that's how I was lucky enough to get a job here to make sure my husband could stay in his job...and we didn't have to move...although we do have to drive too much. So that's how I did that transition. It was sort of part of the course of becoming an archaeologist...I would be a professor of archaeology.

AD: So, interesting, you said before then you had a couple other jobs in secretarial work and teaching childbirth classes?

AGS: Yeah.

AD: How did you decide to do those things?

AGS: Well, I didn't really decide to do those things (laughs). Well yeah, I did, I did actually. Here's how, well I also worked at Harvard as this archaeological lab person. How did this work out? I got married in 1979, we moved to Cambridge so my husband could go to graduate school...I got a job then...I don't remember the sequence. At some point, I got a job at a Harvard's Institute for Conservation Archaeology doing contract work, the head of construction and stuff and I became the lab supervisor there. Then, I think that place closed up and I can't remember really the sequence but I also worked at the Institute of Politics as a secretary, administrated the system at Harvard, and I worked as an administrator for a fellowship program at Harvard mostly because Harvard gives you really good benefits like library cards, and you can borrow books from the Harvard library and you can pick classes...I was there for free. So, so

that was a good, sort of, deal. Childbirth classes I got into after my daughter was born. And, I did some kind of, I did a training program through an organization in Boston to become certified as a child birth educator, and also I attended a bunch of births as a sort of support person. So, I did that.

AD: So you wanted to do that?

AGS: Yeah, yeah, yeah I did. I wanted to do that (laughs). I thought...having babies is way cool (laughs) and hanging out with people who are pregnant. You know I would always see people pregnant and I would say you know, how you doing and how you feeling and whatever...so that was fun and I liked...mostly I liked going to births and being there when babies are born. That's really fun, tiring, but fun...so, yeah.

AD: So, speaking of babies, I guess...when your daughter was born how was the, the work taking care of her divided between you and your husband?

AGS: Well I did most of the work. But he was also just there, well I fed her because I breast fed her, but he would get up in the night and walk her when she cried, the child never slept until she was like four. So he would do that kind of stuff, take runs being up in the night with her and changing diapers. But he was working and I took two months of maternity leave, so I was home when she was a tiny baby and you know I dropped her off at day care, picked her up at day care. I was only working half time then. That's how it was so I did more of the work, of that physical care work.

AD: As she got older did that change?

AGS: Well, no. I mean I think of us as sharing raising her. We really did share raising her, but in terms of who took her to school, who picked her up from school, or who was around during the day, that was more me. I worked half time and he worked full time.

AD: What was your favorite part about being a mother?

AGS: I actually really enjoyed being a mother. I really loved breast-feeding...loved breast-feeding.

AD: Did you love it because, was it just a nice moment for you and your daughter?

AGS: It was satisfying and pleasant. And it was a nice moment and cuddly and nice to see the baby growing. I don't know it was just a nice quiet thing. I liked spending time with her. We would go off and have adventures. I liked taking care of her when she was sick or you know she'd come home from school really upset and we'd sort of figure out where her problem was.

And also, as she got older, she's just very interesting to talk to. I just like hanging out with the kid.

AD: Is she like you in a lot of ways, do you think?

AGS: Oh, it's so depressing... this is the most awful part. She is quite like me and also she is her own person. But we freak each other out you know we'll go and meet up and we'll both be wearing the same color shirts and jeans. And just I'll change. She also majored in Medieval Studies at Vassar. She tried really hard not to do this. And then her friend was looking and she said, look all these classes that you want to take, that's Medieval Studies! Oh no! But we did different kinds of Medieval studies. So we have a lot of, we share you know a sense of humor and things we like. I like animals, she likes animals. She loves animals. But she's also a big horse riding person. And I like horses but I don't actually want to get on them.

AD: So, to kind of travel back in time, when did you meet your husband?

AGS: I met my husband the first week of college. He was one of the first men, Vassar went co-ed my freshman year, and so he was one of the first class of men. And we lived in the same dorm. However, we were not boyfriend and girlfriend until later, much later.

AD: So, what was your relationship like prior to boyfriend and girlfriend?

AGS: Sometimes we were friends and sometimes we didn't like each other. And then, so it was after graduation, after I came back from England. I came back from England because they sort of said I had to leave the country. I'd been there long enough. My visa was long expired and I was not going to get an extension. So, I came back and thought my passport will run out, ill get a new passport and they wont know that they've kicked me out, and ill be able to go back. But in the meanwhile, I somehow got this crazy job teaching study skills in New York City...and he lived in New York City so I said oh I'll call up Ave, because you know, he's usually fun to be with when you're in New York City and he knows the place. And then we sort of got together and fell in love like that day. So that was in 1978.

AD: Did your mother like him?

AGS: Who the hell knows? I think that she did.

AD: What about his parents?

AGS: Well his parents were a little concerned that I wasn't Jewish. Yeah, but I think that they have now, well his father has died, but you know they've accepted me. Mostly because I'm nicer to Silvia than anybody else is. And that's not saying a lot anymore, she's not a very nice lady.

AD: So religion was important?

AGS: No not to us, it was mildly important to them. Not that religion was important I think it was culturally, culturally important.

AK: Was there anything else you wanted to say about your husband, about how you two met?

AGS: We just met and we got back together and that was it we were together for life. And we just knew we were together for life. So there we are. We're still there, still married, we've been married forever.

AK: Before that did you date any other people? And how old were you when you were allowed to date?

AGS: I never really dated anybody in high school until I was a senior. I think I went out on dates but they were meaningless, like three dates. So the issue didn't really come up for how old was I when I was allowed to date. But I had my real serious boyfriend when I was just at the end of my senior year in high school.

AK: Where did you go on dates?

AGS: Where did I go? We just hung out, like we'd go to the beach or we'd go to my house or we'd go to...he was in a private school nearby so we'd go over to his house or his school. We'd just drive around. We'd go to friends' houses, we just hung out.

AK: What was considered to be fashionable when you were young?

AGS: So, I was young in the 60s, and we were all hippies. So what was fashionable: long hair. When I met my husband he had hair down to his waist. And I also had hair down to my waist. So we had long hair, you know, giant bell-bottom jeans, tie-dye shirts, long Indian bedspread clothes...I don't know that kind of stuff.

AK: When you were in both high school and college, how were the girls treated opposed to the boys?

AGS: In my experience it was different I think. In high school, I actually can't remember and again that's part of me being kind of clueless. So if boys were treated differently from girls I didn't necessarily notice. Partly because I was really shy and I didn't really want to talk in high school. So if anybody called on me I would prefer them not to do that, thank you very much, and that was true in college as well. But, I went to a college which was a woman's college that was just going co-ed and people were very, very clear about the fact that women were in charge at

this place. And the men were there to be tolerated and they had to treat us with respect. And what I really noticed was that when I graduated from college and then I had a date with some guy from high school and I just sat there and thought, “Ewww who is this creepy man!” And he was talking about these chicks doing this, he was really sexist and I was just appalled. I had never met any you know, I had spent like four years with men who didn’t dare to be that way and had really been well trained not to go there. So there was that. I remember clearly in college people complaining that men tried to dominate the conversation. Or if men like ran for office and got elected the girls were all like: what’s the deal with having a man for class president...that’s weird. So, we were really aware of that.

AK: What were the professors’ reactions when it turned co-ed?

AGS: I don’t really know because it was co-ed the first year I went there but the older women students were not that happy about it. A lot of them were really unhappy about it. But you know they got over it. Because they trained the men up that’s why, taught them to behave correctly.

AK: What difficult transitions did you go through in moving from childhood to adulthood?

AGS: So, the most difficult transition, it took me maybe most of my adult life was to—even though I tell you this whole story about how I grew up in a family which truly encouraged me to be myself and had no sort of set idea of what as a woman I was allowed to do, and I went to college in the same type of environment—it was to learn to trust myself. And to not always question whether I was good enough at what I was doing. It took most of my life to figure that out. So that was the biggest learning curve I had to go through. A transition to being a mother was not actually that easy. I mean it’s hard to go from not having a kid to having a kid who is there 24 hours a day and depends on you. So that was a transition but it was okay. The transition to being married was not big once we had decided that we were just done. We knew we were going to be married so...not to say we always got along, but the commitment was such that it didn’t matter if we were fighting. It was, that was it we knew we were going to be together for the long haul.

AK: Did you ever want any other kids?

AGS: Sometimes I wanted other kids but somehow, on the one hand the timing never worked out and on the other hand we sort of figured...we got a real keeper. You know we don’t really need another kid. And it came to be that having just the one kid did make it you know easier for us to travel and things like that, and take her with us. So I don’t actually regret not having another kid. And you’d have to ask her but I’m not sure Elizabeth regrets that we didn’t have another kid. For a while she’d ask about it and then she just sort of thought...she had friends with other brothers and sisters and she’d say “oh those kids are so annoying.”

AK: What memories do you have of significant historical events that took place when you were growing up?

AGS: When I was in 6th grade Kennedy was shot and killed. And I have very clear memories of that. It was the day before Thanksgiving...my parents were picking me up to go to New Jersey to go to my grandmother's house for Thanksgiving. And I remember that the social studies teacher, Mr. Cleany, came in and told us what had happened. And then we were all like...I might cry even thinking about this...in total shock. And I went out and my parents were there in the car and we drove to New Jersey and watched the funeral, the guy being killed and all that stuff on the TV. So that was the most significant thing when I was a kid. I remember the Vietnam War being on TV and I had found out my father had a family friend who was in the war and lost a leg. My first real boyfriend's brother was killed in the Vietnam War and that pretty much wrecked his life for about 10 years. So, I remember that stuff. I remember the protest about it. Some of them I went to which was kind of fun. I don't have a lot of memories about Civil Rights although that was active when I was a kid. The Civil Rights Movement, I have some memories of that but I was not as close because I was in Massachusetts. I remember John Glenn going into space. And Alan Shepherd the guy before him...I think it's Alan Shepherd. So, you know we would come in from recess to watch the astronauts go into space, the first astronauts so that kind of stuff. All kinds of cool stuff happened when I was a kid. That was really exciting.

AK: Do you have any hobbies or do any leisure activities that take you outside of the home?

AGS: Oh, my life now is just so sad, I do have hobbies, I really like knitting and I like to weave. Neither of them take me outside of the home except to go get more wool. And I run sometimes. But the reality of my life is that during the semester I come to school, I got home and make dinner, I sometimes do school work if I haven't done it all on the weekend, I go to bed, I get up early, I come to school. We have almost no life. We have no life. Occasionally we might pull off going to the movies on the weekend. Or you know sometimes our big thrill of the weekend is my husband and I both go to the Smith College library and work. That's our big thrill of the weekend, we get to work together. And well other hobbies...I'm on the Deerfield energy committee. I do that kind of stuff, I do community/ town service. And sometimes I do political things. You know, I went campaigning for Elizabeth Warren, that kind of stuff. And traveling, we travel. Whenever we can we get out of the house. We get out of the house and we go and travel.

AK: So, are you big into politics?

AGS: I am not as big into politics as I might choose to be, but yes I am interested in politics. And when I can I volunteer on political campaigns for candidates that I support.

AK: How do you define success in your life? Had the definition changed over time?

AGS: I'm pretty sure the definition has not changed over time. I guess I define success as living a good life.

AK: How do you get through tough times? What kinds of thoughts keep you going?

AGS: So this is one of the things that I learned that took me a whole lifetime up until now to learn. Well the first thing is that I am good in a crisis. I am really, really good in a crisis. I just can manage to cope very well. So I'm the person you want to come with you to the hospital because I'm good at that stuff. But what gets me through is kind of this notion that if there something I can do about something I should just do it, but if I can't do anything about it I should stop worrying about it. Otherwise I should get off my ass and do something about it. And you know that's the way it is. So there's that and I guess the other thought is: What is the companionate or kind thing to do? And if it's my own troubles I'm less good at those, but it's the same, if I can do something about it what will I do and if not then I need to just stop thinking about it.

AK: What advice would you give young women today or to future generations of women?

AGS: I think that my advice would be to trust yourself, and to not think that you are alone in the world. You can expect other people to both respect you and to help you if you need it.

AK: What movies/music do you like?

AGS: I really like action—adventure movies. And I like you know, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter...I loved Harry Potter. Love Harry Potter. It's very entertaining.

AK: Did you read all the books?

AGS: Oh yeah! They were excellent. I'm really looking forward to seeing that movie about Lincoln. I really love Abraham Lincoln; I don't know what it is. From second grade I've loved Abraham Lincoln. So I like that kind of stuff. I like old music that came out when I was a teenager, old popular music. I used to actually really like the Beatles...and went and saw the Beatles twice. Twice I'm proud to say. That was cool. And I like folk music, British folk music.

AK: How do you feel about the choices you've made in your life? Do you have any regrets or anything you would do differently?

AGS: I wouldn't say that all my choices as a young person were the smartest things I ever did, but it's okay I just made mistakes. So in general, the big choices I made in my life I am perfectly

happy with. Not all of them are choices, some things I just ended up as, but it turned out okay. Yes, I don't really have any big serious regrets.