

Interview – Joani Schatzman

Interviewees: Joani Schatzman

Interviewer: Cecelia Parks

Interview date: December 15, 2022

Location: Joani's house, Charlottesville, VA

Length: 1:14:13

START OF RECORDING

Cecelia Parks (CP): This is Cecelia Parks. I am here with Joani Schatzman. It is December fifteenth. We're at Joani's house in Charlottesville--

Joani Schatzman (JS): 2022.

CP: 2022 [laughs] you're right, thank you. And we are going to get started. We got both my recorders going so I think we'll be fine. So, Joani, what words do you use to refer to yourself? Like do you say you're a lesbian? Do you say that you're gay? Do say that you're queer?

JS: Okay, so--

CP: Yeah.

JS: So I've actually been thinking about this. And currently, I want--I just say I'm queer. And then when I was in South Africa, we were--I was talking to these two women [truck passes outside] and I just--all I said was, "I prefer the company of women." And... I identify as a lesbian but for some reason I just don't like that word.

CP: Is that something that's changed over time?

JS: Yeah, it--it kind of has. I like--in the early--when I first came out in 1975, I

liked being called a dyke. I loved it. Now it's--I like "queer."

CP: Yep. Fair enough. And so when you're thinking about like a group of queer people, do you say like "the lesbian community"; do you say "the queer community"?

JS: I say the LBG--

CP: Oh, LGBTQ--okay. Yeah.

JS: The whole thing.

CP: Yeah. And then what pronouns do you use?

JS: She.

CP: Okay. So tell me about where you grew up.

JS: I grew up in the South Side of Chicago in a Catholic neighborhood. I'm the oldest of seven kids. My nine cousins lived upstairs. We lived in a two-flat. So my first friends were my cousins. I was a tomboy [laughs]. I played with all my boy cousins, all the sports. Looking back, it was a glorious childhood because it was--I'm a Baby Boomer. And there was hundreds of kids in my neighborhood to play with, and so we grew up in a gang. Not gang--schools of children. Like schools of fish.

CP: Yeah. That's amazing. So how did you end up in Charlottesville then?

JS: So I left Chicago when I was nineteen. Because I--I--I couldn't get away fast enough and start my life. And I moved to Boston. Not knowing anybody, and I just started to live my life. I worked in--first year in a--a--in a children's hospital as a dietary technician and then second year I worked as a seamstress in a sewing factory in downtown Boston. And in the middle of that [laughs] I had this reckoning with myself. I--I thought I didn't want to work in factory the rest of my life, so I better go to college. So I enrolled in school and graduated in '76 and in the fall--I mean in the spring of '76, I was

sitting at the neighborhood--at the school bar, with my friend Debbie Hanley who got accepted to UVA Engineering, and she said, "Joani, do you want to move to Charlottesville?" And I go, "Okay." And that was it. And that's how I ended up here.

CP: Had you ever heard of Charlottesville or thought about moving--

JS: No, I'd never heard of it! [CP laughs] I looked it up. It was...a conservative-- actually, I think I met somebody up in Boston who--I was doing student teaching and one of the people--the men teacher there was a--had gone to UVA and said it was conservative and I go, "Okay." So at that time--well, I came out in '75 simultaneously with my friend Debbie, and we were--we were--we were girlfriends. Never lovers. But so we looked up were there any gay bars in Charlottesville? [Laughs] And they said The Virginian. And so when we drove into town, we drove right to The Virginian. And it was like in the middle of the afternoon on a Friday or Saturday or something like that. And I walked in and there's one-two-three--three women sitting at the bar and I looked at them and I go, "They're--they're queer." [CP and JS laugh] I just knew. So I went and bought a beer and I went over to them and I put my beer on the table and I go, "Hi, I'm new in town." And that's how I met the lesbians in Charlottesville.

CP: That's incredible. That's so interesting--I feel like I remember reading something the *Cav Daily* about like the Gay Student Union boycotting the Virginian at some point. Did you ever hear anything about that?

JS: I--that was after--I don't know.

CP: Yeah. Fair enough.

JS: But there was a [sighs] so I--I met--Deb Welsh, she was--she had just graduated. She was the first graduating female--female graduating class. From UVA. And

she introduced me to all the lesbians which referred to themselves as the radfems: the radical feminists. And so I--I met all the radfems in Charlottesville. And then I met some of the gay guys.

CP: And it was just through that sort of--

JS: And oh, they used to have LG dances. At Newcomb Hall.

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: And you could--they would bring in kegs and you'd pay an admission and just get all the beer you wanted. Drinking on campus. So we always--we went to the LG--at that time, there was the LG dances.

CP: And so was it pretty common for people who weren't students to go to those things? Or was it mostly students?

JS: Well, we weren't students.

CP: Right.

JS: Yeah. And--yeah, I guess, because that was the only place, you know. That I know of. Or--well, yeah. Yeah. That was the only place you could do that.

CP: Yeah. That--that makes sense at that--that time. Was that--were those run by the Gay Student Union or were those sort of separate from that? Do you remember?

JS: Probably the LG Club or--I don't know, because I wasn't--we just knew about them because we knew people who were faculty there.

CP: Right. Yeah.

JS: I don't--maybe faculty even went to some of the dances. I don't--I can't remember anymore.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Forty-five years ago [laughs].

CP: Right. Right, right, right. Well, I'm going to ask you to sort of back up even further. So you said--you said--you came out in '75? Yeah.

JS: Yeah. October of '75.

CP: Okay. Yeah. So was that your sort of first queer experiences? Do you have--did you have sort of experiences where you thought you might be queer before that?

JS: So it was an evolution. I was "groomed" to be heterosexual [both laugh]. And so I didn't--you know, it never dawned on me to--but slowly over time things were--like one of my high school chums, girlfriends--I went to an all-girls high school--told me she was a lesbian and I go, "I figured. And I don't care." And so she took me to a lesbian bar in Chicago when I--when, you know, when I went back to Chicago over the holidays to visit. And I just--I never saw anything wrong with it, but I didn't think of myself that way. And... oh, yeah, so then I--but I was--everything was, in retrospect, everything was pointing to that.

And so I walked into [sniffs] so I was with Debbie Hanley and somebody else and we'd just come from the Janis Joplin documentary, you know, where she--you see her whole concert. And we were all jazzed from that. And I go, "Hey, let's find the lesbian bar in Boston." So we didn't know where to look, so we went to where the men's bar was on Christopher Street. And so we were kind of walking around there, and we saw a cop and we go, to the cop, "Do you know where the lesbian bar is?" So he told us.

And so we drove over and it's an all-women's bar called The Saints. And we walk in and the very first song I hear is a Janis Joplin song. It's like, "Oh yeah." And I look around and I see all these women. And in that moment, it occurred to me that, "Oh my

God, I could buy any of these women a drink. I'm a lesbian!" [CP laughs] And it was like joyous. So.

CP: Yeah. Did that--at that point did you--it seems like you were out to your friends at that point. Did you come out to your family at that point?

JS: Did I--I came out to everybody [laughs]. "I'm a lesbian! It finally makes sense!" And so Debbie Hanley and I were--we were in student government together and my sister Liz was--worked in student government as the secretary. And she was uptight at that time, so I didn't bother telling her [laughs] but everybody--everybody in student government office thought we were--when we started, we were straight, and then during the--that whole year, we came out [laughs] and I told everybody and they thought, "We already knew." [Laughs]

CP: It wasn't a surprise to those folks.

JS: They didn't care.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I loved my college. It was--it was a really great experience.

CP: Yeah, I'm curious--I've heard--I don't--UMass Boston is that--that's not religiously affiliated, is it?

JS: So--no, it's part of the state system.

CP: Right.

JS: But when I started, it was called Boston State College.

CP: Okay.

JS: And then it transitioned to--into the UMass, you know, statewide system.

CP: Okay.

JS: So it's just easier to say UMass Boston because that's what it was when I graduated.

CP: Okay. That makes sense.

JS: Yeah.

CP: That makes sense. Yeah. Yeah. So you got to Charlottesville, you went to the Virginian, you met these women at the Virginian who sort of introduced you to everyone else. What was the lesbian community like at that point in time? In the '70s and '80s?

JS: Okay, so it was small and fragmented. And we eventually--I eventually, you know, discovered that it was fragmented and people--well, everybody was in the closet, except a certain few. And so it was just--we were lucky that we met the women the first minute we got to town. Because I don't know how we would have found anybody. So it's--it's--it still is a very fragmented, compartmentalized grouping in Charlottesville. So.

CP: Yeah. So I've heard that there were a group of women who played polo? Is that something that rings a bell for you?

JS: Yeah [both laugh].

CP: Do you know anything about that group? I couldn't find anything.

JS: I--I--let me think. I just went to a polo match the first summer after COVID. Is that right? Or maybe it was the summer before COVID... I didn't know any actual polo players, but there was two polo grounds. One off of Old Lynchburg Road and then one at King's Winery, and we used to go to the one off of Old Lynchburg Road and just hang out and--just hang out. But I--I don't own a horse and it's--I'm not rich. So I don't know anything about the polo club. But who might know about the polo? Michelle Madison might.

CP: Okay.

JS: Her wife, Ellie, who sadly died in July, would have been the one to ask but [laughs] she's not here with us.

CP: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So were there--so you sort of mentioned that it's--you know, the community was kind of fragmented at that point in time. Were there other like groups that stood out? I've heard about like the Peter Pan Club.

JS: Yes. So I know them.

CP: Okay.

JS: And so when I started my bar, all the groups came in. So I got to know all the different groups and that's how I discovered there was different groups. But since I worked every single weekend, you know, I just couldn't go to their parties. But I knew of them. And now the Peter Pan-ers--one of them--one or two--one--two...two of them are sort of in--in my larger female friend circle. But you know, everybody gets older, moves away, or--yeah. Two. Penny and... Sylvia. Yeah. They could tell you more. Penny--Penny Norford, she might--you might interview her... Because she would know a whole different group.

CP: Yeah. That makes sense. So I mean, how did you go about starting Muldowney's? Or what was sort of the impetus for starting that bar?

JS: Well, I was inspired by The Saints, because it was all women's. And I loved it. We would go there. Hanley and I would go there every Friday and Saturday night, and we always had--or maybe just once a week because we only had enough money for two beers and the first game of pool [laughs]. We got good--we could hold a table. So I got here in '76 and I had a variety of jobs and so in 1980, I had--was at a job where I was

actually--I worked for Pepsi-Cola as a security clerk, and [sighs] the South, they have that right-to-work law, and--which exploits workers. And I come from a union family. So I started a union--well, I was in the process of starting a union, which my owners [laughs] didn't like. And so right toward the end of that, you know, I got the--the Teamsters to come and you know, start the whole bargaining process, and--and by this time, I was kind of really bored with my job, and I thought, "You know what? I think I'll just start a bar. I'll start it--a women's bar."

So I told my Pepsi-Cola owners that I was quitting, and they--they go, "If you leave now, we'll give you two weeks' severance." I go [mimes taking money; both laugh]. And they paid me the two weeks, so that money I used to pay the first couple months' rent on a little tiny little restaurant and I--so I started the bar undercapitalized. Ignorant of everything. And I just went for it. And...so when I was telling my friends what I was doing, they said, "You can't--you can't open a gay bar in Charlottesville! You know, all the--the rednecks from Greene County are going to come down and you know, break your windows and--and--" No, they won't. And so when I did open, they did come down. They came down to cruise, so. Who knew?

Another...this isn't part of your question, but this is a part I want included in this history, and so my bar was open to everybody. Including the Blacks. And since I'm from the North, it never occurred to me [CP accidentally kicks recorder], you know, that we're supposed to have [laughs]--and so there--there was and is a--a vibrant Black queer community in Charlottesville. And I have to laugh because the Black guys were straight until eight [o'clock]. And then they'd come down and look and cruise, but you know, still in the Black community, homosexuality--they haven't absorbed it or reckoned with it yet.

They're on their way but in the 1980s, unh-unh. But I--you know, there was a lot of these Black mothers, you know, that they would--they were lesbians, but they had kids. So.

CP: Yeah. So did you initially start the bar to be just a women's bar and then you opened it to men? Or everybody?

JS: Yes, I did. I just wanted it to be for women, and then I realized that the population was too small to support an all-women's bar. And I needed to make money, so I let the men in and--and that--I made that decision like two weeks after I opened. And then it just--word of mouth, whoosh! You know, went out everywhere. And folks from Harrisonburg, Waynesboro, Richmond, all the counties, would come in on Saturday--Friday and Saturday night, and so it was packed. Every weekend night.

CP: Wow.

JS: Yeah.

CP: So you started that in 1980, right?

JS: Yeah.

CP: It opened in 1980, okay.

JS: February--I started it in February of '80 and--yeah.

CP: Okay. So what was it--I don't know, is there a particular memory that stands out of like one Friday or Saturday night at Muldowney's?

JS: Well, yeah. So this place that I had was tiny. And the only heat was this wood-burning stove in the front. And in the back was the dance floor and the DJ cubby-corner, and--but people were like this [mimes being packed in tightly] and that was the appeal. It was so crowded. Because that's where everybody was. And--oh, and although there was smoking in the bar, I did not sell cigarettes. I wish I had had the courage to just say, "No

smoking in the bar.” But that was 1980 to ‘85... I would--I would say that the memory that stands out is that it was so crowded. And we had all levels of economic, you know, the poor whites and the rich whites and the middle-class Blacks and--well, the poor Blacks. And I don’t know if there was any rich Blacks [laughs] at that time, I don’t know. Country people, city folk, university. Cops.

CP: The cops would come to--as people to visit, or the cops would come as cops?

JS: Well, one time--you know, I never really was hassled by the cops. I have to tell you though, I was breaking the law by selling alcohol to known homosexuals. And then there was--we were supposed to close at 2:00. And one time early on, I think I closed at 2:20, and these two white cops came in and one was--I looked at and I thought, “Oh, he’s gay.” And they didn’t hassle me, but they just said, “You know, you have to close.” And I go, “Okay.” And then I did. And that was--I never really got hassled. By the cops or the ABC board. I--I never got hassled.

CP: Yeah. That’s--so were you in the same place all the time or did you move?

JS: No. No, no, no, no.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So I was on--do you know where Otto’s Turkish Street--

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: Before that building was there, there was Mul--a building and Muldowney’s--it was a house on top and then the level with the sidewalk was this little diner, which was--I converted it into the bar. And so they--so because everybody was like this [mimes being crowded], I thought, “I’m going to expand.” So I--I formed a corporation called JoanCo [laughs] and I raised money. And that was the exciting part. Just putting the

business together and raising money was of great interest to me. So I moved across the street to where--do you know where--what's the name? That little falafel waffle house?

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: In that building.

CP: Okay.

JS: I had the ground floor. It used to be a garage where they--they I guess fixed brakes and when I got it, you know, it was just an empty shell and so me and this other carpenter just built it out. And built the bar and it was bigger and we built sound booths for the DJ and raised platforms and then people--that would get jammed too.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah. So--and then--by then, I hired trusted managers so I would only work Friday and Saturday and my managers would work you know, lunch--the lunch time. So I made money--oh yeah. That's another thing. I had to sell food! And so I didn't want--I didn't know anything about the restaurant business, but when I found out I had to sell food, I go, "Well, I guess I'm doing that, too." So.

CP: Yeah, and that's because the--that's like the ABC law. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JS: ABC law. Yeah. So--so I developed a menu and I had free delivery on the Downtown Mall, which nobody was doing at that time. So I had a loyal following of--of lunch people.

CP: [Laughs] And that--I'm assuming those were straight and--

JS: Yeah. Or whoever.

CP: They just bought--they just liked the--yeah, yeah, yeah. Nancy Kechner raves about the chili from Muldowney's.

JS: Nancy?

CP: Kechner.

JS: Kechner. Oh my god, yes. She was one of my trusted managers.

CP: Yep. That's--yeah [laughs].

JS: Yeah. She--yeah. Oh, yeah, I made that--I made everything from scratch.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I would get turkeys in a smoker and smoke them and bring them in and carve them and sell smoked turkey sandwiches and I made smoked turkey salad. People would just come for that. And the chili, I just [laughs] I just made the recipe and called it Chicago-style chili. I don't know what it was.

CP: [Laughs] Well, it's from Chicago, you know, you're from Chicago, so you bring your Chicago kind of style to it. So you know, you said the bar was originally meant to be mostly for women; you opened it up to everybody. Was it mostly men? Was it mostly women? Was it sort of evenly split?

JS: I would say it was two-thirds men.

CP: Okay.

JS: Or maybe three-fifths men. Or--or--something like that. It was always--men have more money and more disposable income. And women are...generally speaking, in that era, for probably good reasons, tight with their money. And they'd be happy drinking a beer, where a guy will you know [laughs].

CP: Yeah.

JS: Has that changed? I think now women are making more money so they can spend more money.

CP: Yeah. Still hardly any lesbian bars, though.

JS: And--and--lesbians are sometimes really boring, and they have to go home at nine [laughs].

CP: Well especially as you're you know, you sort of mentioned that you know, a lot of the especially the Black women that you knew had--had kids from previous relationships or whatever and so, that also feels like--

JS: Well they would stay out until you know, like closing because they were away from their kids! [Laughs] I still see some of those women. They're now like great-great-grandmothers.

CP: Yeah. It's--it's been a minute. So you know, your bar, you had Muldowney's from '80 to '85. Obviously that's when we saw like AIDS show up in Charlottesville.

JS: Oh yeah, that was another thing.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So the woman I was with that I was going to be with for the rest of my life, we decided to have a kid. And so I stopped drinking and all drugs in like October of '83. And so I--I started becoming really sensitive to the cigarette smoke in the air, and then I realized that, "Oh my god, I'm making all this money off of alcoholics." [Laughs] and then this--this AIDS thing started. But it was all real secret. The AIDS thing was super secret. And everybody was ashamed of it and you know, like somebody came in and he had a mysterious disease but nobody could say what it was.

And so then, about oh six or seven months later, I got pregnant. And so that was in--that would have been in May of '84 and then my son was born in February of '85. And I said, "I can't be exposed to the smoke. I don't want to make my money off of

alcoholics.” And I’m--you know like I--the AIDS--I wasn’t afraid of AIDS. I was not afraid of AIDS. But it was more the smoke and making my living off of--

CP: Yeah.

JS: Alcoholics.

CP: But--I mean, were people in the bar--you know, it seems like it was something that was--people were aware of.

JS: Slightly.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah. And the--the AIDS epidemic really, in my memory, didn’t really hit until like ‘87.

CP: Okay. Yeah. It would have been the early years of the epidemic.

JS: Yeah.

CP: And then hit here later--that would be it.

JS: And by then I was out. And I was starting a new career as a carpenter, so.

CP: Yeah, so tell me about that, like building that business and I imagine that’s--yeah.

JS: Yeah. Oh yeah, that was--so when Jack was born and I sold my bar, I needed a job and I couldn’t afford a traditional female job, because it paid shit. And I thought, “Oh! I have carpenter skills.”

CP: Where did you--where did you get those from? I mean, how did you learn all of those skills?

JS: So when I was about six, my dad let me help him with projects. So I learned how to swing a hammer and I just had that natural aptitude. And... yeah. And so [laughs]

and oh, I had a house over on Levy Avenue and I started doing work on that and self-taught. And so when I went and applied for a job at Martin Horn, a construction company here in Charlottesville, I said, “Yeah, I’m a carpenter!” [Laughs] I showed them a picture of the outside of my house. “See, I renovated that!” [Laughs] I knew I was bullshitting, but that’s how you get jobs.

And so what’s-his-name, Jack Horn, puts me with this motherfucking dick-sucking man supervisor and he was such an asshole [laughs]. So I come on the job and he couldn’t stand that he had a woman on his job. So he’s--he says, “Go make some sawhorses.” And I looked to his--his assistant, which was a Black laborer and I go, “How do you do that?” [Both laugh] And he goes, “I don’t know.” So I cut out some wood and I put it together and it looked like that [mimes being crooked] [both laugh]. He was so disgusted. He says, “You’re using those the whole summer.” So anyway, because I’m a quick learner, so he’d say, “Well, go run shoe molding.” I go, “Okay.” And he’d show me how to do it and then I would do it. Or he’d say like, “Trim out the--the door.” And he’d show me how to do it and then I’d do it. So he was freaked out because he hated me being there but I was his best student, so. Anyway, so that’s how I got going.

CP: So then did you get--have your own sort of contracting company?

JS: So I worked as a carpenter for five years. And I went to various companies. So I started--that summer I got--oh, that fucker! He called me--we were renovating a fraternity house over in the Rugby neighborhood. He called me after work one day and said, “Hey, you want to come back to work and--and watch these coeds doing it on the roof across the street?” And I go, “No!” And I was so pissed that I--that afternoon, I went and got another carpenter job. And then the next morning, I went to Jack Horn and I

reported--the fucker's name was Duck Huff. And I reported him. I said, "He--you know, he did this to me." And Jack Horn was horrified. He was--he says, "Do you want me to move you to a different job site? Or something?" I go, "No. I want you to write me a letter of recommendation. I'm finding a different job." So--and he did. So--and so anyway, that led me to work on--they were building the new hospital, which is now the--that big white building, in 1985. And at that time, it was just a pit, so I went and learned form carpentry. So I went from trim to form to framing and back to trim. So I learned it all.

CP: Wow.

JS: Yeah.

CP: Yeah. And then--so you had your own sort of business after that? Or--okay, yeah.

JS: Yeah, so what I saw was--it was--ugh! Most of the men I worked with were stupid. And I'm smart [laughs]. And I thought, "I should be the boss." [Both laugh] There was some great guys I worked with. Really great guys. The frame--the form crew on the hospital, it was mostly great guys and the stupidest guy they made our foreman. And we all had college education and this guy was a white, good-ol-boy.

Anyway, so I just--after about five years, I thought, "I've got to be the boss." So I started night school for an MBA. Through JMU, taught at UVA. So I could do it because I had a kid. And so I just did that for a few semesters and my sister lived--Etta, who lives with my family up in Chicago, she got AIDS. And she was a heterosexual. And she was ashamed of it. That she got a "queer disease" [laughs]. And until then, she was like real homophobic. But she called me and told me, "Oh, Joani, you know I have AIDS. Don't

tell Mom and Dad.”

And--anyway, I decided to--I wanted to reconnect with her. So I created this internship and I got hired by a construction company in Chicago. And so I moved up there for three months. I was project engineer for the FedEx maintenance building at O'Hare Airport. And so I had a job. I got into you know, the management part of construction, and I got to have time with my sister. So then the job ended, I couldn't stand living up north or in a big city, so I came back here and I said, “I'm starting my own company.” And that's how I did it.

CP: All right. So were you usually the only woman on the job sites you worked?

JS: Yes.

CP: Okay. Yeah.

JS: Yeah.

CP: And then so you started your own company. What kind of projects would you work on?

JS: So, my first job was like a \$10,000 bathroom remodel, out in the country. And I--so I would just--remodels. So installing new windows and doors. I specialized in staircases... Yeah, just--and like putting in new kitchens. I have renovated my house probably four times. It doesn't look anything--when I bought this house, this bay window wasn't here.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Let me see, where was the...was there a back--yeah, there was no back door here. The back door was where the bathroom is now [laughs]. And I've switched windows and doors a couple of times [laughs]. I go, “Oh, I don't like that door there.”

[Both laugh]

CP: I mean, if you can do it...

JS: And I can, and I did.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I mean, I took up--I had terrible mission creep. So the sink and everything used to be against that back wall and I never wanted it there. And we gutted this part of the house--or I gutted this part of the house when we bought it in '92, and finally finished it up in '96, and just as we're coming to the end of the job, I said, "I want to move the sink." [Both laugh] And my girlfriend at the time, who--who didn't live with me, she said, "No." [Both laugh]

CP: You have to be done [laughs].

JS: And she was an artist, and she said, "I will paint you a window view over your sink of what you would see if you could see through the wall." So I said, "All right." So anyways, that was in '96 [laughs]. And then by--was it 2010 or '11? I had to change the faucet on the sink that was over there, and I had the faucet for a year because I knew it was going to be a hellish job. And so I said--one day, I said, "I'm starting." And I started and the sink was so heavy that it dropped when I took it out and it broke the sanitation pipe [both laugh]. So I go, "Oh God. Now I'm going to have to pull out all the counters." And then so I did that and I saw the floor and I go, "Oh God. Now I'm going to have to take up the floor." So I ended up gutting the entire room. Including pulling up all the floorboards and replacing all the joists underneath. And then coming back with this bamboo floor, so.

CP: I mean, it looks great.

JS: Thanks.

CP: It's a beautiful kitchen.

JS: I love my kitchen [both laugh].

CP: Yeah. So when you had your business, did you--were there other women that you employed, or did you mostly employ men?

JS: Oh yeah, well I worked with my girlfriend, Ruth, and we were sort of like--we worked together. So she--I--she was a painter. Interior and some exterior. And so she would--I saw her, just up a ladder--you know where Bang! restaurant is?

CP: I think so, yeah.

JS: Okay. Downtown. Anyway, I was doing a job on South Street, a complete gutting job on there, and I was bidding another job and I saw this painter up the top of a ladder, and it was Ruth. And I go, "Hey! Do you do--do you bid jobs?" And she goes, "Yeah." And so she came down and said, "Let's go look at the job." So that's how we met. And so eventually, you know, she's--she was doing a job and she says, "I need some carpentry on this job." So we started helping each other and so. Anyway, that's how that happened.

So basically, it was just the two of us, and I would sub out everything. Or I would hire men to help me--I had this great client. She...she would think of jobs, I think just to have me around, you know. And it was because of her that I was able to buy this house. So she gave me--this house came on--I used to live across the street. And--and I--this house came on the market and I wanted to buy it. And so she thought of this job. "Oh! I want to put a kitchen in my basement. I will pay you everything up front." And that was the down payment for this, so.

CP: That's wonderful.

JS: Right, so anyway she had other jobs and I'd hire men to help me, you know, like fence in her entire property. So I learned how to do fence-building. Yeah.

CP: Yeah. Did you...I don't know. Did you experience--I mean, since you were running--I don't even know what this question is. Since you were running your own company, you know you obviously didn't get discriminated against from the boss because you were the boss, but did you ever run into anything from like other contractors or clients or anything like that?

JS: Well...when I was working as a carpenter, there were some men who were ass--motherfuckers. But you know, I just didn't put up with their shit, you know. Some would grab me, you know, and some--one guy threw something at me, and I found the biggest two by four and I threw it as hard as I could with [JS accidentally kicks recorder] every intention of killing him. I would say I--if--if I was being discriminated against--well, actually I was. But somehow...like that stupid redneck who got promoted to be our foreman? He couldn't stand me, and so he got me fired. But those bosses got me my next job, so I lost two hours of pay [laughs]. So there were some people who didn't--who were fearful of a woman, and there were--I had others who were my champions. I think--I think I'm oblivious. I can't be looking for insults.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So.

CP: That makes sense. So then did you retire from that when you retired in 2002?

JS: Yeah. So Ruth got ovarian cancer. And she said she'd have to quit and that was in--yeah, that was in '02. And so I said, "Okay." [Clears throat] And so then I hired

somebody else and it wasn't the same. I loved working with Ruth. She had her own house; I had my house. And we just--we were just compatible. As working--so the new person, I said, "You know what? This sucks." And so I gave that new person, I gave her all my accounts and I said--oh, I own--during my--the height of my real estate empire, I had five houses. [Laughs] Four of which were on this block. And one was the one I had bought in 1978 with Debbie and Debbie. And I eventually bought them out.

But anyway, so I looked at--so I--because I was a carpenter and contractor, I did all the renos on the houses. And so some I--one I sold to a friend whose son and my son were the same age. And so I was slowly starting to build my village on this block. And so I had one-two-three rentals. Four rentals. And so I could live off my rentals. It supplemented my construction income. And in 1993, I just decided to live frugally. Because Jack wanted me home more. He hated after-school care. And so I--I just--I made this discovery to want less. And just be happy with what I got and so because of that, I--I just changed my lifestyle. And so I could sell off my houses and I've had a great life. So.

CP: Yeah. So what has kept you busy between--for the last twenty years?

JS: Man, I've hardly had any time [laughs]. I--so when I was in college, I loved--I loved it, but there was always so much pressure, you know, to get everything done and go to the exams and I never really had a chance to just really enjoy learning. So I went to Piedmont [Virginia Community College]. And I took eight semesters of art, six semesters of French, four semesters of Spanish, five semesters of computer. I did one big job a year for a friend. I renovated my house a few times and I traveled.

I did--I love carpentry so much that I ended up doing volunteer building. So there's a--a organization in town called Building Goodness. And so--so I retired in

October '02. And went to France. And then in January of '03, I volunteered with Building Goodness to go to Haiti and build some houses. And then I went to Nicaragua like in the fall of '03 and then I went four more times to Nicaragua. I went two more times to Guatemala. I did building volunteer down at--for Katrina. Twice. And just around here and then Building Goodness did a project at the Mattaponi Reservation near New Hope, Hopewell, Virginia. I read. I garden--I have an enormous garden. I read. I socialize. I hike. I camp.

CP: Yeah. That sounds--yeah. That does sound like it's enough to keep you very busy.

JS: Yeah. Yeah. I was just--I had to cancel an appointment today [both laugh].

CP: I'm curious. I want to go back to something you mentioned a minute ago about building your village.

JS: Mm-hmm.

CP: Can you talk a little bit more about that, what that was like?

JS: Yeah, yeah, that was really cool. Because Pam and her then-husband Dan and their two kids moved onto the block--

CP: And these were your son's--they had a kid your son's age?

JS: My son Jack and Pam's son Max were best friends since second grade. And they had a house over on Market Street, but it was still in the Clark school district. And I had four houses on this block. So--and their house was a piece of shit. So I said, "Pam, I will sell you this house at market if you move over to the block." And so they did. And so [laughs] I bought that house in...in '92? For \$47,500. And I sold it to Pam in '95 for \$72,000. And now that house is worth like four hundred and some thousand dollars. So--

but anyway, because they moved onto the block, so her--Pam and Dan and Ruth and me and all the kids, we got together probably every weekend.

You know, to see--making dinners together because we're all into food, and the kids would play and so then other houses became available and we--we'd say, "Hey, let's tell Phyllis and Leo to move over," and they moved over and brought their kids and then I had four rental units and I would just curate who could come in and live there and just--so the block--well, the block is constantly changing. But it seems like more like-minded people are here, and now this block rocks. We party together all the time. You know, I know all my neighbors and we go over--over for dinner, or hang out or party on the street on the holidays. So it's a great neighborhood.

CP: Yeah. That's what I've heard about Belmont, actually. That it's that kind of like, everybody knows each other, get to hang out. Yeah.

JS: Yeah, yeah.

CP: Yeah. Yeah, so was there--were you all sort of exchanging childcare or anything as well?

JS: Yes. Yes. Yeah. And--yeah, because I could have--you know, I could go out to Ruth's house on the weekend or I could bring Max and Jack to Ruth's house, because she lived out in the country and it was fun for them to play out there. And--or you know, if Pam--so Pam [laughs] they bought the house in March of '95 and then her husband Dan [laughs] they--we had a big Christmas party here. And--and they left it. We got to drinking all the time and just had the best time, and so they go back to their house and Pam's in the tub taking a bath and it's like the twenty--December twenty-third and Dan comes in and says, "I'm leaving." And Pam goes, "Leaving? Like leaving?" And he goes,

“Yeah, I’m in love with Anya.” And he dumped her, right at Christmastime.

So we--Ruth and I took Pam under our wing. And so when she would get boyfriends, we’d take care of her kids, so. So yeah, there was all that. And so--and anyway, her--Dan eventually died. And evil Anya wouldn’t let any of Pam’s side of the family come to the funeral, so I had to take the kids to the--the funeral services. And so they have always looked at me as like the surrogate mom. And when Max got married, he called--you know, called that out and my son Jack has a separate friendship with Pam and gives her stuff. I’m going, “Wait a minute!” [Both laugh] So yeah.

CP: So, at that point in time, you know, you’re sort of building your business, you’re building your--you know, you have your community here. Were you involved at--it sounds like most of the people here were straight couples, which makes sense, with kids--

JS: No, no, not at all.

CP: Not at all? Okay.

JS: So at one point, there was like five households that were gay on this block.

CP: Oh. All right.

JS: And now there’s me...I think I’m the only one. But nobody gives a shit anymore. But there was Section 8 housing for a while. And then there was some white country folks for a while. And they just actually moved a couple of years ago. So, I mean, I’ve just seen a shift from 1978. This was a white working--separatist white working-class folks who would walk to--when it was a textile factory or there’s another one over on Monticello Road called--was called After Six, a shirt factory. They made tuxedo shirts. But as--the reason why I could buy all these houses for nothing was that the adult

children of these working people wanted to get away. White flight. Excuse me. Wanted to get away from their poorness. So I--you know, I--most I paid for was this house at \$72,000, and the other ones I got for \$65,000, \$55,000, and \$47,000.

CP: Yeah.

JS: [Laughs] Oh, and the one on Levy Avenue, that we--that Debbie and I got? \$14,500.

CP: And that was--

JS: That was in '78? Was that in '78? Yeah, we bought that in '78.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I sold that in '96 for \$96,000.

CP: [Inhales] Yeah, I mean that's so interesting. You think about that's not the reputation that Belmont has now, I feel like. It's not--it's not so much a white working-class neighborhood.

JS: And--oh, a Black person would never dare--

CP: Oh, interesting.

JS: When I first lived here, a Black person wouldn't dare move into Belmont. Or walk into Belmont.

CP: Interesting. So they weren't working at the factories?

JS: No, just white--as far as I know, just white people.

CP: Yeah.

JS: But I don't know. Because the factory had closed by the time I got here.

CP: Got it. That makes sense. And the families were still, but--okay. Yeah.

JS: Right. Yeah.

CP: That makes sense. So at that point, were you sort of involved with like the larger you know, sort of as it was sort of larger lesbian community at that point in time, or [unintelligible.]

JS: Well, no, after I sold my bar--

CP: Yeah.

JS: Oh, the bar stayed in existence.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Until '12.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So, what is that? Like twenty-thirty years?

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah. And I was made an honorary member so I could get in--

CP: Because it was a members--it was private--it was a private club at that point in time. 216.

JS: Yeah, but--yeah, I had moved on from that lifestyle, you know. Oh yeah, there's groups...there was--oh, what was it called? You know, like the email lists?

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: And get-togethers. And there was some--oh, I produced women's dances.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I forgot about that.

CP: When was this--like what time was this?

JS: That was--I started producing those--when was my first one? '89?

CP: Okay, so this was after--after the bar.

JS: I sold the bar in '85.

CP: Right.

JS: And I was longing, you know, for...oh yeah, the girlfriend that I had the kid with dumped me [laughs]. And--and so I--you know, I decided to get my life on track again and so I started producing dances. So we would rent what was--do you know--oh, what the hell's the name of that place? It used to be--it's on Market Street, right across from the police station? There's a restaurant there with the courtyard.

CP: Mm. Yes.

JS: Tonic.

CP: Okay. Yeah.

JS: Or--so, Tonic--that whole building used to be Michie Publishing Company. And then Live Arts--that was the original place where Live Arts had a theater. So I went in there and I rented the theater and had my first dance there. And then another time--do you know where Market on Market Street is?

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: On the second floor is something called the Oddfellows Club. And it's a big dance--we rented that. And so we just put up posters in those days. Eighty women would show up.

CP: Were they mostly from Charlottesville, or did you get the sense that they were coming sort of like the bar from all over?

JS: There were--there were some that came out from around, but mostly from Charlottesville. And you know because people--women wanted a place to dance. They didn't like Club 216 and so I--I probably produced maybe five or six dances.

CP: And this is--I think I was talking to somebody--they mentioned that there used to be women's dances at like the Unitarian church. And this was separate from that?

JS: Oh yeah, we did that there too, I forgot about that. I can't remember...there were dances in the basement.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Of the Unitarian church. And the only memory I have of that [both laugh] was...oh, these German lesbians, they were giants, you know like Brunhildas? [Laughs] And they were staying at my house because I had the hospitable--but we were just running around...and they were talking English with German accents. And I said to one of my friends, I said, "I feel like I'm in a German war movie." [Laughs] That's the only thing I remember about that dance.

CP: [Laughs] But that was--that was separate from what the dances that you put on? Okay. Yeah.

JS: I think I--I have a feeling I didn't produce that because I was running around [laughs] instead of being present. So.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I don't know who did that one.

CP: Makes sense. I'm not sure--I don't know who did either. That's a good question. Anyways. Not one that we're going to answer right now, but it's a good question. So yeah, I mean there's not really--there's not a gay bar in Charlottesville right now. I mean, there was Escape for a little bit after 216 closed, and so I'm curious, you know, as--what--if you feel like there's something that Charlottesville's missing?

JS: Well, there's still dances that still go on--sporadically, produced by Wendy--

what's her last name? I can't think of her last name right now.

CP: Hmm.

JS: Over at Firefly.

CP: Right. Yeah. Firefly does do stuff. Yeah.

JS: And... right now, do--in my opinion...a bar is gay when I go in it. So. [Laughs]

CP: Yeah. Is that something that you've always felt or is that kind of changed over time?

JS: Well, I don't think it...I have more facets than being gay. So I don't even think about it. So--and so it's a joke when I say--

CP: Got it.

JS: But I mean, I wouldn't--you know, I would you know--I would hold hands or hug my girlfriend any time, you know. [Laughs] Do you know Orzo, the restaurant?

CP: Mm-hmm.

JS: Maybe about five or six years ago, [Unintelligible] had a retirement party and there was like thirty lesbians [laughs] who took over the whole restaurant. It was so much fun. And we were really loud. [Both laugh] So we turned that place gay. Or when we go to Vivace's, you know, we just--so wherever we are.

CP: Yeah. Yeah. That makes sense. Makes sense. So it's maybe not like there--so you maybe don't feel that there's like a gap missing in Charlottesville?

JS: I don't know, because it's not my lifestyle anymore.

CP: Yeah. That makes sense.

JS: You know, I just--I--who knows?

CP: [Laughs] Yeah.

JS: You know, anybody's welcome to start a gay bar. I'm...would I do--I would never get in the restaurant business again because the profit margin is microscopic. And [sighs] I just don't have that--it's not--I don't have the patience anymore, you know. Just--my whole life now is getting rid of responsibilities, you know.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So--a gap. Well, there's gay bars like in New York and DC--

CP: Yeah, there's like Babe's in Richmond still. I mean, there's--yeah, there's bars in Richmond.

JS: Oh right, Babe's. Do you go to Babe's?

CP: I have been.

JS: Mm-hmm. I haven't been there in years. I would go, but--

CP: I'm mostly just too lazy to drive to Richmond [laughs].

JS: I love that drive.

CP: Yeah. Yeah. It's not bad.

JS: Now I have a place to crash, so I would do it.

CP: All right. Yeah. There's a lot of straight people in Babe's, which is not always what I'm interested in, but.

JS: What are--how do you call yourself? What do you call yourself? Where do you identify?

CP: I usually say--I usually say I'm queer.

JS: Mm-hmm.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah. To me, it's the all-purpose word.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah. Although, when--growing up, you know, I was called a queer and I thought--well, I didn't know what it meant [laughs]. Although--and we called my brother Ray a queer because he was! [Laughs] Eventually.

CP: Yeah.

JS: But you know how you just know some folks are, and I guess I was that way too but I didn't know [laughs].

CP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That makes sense.

JS: So what--

CP: Yeah.

JS: So what's the gay community like for you here?

CP: Well, I moved here right before the pandemic, which has made it even harder. Because nobody moved from their houses for--

JS: Yeah, how do you meet anybody?

CP: I mean, right now, honestly, the way that I find things is there's like a couple of In--people who run Instagram accounts who like try to curate stuff that's happening, and they'll like publish a list every week of like here's the stuff that's happening [laughs].

JS: Oh. Okay. Like "Here's the queer stuff that's happening?"

CP: Yeah, like you know, there'll be a dance here or like here's this event or this you know--there's a--there's a movie screening here, whatever--whatever it is. Like they're doing like a learn--learn how to weight lift class this weekend somewhere. You know, like it's like that kind of thing. But like you have to kind of know where to look on the internet.

JS: Here's--

CP: It's kind of actually like the 2022 version of the book that you looked in to figure out [laughs]

JS: Right. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So my friend Kathleen Quinn. I met her in MBA night school. And I had a wicked crush on her. And--well, not wicked. But just a crush. And anyway, she--we're still friends. And she is a brilliant businesswoman. And she was a nurse. And she went into health administration. Now that she's retired, she's so good at organizing. She is organizing the Center on Belvedere, which is old people. She's started a whole LBGT thing. Call her.

CP: What's her name?

JS: Kathleen Quinn. And I'll give you her--

CP: That would be--that would be--

JS: She's the one--I'm so impressed with her. She--she completely reorganized Meals on Wheels and made it, you know, financially viable. And now she's into--at the Center and...and that's really important to include old queer people. Because we were--she had a [laughs] she had a costume party at their house at Halloween--

CP: Okay yeah. That's great. I have to actually write this thing next semester.

JS: Oh, you might not have time to do that part.

CP: Well, the plan is--the plan is that I'm going to write next semester, and then after I graduate, come back and do more interviews. Like keep doing this project after I--because I like doing this more than I like writing, to be honest with you [both laugh]. So--so I'll keep doing this. I don't need to write any more theses after this.

JS: Right.

CP: But yeah. So I have a--a running list of people to talk to when I do the next sort of set of--

JS: Okay, so I gotta show you this. This is Kathleen Quinn at her--[shows photo to CP].

CP: [Laughs] Which one—which one is she? [Laughs] That's great. That's really great. Delightful.

JS: See the one in the green dress?

CP: Yeah.

JS: That's me.

CP: Okay, I figured you were in the picture but I didn't guess—

JS: And that's my friend Julie.

CP: Okay.

JS: And so that's my sister—Liz—Liz's—I was in Liz's wedding as a bridesmaid, and so was my sister Etta and my brother Ray—gay Ray. Saved the dresses and these dresses are forty-seven years old. So I put them on and said, “Julie, come on, let's do this.”

CP: That's amazing. That's a great picture.

JS: So Kathleen, man, she—she's a good person.

CP: Yeah. Yeah, no, absolutely. She will definitely—yeah.

JS: The nun. So you're going to write this thing this semester.

CP: In the spring.

JS: Oh--the spring. And this semester's--what, we have a day--

CP: It's over. Yeah, yeah, yeah--it ends tomorrow. The last exams are tomorrow,

but--

JS: And--and you're just--queer history of Charlottesville? Did you talk to any Black folks?

CP: Well, I have--I haven't yet.

JS: Did you talk--did you talk to Tim Johnson?

CP: I haven't.

JS: He's--he's a queen. His family is in the undertaking business.

CP: Okay.

JS: He's--he knows so much history.

CP: Yeah.

JS: And he knows--he knows all the Black folks.

CP: Okay. Yeah. That would be great.

JS: Tim Johnson. Whatever the Black...the Black funeral home of Charlottesville. Let me look that up. Come on baby, let me in [to phone].

CP: I mean, that's the kind of thing like I've kind of just been talking--starting with who I--who I know and who those people--and who those people know, and so most of the people--it sort of just has happened that most of those people are white. But that definitely is--I obviously would like to talk to anybody who has anything to say.

JS: Yeah, because...

CP: Yeah.

JS: So my friend Debbie Hanley still lives here in Charlottesville.

CP: Oh, okay. Yeah.

JS: And she got married to Diana. They've been together like thirty-five years.

CP: Wow.

JS: And they raised two little Black kids. So they--I don't know if they know about... [sighs] I don't know if they know about any...queer Blacks. I--I'm sure they do.

CP: Yeah. Well, I'm curious. So you said that at your bar, it was really integrated like that wasn't a problem.

JS: Yeah. Yes.

CP: But did you see people, like Black and white people, especially Black and white queer people sort of mixing outside of the context of the bar?

JS: The only interracial couples that I was aware of...were coll--the college women. That's--in Charlottesville--that I saw. Not really.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Not that I'm aware of. You know, we still live segregated lives. You know, I don't--I hardly know anything about our Black community here. We have some Black neighbors that I'm friendly with who come over for drinks and I have Black friends who are not in Charlottesville, but I don't--I have--I have acquaintances but we're not friends. I mean, you know.

CP: Yeah. Yeah. It's har--I know what you mean. Yeah...yeah. Do you--

JS: Let me get the name of the--

CP: Oh yeah.

JS: [Into phone] What Black funeral home in Charlottesville? J.F. Bell.

CP: Okay.

JS: Funeral Home. It's over--it's over behind...Jefferson School.

CP: Oh, okay. Yeah.

JS: Yeah. So that might be a way to find Tim Johnson or Tim Johnson...I wonder if he's even listed. [Into phone] Tim Johnson of Charlottesville... Yeah, no. Or maybe. No. I don't know how to get ahold of him. Except I know that his family is that J.F. Bell.

CP: Yeah, I'll--I'll have to look into it or see if there's somebody else who knows. Yeah, I mean--yeah, the idea is that--to sort of start with people, like I said, that I know that they know and then publicize it a little bit more. I'd love to do some sort of event or something and hopefully get some more people interested, but I have to write this--I have to write--I have to write the thesis first.

JS: Yeah, at some point you have to just [whoosh].

CP: Yeah. I know that Jenny, in those Cville Pride interviews, she talked to--she talked to a couple of folks. She talked to Charley Burton, who's a Black trans man in Charlottesville.

JS: Yeah, I don't know Charley Burton.

CP: He actually just wrote--he actually just wrote a book that we just got for the library.

JS: Oh, okay.

CP: And then a couple--I mean--oh no. Charlene whose last name is escaping me.

JS: Charlene Green?

CP: Yes. Yeah, she talked to her.

JS: Yeah, she's a good resource.

CP: Yeah, so anyways.

JS: And she's--and she's married to a white woman.

CP: I think I knew that.

JS: Yeah.

CP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Well, I don't know. It's sort of getting towards the end of my questions. Do you feel like you're part of a queer community here in Charlottesville?

JS: Yeah. I mean, I--I--I always run into people from the old days. So yes.

CP: Okay. Yeah. What do you think that people don't know about queer life in Charlottesville that they maybe should?

JS: That it exists. [Both laugh]

CP: Yeah. Yeah. That tracks.

JS: To be honest, I--straight people don't think about it, you know.

CP: Yeah. Have you seen that change? Like do feel like there's more visibility now than there was in you know, 1980?

JS: Yeah, I do. I mean, I--it's very common to see same-sex couples showing affection publicly, which I love. I love that so much. You know, I--I think Charlottesville's come a long, long way. Because nobody gives a shit. And we have the gay pride thing. And hetero couples bring their kids down, which is fantastic. So that--you know, I think it's becoming normalized in everybody's mind, you know, that you are what you are. And like you know, Charlottesville went from very conservative to very progressive over the course of the time I've been here, so who knew? [Laughs]

CP: Yeah. Well, is there anything else you'd like to share for the historical record that you haven't yet?

JS: No. I--I'm--I got the old people in.

CP: Yeah.

JS: That I think is real important. I wish you'd had more time for that, but maybe

in your next book [laughs].

CP: I mean, is there anything else you'd like to say besides--about sort of old queer folks?

JS: Well, a lot of--not a lot, but some women after you know their children are grown and they get rid of their husbands, they realize, "Oh!" And so Kathleen, who's organizing, she realized that and so that--that she herself is--is creating a space where these people who come out later in life have somewhere to go, you know, because I've had my whole lifetime to build my history. And connections as a queer woman, and these pe--folks...it's brand new to them. So they don't know how to meet people or where to meet people or--

CP: Yeah.

JS: Although I was talking to my friend Pam. She's--I think she's sixty-five, and she just hooked up with somebody on Tinder. And I go, "Why did you go to Tinder?" [Both laugh] "Because Match was awful." And I go, "It would never occur to me to go to Tinder." But she found--she's hooking up with this sixty-seven-year-old woman, and they just get together to canoodle. They don't want to have any relationship [both laugh].

CP: Great. Great.

JS: Isn't that awesome?

CP: That's--yeah, it's actually incredible. It's actually amazing.

JS: Yeah. Yeah.

CP: Yeah. Because I've heard from some folks that it's hard to find people sort of their age on--on those kinds of apps.

JS: Uh-huh.

CP: But you know--great.

JS: The friend circle I'm in right now, I love my friend circle because the--one of the--Kim Tobias is sort of like the--she runs it. And she's always bringing in new people and she has--I love her parties. And so we're always meeting new women. In fact, I just met--oh, I throw awesome parties myself. Two garden parties, one's in the spring and one's in the fall, and I just met two women at my garden party in September who live right across the tracks. And I can see their house from out in front and they could see my house from their place. And they just moved from Boston and they're sixty-five or -six and we all e-bike. So now we ride our bikes together. And so that's like a whole new layer of friends.

CP: Yeah.

JS: So I'm meeting up with them on Friday--tomorrow.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah.

CP: Yeah. That's inc--that's so cool. Yeah.

JS: Yeah.

CP: Yeah.

JS: Yeah, we should invite you to the parties.

CP: [Both laugh] I bet you do throw a great party. I have no doubt about that.

JS: Yeah, they are good.

CP: Yeah. Yeah, that's so interesting. I mean, I do think that sometimes that the older generation gets a little bit forgotten. Or you think that, "Oh, you know, they're old, they don't you know--they're not interested or they're kind of set in their ways." I don't

know. But.

JS: Well, not everyone.

CP: Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

JS: We shall see. Yeah, Kim's having a big party on New Year's Eve. I can't wait to see who's there.

CP: Yeah.

JS: I had to miss her November party because I was in South Africa. I was sorry for that because she brought in women from California who were--you know, she knows them and they fly in every few years and I missed them this year, so.

CP: Yeah. Yeah. All right. Anything else you want to say before we stop recording?

JS: No.

CP: Okay. All right. Well thanks so much, Joani, I really appreciate it.

JS: Oh, sure. It's been fun.

END OF RECORDING