

115 Marion Kashin

Please note that any items that were difficult to transcribe are marked with an **[indiscernible]** tag.

Interviewer: The date today is July the 9th and I'm welcoming Marion Kashin, who lived in this neighbourhood approximately from the age of seven until twenty-one, and that would have been from 1943 until 1957. So Marion, thank you very, very much for being here with me.

Respondent: You're welcome.

Interviewer: Would you start off please by just telling me where you lived, how many **[0:00:30]** different houses, and where those houses were in our Harbord Village?

Respondent: Well I lived on Brunswick Avenue, 188 across from the synagogue, and next door to us was a family that were Holocaust survivors that came in. And then there was, further south, there was the Lieberman family. And then there was Tennenbaum's Poultry. Now that was **[0:01:00]** very debatable, this poultry, because they wanted to put a slaughterhouse.

Interviewer: Right on Brunswick.

Respondent: Right on Brunswick. And my mother had a petition and went to every neighbour and said no way are we going to have a slaughterhouse. And she was very active with that, and they never got their slaughterhouse, which was lovely because it was only a few – two doors away. Two or three doors away.

Interviewer: Do you know why she opposed it?

Respondent: Oh, she didn't want to have all the rats and horrible things running around. **[0:01:30]** And the smell of the slaughterhouse. That would have been awful, you know?

Interviewer: Yeah. But your mother was an activist then.

- Respondent:** She was really. Yes. Very involved with any political situation. And so she just took up the cause and she fought it.
- Interviewer:** And when you said she took up political situations, she was active in other situations?
- Respondent:** No she – not really.
- Interviewer:** But that was the one.
- Respondent:** She was a homebody, but you know, if anyone was going to slight her or the family, or there was going to be issues, **[0:02:00]** no. She wouldn't sit back. She'd just like let's – know what? This is not going to happen for sure.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Well she prevented that slaughterhouse from...
- Respondent:** Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** ...being in your neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** They did not get the slaughterhouse. And I – you know? There was lots of money, I'm sure, under the table, but you know, she said, "No way. Would you like to live near a slaughterhouse?" You know, she went to – at that time, alderman's, you know? And no, she fought it tooth and nail. For sure. [Laughs] And they didn't get it.
- Interviewer:** Well.
- Respondent:** **[0:02:30]** Yeah. And hm, my father's garage was further south. We were at 188, so – sorry. Further north. And this was Charlie's Central Garage and it was a full garage, which is now a parkette, and so it's very interesting because I mean he had – he was very respected as a mechanic, and he had **[0:03:00]** so many people from all over the city coming down with their – and every weekend we would go for a ride in someone's car. Usually a very fancy car. [Laughter] And so we were always in these remarkable cars, quite frankly. And so he – we lived up above the garage when we first arrived in Brunswick Avenue until our – this little house down **[0:03:30]** the street became available, 188 that is. And it was really

quite dangerous up above the garage. Knowing now what was going on, there was paint fumes from, you know, spraying. And all kinds of things. My mother was really beside herself there, and there was this great big – this flat roof, and we used to go out as little children, playing on this flat roof. I was the eldest one, and walking along the edge. And you know, and we could have easily [0:04:00] dropped into Mrs. Horbichuk's little garden below, but that was quite a drop, you know?

Interviewer: That was two storeys I guess.

Respondent: Yeah. Two storeys. Two full storeys. So you know, my mother used to plant her vegetables on this lot, in this flat area and she had her planters.

Interviewer: You mean – wait a minute. You mean on the roof?

Respondent: Right on the roof.

Interviewer: You lived on the second floor.

Respondent: Yes. And then there was this – it wasn't a big apartment, but the rest of it was roof covering the garage.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: And it was all tarred. And then there was [0:04:30] stones on top of it, you know? And so this was our play area. I hate to say it, but this is where we played. And my sister was just born actually, and it was my brother and I, so I had to watch him. And I used to be the daredevil and I'd walk around the edge. It's really quite remarkable when I think about it. However, it was fun sort of. Sort of. Rickety old place, you know?

Interviewer: So there were five of you living above the garage then.

Respondent: Yes. [0:05:00] Yes, there was.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: Yeah. And then my sister was born, and then we moved into 188. And – which was a nice little house, you know, and whatever.

Interviewer: Please tell me a little more about the garage.

Respondent: Oh, the garage?

Interviewer: What happened there? How was it? Mechanics that were repairing or...

Respondent: Yes. It was everything. It was – my father was a mechanic and he could repair just about any type of car. And then they, **[0:05:30]** you know, used to have – they used to do some welding, bodywork like body shop. That was sort of in the middle. And then there was a man that used to do all the painting, you know, to paint the cars that were repaired or that had – when they had an accident, whatever. You know, whatever happened. So it was a full garage. It went right to the lane. Went from the front to the lane.

Interviewer: So it was deep.

Respondent: Very deep. And then the front area, **[0:06:00]** all the cars, you know, that were waiting to be repaired, and then he'd go over them all and see what was the problem, and then they'd leave their car. Whatever. It was a large garage, you know? And that's where I picked up all my mechanical ideas because I used to weld myself, so I...

Interviewer: How old were you when you were welding?

Respondent: No, no. I welded later on in life, but I remember him showing me and so on and so forth. **[0:06:30]** And yeah, so it was a very interesting place. My father – he was quite tough, you know? Quite a tough guy. He liked the Brunswick Hotel, so he'd always go down – up to the Brunswick Hotel and come back, oh, slightly inebriated, you know?

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Respondent: But everybody knew Charlie. There was no question.

- Interviewer:** And Charlie was your dad.
- Respondent:** My dad.
- Interviewer:** And what did he call the garage?
- Respondent:** Charlie's Central Garage. Yeah, yeah. And [0:07:00] what else can I tell you about?
- Interviewer:** Tell me about his relationship with cars.
- Respondent:** My father?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Well, I mean, he just – he loved, you know, taking everything apart. He could take things apart, close his eyes, and put them back together. I mean he was really quite remarkable. And then on, you know, Sunday we'd go for a drive in someone's car. It would be – could be a Cadillac or it could be a – oh my gosh. [0:07:30] There was some English cars. I can't even remember. They had a sliding window in between.
- Interviewer:** Oh really? From the front to the back?
- Respondent:** Yes. I mean it was – they were really fancy cars, and he dealt with very sort of high-end cars. So it was neat because we never knew what car we were going in.
- Interviewer:** But it was always a treat to go in some expensive car.
- Respondent:** Oh.
- Interviewer:** That your family could never own.
- Respondent:** Oh, of course. It was wonderful, you know? And he was a – he loved working on cars. [0:08:00] The more difficult the better, you know? He really enjoyed it.

Interviewer: Do you think that he ever went to a mechanic's school?

Respondent: Oh, he did. He did.

Interviewer: Oh he did?

Respondent: He did. When he came as, you know, a youngster, and very young from Russia, he went at that time – and I don't know – it wasn't Ryerson. It was one of the more...

Interviewer: Not Central Tech?

Respondent: It wasn't Central – it was like a technical [0:08:30] school. But it was in the east end. I don't know which one it was. And yeah, he took courses and he was very good, and all the teachers would bring their cars to Charlie because he knew what he was – what it was all about. He really enjoyed it. He was, you know, was very good with his hands. Very mechanical. Because he moved on later on in life to do – have an engineering company, and he was welding these huge tanks [0:09:00] with all the contents in them, which was unheard of, you know? And my father used to have these huge – I don't know. He's very mechanical, that's all I can say. A character.

Interviewer: You say he's a character. Can you think of some other stories to share with me?

Respondent: Oh, it was the crane business. I don't know. They were hoisting some huge tank so that he could weld it, and something slipped and the whole damn thing fell, and whether it was the – I don't [0:09:30] know. It was a real issue. Actually, my husband saw the whole thing, so I never did. But he had a big chuckle over the whole – we always brought up Charlie and the crane and so on, and so forth. But whatever. He certainly was interesting. But when I became a potter, he was the one that was very instrumental in setting up my studio with, you know, compressors and, you know, spray booths. [0:10:00] And my husband has a carpet company and he set up this air table. He was the one that devised this whole air table that when you are sewing, the carpets flowed up and he –

yes. He did this years ago before anyone ever heard of this. So he was...

Interviewer: I haven't heard of it yet. [Laughs]

Respondent: No, but he was the one that sort of – yeah. He had – he's...

Interviewer: Well he had a real passion...

Respondent: He had a...

Interviewer: And he pursued it.

Respondent: Yes, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: **[0:10:30]** He understood it for some strange reason. He really did. I mean, education was just the technical school.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: But he was clever that way. There's no question.

Interviewer: Was his business successful?

Respondent: He did very well. He also had a good eye for land, so he always bought land. The only thing is unfortunately he liked to drink, and he liked just, you know? He was good-time Charlie, and though as **[0:11:00]** a result, if it wasn't my mother saving every little penny to make sure everything was paid, you know...

Interviewer: Yeah, he would have wasted it. Squandered it.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah. So it – you know, she really had a tough time because she had a – really have a grip on everything, you know?

Interviewer: So she had to be the adult.

Respondent: Oh absolutely. He was the kid. For sure, for sure. Absolutely.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah. But whatever. That's what it was all about.

Interviewer: What was the – so you grew up here.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: [0:11:30] In the '40s and '50s.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Who – what was the population that made up this neighbourhood during those years?

Respondent: Well there was primarily Jewish people. There was – but there was the Jackson family that lived up on Brunswick. They were a black family originally from the Underground Railroad. There was Mrs. Horbichuk that was next door. She was a Ukrainian lady. A wonderful gardener. My mother learned so many things [0:12:00] from her. It was like her passion, gardening, as is mine.

Interviewer: Hm.

Respondent: There was, you know, the Greenspans. They had a meat – they – what can I say?

Interviewer: A store? A butcher shop?

Respondent: Butcher shop. Oh my god. Greenspan butcher shop.

Interviewer: Where was that?

Respondent: At the corner. They were at the corner of Harbord and Brunswick.

Interviewer: Oh, so very close.

Respondent: And then across the road, there was – [0:12:30] no, that was interesting. There was a Platt's grocery, and around the corner from

Greenspan was a fish market, a little fish market. And so all these stores are now – now there's a pottery studio right there at the corner, and at the – let's see, going west I guess was [0:13:00] Willy Martin's butcher shop. And then right...

Interviewer: On Harbord?

Respondent: Right on Harbord.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: And at the corner of Harbord and Brunswick was the Brunswick bakery. There was the bakery there at one time.

Interviewer: A Jewish bakery or other?

Respondent: Yeah. Pretty well, you know? It was like the Harbord Bakery. Very similar. Probably better actually, but they – whatever. What else can I tell you here?

Interviewer: So there was a lot of – there were a lot of small stores there then.

Respondent: Oh yeah. There was. [0:13:30] You know, on each corner there was a little store servicing the community, and I believe – yes. The laundry, there was a laundry right around the corner from the fish market. I can't remember what the laundry was called, but it was a great big laundry there for many, many years.

Interviewer: Where? It was a cleaner's?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Or they had washing machines?

Respondent: No. They took in laundry from various [0:14:00] restaurants and places, you know? And it was a huge laundry.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** I don't know what it is now. It's on the – oh gosh. What side of the street is it? But anyways, it's right around the corner from where Greenspan's, Fish Market, the laundry.
- Interviewer:** So there was – right now we have a lot of restaurants. It sounds like there was a lot of industry there. A fish and...
- Respondent:** Well a lot of these restaurants were houses at one time, you know? They [0:14:30] were – people lived in the – I don't – some of the – no. So people lived in these places. There wasn't so many – it was just at sort of the corners that was...
- Interviewer:** The corners had stores.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And on Borden Street...
- Interviewer:** Which is right here.
- Respondent:** ...and Harbord...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...that's where Grainer's Drugstore – which is now a restaurant, a [0:15:00] very nice restaurant.
- Interviewer:** Boulevard Café probably, or maybe Chabichou.
- Respondent:** It's just on the – it's on the east side of the street.
- Interviewer:** Boulevard Café.
- Respondent:** Okay. So that was my – was Grainer's Drugstore, and my husband, Ron, his brother was a partner. Yeah. In that drugstore. So you know, that was...
- Interviewer:** Okay.

Respondent: ...a great drugstore actually. Yeah. Ron and Alan Kashin had that with [0:15:30] Lou Grainer. Lou Grainer, by the way, was the most wonderful guy. Really wonderful man. And...

Interviewer: And he was one of the owners of the drugstore.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: ...where Boulevard Café is now.

Respondent: Yeah. Yeah. And oh, what other places? I mean on our street it was – it really was the Petrov family that – he was a plumber. He lived across the road, and the Rosen family. And next – two doors away from us was the Lieberman family. And [0:16:00] these are people – and the Charndoff family. I was very good friends. You know, it's...

Interviewer: So what you're saying, I think, is you knew the families.

Respondent: Oh yes. Very well.

Interviewer: The families knew the children, the children knew the parents.

Respondent: Absolutely. It was – everyone was sort of interconnected, you know? We all talked to one another and said hello, and I knew the children and the – my...

Interviewer: Was the Narayever shul [0:16:30] there at the time?

Respondent: Yeah. Well it was a synagogue. It was a very Orthodox synagogue. Little tiny Orthodox synagogue. And my parents were not religious at all, you know? They never went. I was the only one that went to shul only because I liked going to shul. I loved...

Interviewer: And which shul? Was that the one you went to?

Respondent: Yeah. I did.

Interviewer: Did the men and the women sit separately?

Respondent: They'd sit separately. Yes. Yeah. But I always like going to shul. So I was the only one in the family that went to shul. Sounds strange, but...

Interviewer: Sounds like you were the rebel. [Laughs]

Respondent: [0:17:00] Yeah, but I didn't – my mother never sent me to classes, Hebrew or Yiddish or what. But it was just something that I...

Interviewer: You felt good.

Respondent: Yes. It felt good. Exactly. And the – I don't know if you know the Goldsteins lived down our street, which was Hy and Zel's. It used to be a big drugstores.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: Zel Goldstein.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: So they lived just up our street too, and...

Interviewer: Where was their [0:17:30] drugstore?

Respondent: Well they didn't have a drugstore. Like later in life he acquired these Hy and Zel drugstores.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: But he lived – they lived on our street. My – I should talk about my grandmother who lived on Russell Street, right across from Lansdowne Public School.

Interviewer: Please do.

Respondent: And I used to visit her and my aunt. It was an extended family, so there was my aunt and two uncles, and my [0:18:00] grandparents, and you know, I would visit them every day, not only going to

Lansdowne Public School, but I also used to go down from Brunswick to visit them. And then I walked down further on Robert Street, go cut through one of the lanes and visit my auntie on Major Street. My auntie – oh my god. [Laughter] Oh my god.

Interviewer: Anyway, but you had family...

Respondent: Yes, all around. Yes.

Interviewer: So you'd go by yourself or with one of your...

Respondent: Oh yes. No, I'd go [0:18:30] by myself or take my bike, and I would go down and visit them always, you know? I was very close with my aunt especially. My auntie Jenny on Russell, 44 Russell Street. She was wonderful because my mother had polio, so she took the three of us in with all the uncles and my grandparents.

Interviewer: You all lived together?

Respondent: We all lived together.

Interviewer: When your mother had polio.

Respondent: Exactly. Yeah. She [0:19:00] took the kids in.

Interviewer: So was it quite crowded when you lived with your aunt at that time?

Respondent: It was wonderful. I mean we just loved it. I mean she was a wonderful cook and a wonderful person, and you know, she was happy, and fun, and you know she...

Interviewer: Was this your mother's sister?

Respondent: My mother's sister.

Interviewer: Or your father's sister? Your mother's sister.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: So she took the three children in and your father? Or did he...

- Respondent:** No, no, no. He stayed...
- Interviewer:** He stayed at home.
- Respondent:** He stayed at home. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But there were other family members that lived with your aunt at that time.
- Respondent:** Yeah, there was my two uncles that lived there at that time. Sidney [indiscernible 0:19:28]. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** [0:19:30] Yeah.
- Respondent:** And Yukkie. Jack. [Laughter] Jack never married and Sid did get married. Yeah. So we stayed with them, and she took care of us until my mother – she was in isolation and, you know, she was – she came out of it well, but it took her a while until she got on her feet again. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But what could have been a really scary time for you was...
- Respondent:** It was a good time.
- Interviewer:** Sure, because your aunt...
- Respondent:** She made [0:20:00] sure that we were happy. You know, she would take us down to the Playhouse Theatre, to the Garden Theatre to see films, you know? She'd take – she'd schlep us everywhere. She was just a wonderful person. Plus she was taking care of my elderly grandparents. Plus she was working even. I mean she was really quite remarkable.
- Interviewer:** Fabulous person.
- Respondent:** You know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

Respondent: She really was. So – and she was a wonderful cook. She's the loveliest person. My grandmother was from England, so – **[0:20:30]** and so was my aunt. So they had this English accent, you know? And very not religious, but they kept kosher which was really interesting, you know? And they did all, you know, wonderful cooking. They had a big stove, and you know, with the coals. They put the coals into the, you know, wood-burning stove.

Interviewer: Nice.

Respondent: That's where she did her cooking. So it was really neat.

Interviewer: So I think your grandparents and your aunt might have been different from a lot of others...

Respondent: **[0:21:00]** Yeah.

Interviewer: ...whose accents were Eastern European and...

Respondent: Exactly.

Interviewer: ...theirs were British...

Respondent: British.

Interviewer: ...accents. Yeah.

Respondent: And my grandmother was a very – she was a character. A real character. So she would sing me these raunchy songs [laughs] from London, you know, because she was a Londoner. And she was probably – and they – whatever section she was from. I mean she was such a character, you know? And I used to have to take her to bingo games.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: [Laughs] So I'd walk her **[0:21:30]** to wherever the bingo games were in the area. And I said, "You know, Grandma, I don't – really don't like being with you because you're too old. You embarrass." [Laughter] You know?

- Interviewer:** Did she see any humour in that?
- Respondent:** No. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** I guess we wouldn't like it if our grandchildren said that to us right now.
- Respondent:** Yeah. She was a – really quite a character. But...
- Interviewer:** But one of the things you're saying to me as you talked about, you named all these neighbours.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And then you named your aunts and your grandparents.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And so [0:22:00] you had family and community, and you felt comfortable and easy about being with all of these people right in this, what we call Harbord Village.
- Respondent:** It was, it was. It was lots of fun. First of all, I was a tomboy, so I didn't have any, quote, girlfriends. No one would play with me. [Laughs] Only the boys would play with me because I was real rough and tumble. So when I finally acquired – my girlfriend Ruth had a – it's Ruthie – [0:22:30] she – her mom passed away and so she went to live with her grandmother, right across the road from me. She's the sweetest person. And she became my dearest friend, and she still is my dearest friend, which is so...
- Interviewer:** So she accepted you with your tomboy traits.
- Respondent:** Oh she loves me. She says, "Because you were such a character." And she taught me how to dress, you know, to wear clothes. I had no concept of clothes, or whatever. Whatever looked awful. She would – she took off my nylon, balled up [0:23:00] sweater and said, "You can't wear that anymore. Let's get you something to wear." [Laughs]

- Interviewer:** But it could be that if your mother had said that to you, you would have rejected it. But coming from your girlfriend, you might have accepted it more easily.
- Respondent:** Well not – no. My mom was really kind and everything. We didn't have any confrontations. No. Not at all. She was a wonderful mother, but she wasn't a fashionable person.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Not at all, you know?
- Interviewer:** So your friend, Ruthie, helped you...
- Respondent:** Oh yes. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...move in that direction.
- Respondent:** She was the – yeah. She helped me with that. Yeah. I had [0:23:30] no idea. None whatsoever. So that's really interesting.
- Interviewer:** But you enjoyed being a tomboy and being strong and athletic.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah, yeah. I was very, very much, you know – maybe overly so because I was, you know, I was pretty rough, you know? I put – I would hit someone very easy if they were going to disturb me in any which way. I would – my dukes were up, so to speak.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** You're talking about yourself as a child and...
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** ...how you loved [0:24:00] more aggressive activity.
- Respondent:** Yes.

Interviewer: Please talk to me about where you played and the kind of things you played as a child in your – well, during your childhood and into your adolescence.

Respondent: It's funny. Oh, hide-and-go-seek, you know. We'd play hide-and-go-seek. And you know, we'd play, you know, like cops and – you know, bad guy, good guy, that sort of thing. And it would – and as I say, I was the only – you know, doing this. And it wasn't just passive. It was very aggressive stuff, [0:24:30] you know? And I used to love riding my bike, so I would go down to Lansdowne Public School, especially summer, during the summer, and I'd ride my bike and drive everyone crazy there during that summer school session, you know? And they would say, "Marion, slow down. Slow down." You know? I had a lot of issues only because – but when my mother had polio, I was sent to Orde Open Air, an Open Air school. You probably don't know [0:25:00] anything about it.

Interviewer: No. Please. Say it more slowly. What is it?

Respondent: Orde Open Air. Orde's Public School...

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: ...but they had an Open Air concept on a upper level, and kids that were undernourished and had a lot of issues physically more, you know, health problems, they sort of wanted to restore their health back. So it was either Orde Open Air or there was [0:25:30] another Open Air, and I forget where it was. But this was closer to us. So I would take the streetcar, because there was a streetcar on Harbord Street, down to Orde Public School, which is the same school – it's still there. It's right by the hospital.

Interviewer: Where is it?

Respondent: Oh. Sorry. It's – you know where Princess Margaret is?

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: And there's a little street in the back?

- Interviewer:** Yes. Yes.
- Respondent:** Well that's – you see a...
- Interviewer:** There's a school there now.
- Respondent:** That's Orde open. That's Orde. Orde.
- Interviewer:** Okay. **[0:26:00]** So it's south of College and west of University.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** So I'd go there every day. I guess when I was about, oh, I don't know. I don't know what age I was about. Maybe nine or something like that.
- Interviewer:** But you took the streetcar.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. By myself.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. That's interesting because so many parents wouldn't allow that today.
- Respondent:** Oh, I just did everything myself, you know? I mean – and then we had a – you know, eat our breakfast and our – we had a sleep in the afternoon, eat our lunch there. **[0:26:30]** We stayed 'til about four, four-thirty...
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** ...and then went back home. So it did help me tremendously. You know, I sat down, I ate properly, I was forced to do it almost. So that was interesting. I was a rebel. There's no question about it. Maybe because I was nourished enough or whatever it was, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. When you were playing with your friends...

Respondent: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: ...as a child, where did you play?

Respondent: We played up in the lane.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: In the back lanes.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: **[0:27:00]** That's mainly where we played. Up the lanes. And as I got a little older, I met some girls up the street. There was Dreza and, oh I forget, Ebie. Ebie and Dreza, and they were girly-girly girls, but they liked to play dress-up and we played movie stars. So we all became movie stars. And we used to go up the lane again and find all kind of discarded **[0:27:30]** clothes, and then we'd bring these clothes into – and Dreza would put it underneath her porch or something. There was a little hiding place, and we'd pull them out, and get dressed, and became the actresses of the time, whatever it was, you know? I was Margaret O'Brien or whatever. I have no idea. So we used to – and they had a beautiful backyard. It was quite – a very wealthy family. And we had a lovely time of it. It was really fun.

Interviewer: So the back lane **[0:28:00]** was a significant fun place for you.

Respondent: It was. Tremendous. There was lots of things always happening there.

Interviewer: But when you played with the boys...

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: ...then you played with the girls.

Respondent: Yes.

- Interviewer:** And that was also in the back lane.
- Respondent:** No, no. In the back lane.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** We used to collect things. And then we'd go into Dreza's backyard. But with the boys it was hiding, and little nooks and crannies, you know? Or whatever we were playing. I used to even go down to – I met some kids at Orde Open Air and **[0:28:30]** they lived on Baldwin Street, and they used to play alleys.
- Interviewer:** Marbles?
- Respondent:** Marbles. Marbles.
- Interviewer:** In the winter, or in the summer?
- Respondent:** In the summer. So I'd go down there and play marbles with – because they didn't play marbles on Brunswick Street. They played it on Baldwin Street, you know, with – there's a whole group of people who – bunch of Jewish boys that – oh, I can't think of the name of it. Daiter's. The Daiter boys. That's right.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And the Daiter boys **[0:29:00]** played marbles. And one of the girls that I met in Open Air, she played as well. Sharon. And so we'd play marbles. She was also a tough kid. [Laughs] But innocent, but tough, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And I – whatever was on my mind, I just verbalized it, you know? Like nobody – I put everyone down if they were going to even attempt to put me down. [Laughs] Strange, I know.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. **[0:29:30]** Did your family use the Market at all? Kensington Market?

Respondent: Yeah. My grandmother and my aunt. They'd go down, you know, maybe Wednesday, Thursday and they'd buy all the shopping for shabbos. Have their chicken slaughtered. Oh, I remember them slaughtering the chicken. A few times I went with my auntie. And she was just the one that really did all of that. My mother, she never really schlepped down there. It was just too far away. It was **[0:30:00]** too much for her. She would just, you know, buy things locally.

Interviewer: At all these corner stores...

Respondent: At Platt's – yeah, the Platt's, and the...

Interviewer: The butcher and the fish store.

Respondent: The butcher and the Greenspan's were – margarine and, you know, whatever.

Interviewer: So your family used the corner stores...

Respondent: Over here.

Interviewer: ...and the Harbord Street stores.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah. For sure. For sure they did.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. But your grandmother and aunt who lived closer to College...

Respondent: College.

Interviewer: ...used Kensington Market.

Respondent: They'd go to Kensington. Yeah. And my auntie, she would buy some stuff, she'd – "Pearly, I've got some stuff for **[0:30:30]** you." You know, whatever. So my mother would go and pick it up, whatever. Or we would go down to get it. I would put it on my bicycle and bring it up, you know? Whatever. [Laughs]

Interviewer: You talked about taking – using public transportation at nine years old.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: What do you remember about public transportation in this neighbourhood? What existed on Harbord and College?

Respondent: Harbord Street was the streetcar...

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: ...and then you took a transfer, and I forget where I transferred. Oh my god. You know, I can't even [0:31:00] remember.

Interviewer: Maybe Spadina.

Respondent: Yeah. Spadina. And then I went down to College and then either walked over to – when I went to Orde Public – and then I remember once my brother and I were fighting or whatever, and he hit his – he hit me on the back of my head, broke his fingers, so my mother said, "Take him. And you did the job, you take him to the Sick Kids hospital."

Interviewer: So you took your brother to the hospital.

Respondent: I took – yeah.

Interviewer: To mend his hand that had whacked you in the back of your head.

Respondent: Exactly. [Laughter] [0:31:30] So you know, it's like you just – you went wherever you wanted to go.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: You – either was the bicycle or you went – and then we'd always go to the films up on Bloor Street, up on Bloor, yes. The Midtown.

Interviewer: Is that where the Bloor Cinema is?

- Respondent:** Yes, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** The Midtown and the Bloor Cinema. It was called the Bloor; now it's, oh, I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So what were the – there were a number of theatres at the time?
- Respondent:** Three. Three theatres.
- Interviewer:** [0:32:00] Okay.
- Respondent:** The Bloor, the Midtown, and there was another one and I can't think of it.
- Interviewer:** But they were all near Bathurst?
- Respondent:** Yes. They were right – yeah, yeah. All in that area. We always went on Saturday. And my – when we were with my auntie when we were – when my mother was ill, she used to take us down to the College Street to the Gardens and the Playhouse.
- Interviewer:** What's that?
- Respondent:** They were theatres.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Movie theatres. And they, you know, [0:32:30] that was a real treat was going to films.
- Interviewer:** So there were two theatres.
- Respondent:** Two theatres.
- Interviewer:** There were three on Bloor...
- Respondent:** Yeah.

Interviewer: ...between Bathurst and Spadina.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: And then two on College?

Respondent: Yeah. Two is from what I recall, you know?

Interviewer: That's a lot of theatres in this small neighbourhood.

Respondent: Oh it is. And they were used. I mean, and there was tons of children that went. We had a, you know, line-up to go. It was wonderful. Yeah. That was fun. I enjoyed that. You were in a fantasy world. **[0:33:00]** Definitely a fantasy world, you know? Hm.

Interviewer: Did – now your father, of course, supported the family by repairing cars.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: What do you remember about people having cars? What percentage of your neighbours or friends had cars?

Respondent: Not too many. We were about the only ones, you know, because – I don't recall anyone other than, you know, kids that I **[0:33:30]** met. I finally went to camp and then a lot of the kids were – came from wealthier families, obviously, and they lived further north.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. But in this neighbourhood.

Respondent: No. I don't recall too many cars for sure.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. So this neighbourhood, people used what was available...

Respondent: They walked.

Interviewer: ...for public transportation.

Respondent: Yeah.

- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** They – I don't – you know, I really don't because I know the cars that my father worked on were all [0:34:00] very good cars, expensive cars.
- Interviewer:** So they came from farther north.
- Respondent:** Yes, for sure. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** There was no clunkers there, in other words, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Not too many people. Other than my father – he always had a car.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Maybe one of my uncles had a car, you know? But not too many.
- Interviewer:** Your family used a lot of the – the corner stores a lot.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Do you recall anything being delivered during your childhood?
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** [0:34:30] What was delivered?
- Respondent:** I think my mother got – the chicken man would come with his – you know, brought chickens, fresh from a farm, you know?
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. They were already killed.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Yeah. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. For sure. [Laughter] Because my mother wouldn't go near a **[indiscernible 0:34:42]**, you know, right? They had one.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. So she wanted them – did she still have to pluck the feathers? Or had that also been done?

Respondent: No, I think it was – they were dressed already, yeah.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: No, she wouldn't do that.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: And then I don't think **[0:35:00]** anything else was delivered. I don't recall anything other than...

Interviewer: The chickens.

Respondent: No. Just chickens.

Interviewer: What about heating of your home? Do you remember anything about that?

Respondent: My mother didn't have – see, we had coal for a while and then they switched to oil.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: Definitely they had coal.

Interviewer: So that must have been quite a transition to get rid of those big coal bins.

Respondent: Yeah. It was – I recall my husband who lived on Brunswick, north Brunswick. **[0:35:30]** They had coal and his grandmother lived two doors away. My husband's grandmother. And she would give him

money to get the coal delivered, you now, and he would sort of handle anything, any transactions for her.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: So that's interesting, yeah. But we did have coal for a while and then it switched over definitely to an oil.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Respondent: I remember them putting it in, because then my parents extended **[0:36:00]** the basement.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: They sort of dug it out and have it dug out.

Interviewer: So that was under the garage.

Respondent: Yeah. It was – no, I'm talking about our house. The house.

Interviewer: Oh, oh. That's right. When you stopped living above the garage. Right.

Respondent: The garage, I don't truly – I don't even know how it was heated, quite frankly. You know? It was, you know, pretty flimsy place, you know? It wasn't a – it was awful. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Do you know what year that was **[0:36:30]** taken down? And that was taken down and then the park replaced it. Or was there something there in between?

Respondent: I think my – my father sold it as a garage to someone else, and then after that they removed it.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: I think that's how it worked.

Interviewer: Yeah. I don't know – I have no idea about dates because as long as I've been in the neighbourhood...

Respondent: You've always seen the parkette.

Interviewer: It's twenty-five years now. It's been a park.

Respondent: Yeah. No. It definitely was sold to another [0:37:00] garage mechanic, and then we don't – my parents then moved to Florida. Yes. It was really nice. They moved to Florida and I helped them get established there and whatever.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: So that was really neat. But they didn't live in a – they lived in the gulf side and it wasn't a Jewish community or anything like that. So it was bad for my mom, good for my father, but okay. It's fine. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Yeah. [0:37:30] When you look at the neighbourhood now...

Respondent: Yes. Yeah.

Interviewer: ...and you were here a long time ago.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Are there some changes that jump out at you?

Respondent: Well yeah. The Tennenbaum's. [Laughs] I mean they built this beautiful place and I think they sold it for over a million, a million three or something.

Interviewer: Which place is that?

Respondent: This is Tennenbaum's. The poultry that my mother – had this – because they had a storefront and then they had an apartment above, and then they were going to build the [0:38:00] slaughterhouse in the back, so it was a large property. Yeah. They – it's beautiful. I couldn't believe it. I was shocked. And several of

the little cottages, you know, sort of pushed-back cottages – I don't even know who lived in the – you know, they were sort of non-descript. Yeah. They were all lovely. They've not only renovated them, but tore some of them down and sort of put them back up again. And they're stunning.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: Some of the better homes, like the Petrov home, [0:38:30] that was a nice brick house, and the Rosen home. They just, you know, fixed them up a bit and they're pretty well the same house.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: But a lot of them have been changed, and you know, gentrified, and lovelified...

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Respondent: ...and whatever.

Interviewer: Lovelified. [Laughs]

Respondent: You know? You know?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Whatever.

Interviewer: Now you said you went to this special school for some years.

Respondent: Yeah. Orde. Yeah.

Interviewer: What other schools did you go to while you were living here?

Respondent: I went to Central Commerce, [0:39:00] I unfortunately went to Central Commerce. I was told there, you know, "You really should – you have so much ability in the arts, you know? You should go on to" – Ryerson wasn't a university at the – you know, Ryerson or Ontario College, you know? And I just wanted to graduate and get

a job because I really needed the money. I wanted to make my own money and you know, because I always had a job. I always worked, you know? I worked [0:39:30] you know, at Kresge's at that time on St. Clair, and they put me in the flower department to make centrepieces, and it seemed I always had this creative bent. And I – at the Y, at the Jewish Y, I used to teach kids art...

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: ...and painting.

Interviewer: Were you in your twenties at that time? Or younger than that?

Respondent: No, no, no. Younger. Way younger.

Interviewer: Like at sixteen you were teaching?

Respondent: Yeah, yeah. I was there.

Interviewer: At the Y.

Respondent: At the Y.

Interviewer: At Bloor and [0:40:00] Spadina.

Respondent: Yeah. And because I also became a counsellor at North Lan B'nai Brith. First it was B'nai Brith and then we amalgamated to North Lan B'nai Brith. So it was – I was a camper, a CIT, and a counsellor, then a section head, you know? So I loved camp. Camp changed me. It gave me a direction. I found out who I really was at camp. I loved camp, you know? That was my nature, [0:40:30] and the freedom of everything, and being away from the city and whatever. It was wonderful. It was the best time at camp.

Interviewer: That's wonderful.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Let's come back to the Y.

- Respondent:** Mm.
- Interviewer:** You taught art there...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...and you started at a young age...
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** ...teaching. Did you do anything else at the Y? Did your family or you use it in any other way?
- Respondent:** No. I think I was the only one that used it, quite frankly. We'd swim. They used to have a pool up above on the top floor.
- Interviewer:** **[0:41:00]** The Y?
- Respondent:** The Y on Spadina. Yeah. There was a swimming pool. I know it sounds crazy, but they did. And we all used to meet up there and we used to use the facilities not necessarily for exercise, because I didn't really. But it was – they had dances, you know?
- Interviewer:** So it was a social place.
- Respondent:** That's the word. More social than anything else.
- Interviewer:** Did your sister and brother use it too for social things?
- Respondent:** **[0:41:30]** Not really. Not, not so much. I don't recall my brother. He left home at eighteen, so you know.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** He sort of travelled the world, quite frankly.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** A very interesting person for sure, my brother. My sister was very – quite younger than me, so I don't know what she did, you know?

- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** But the Y, it was social.
- Interviewer:** So it was swimming for you and social.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And it was [0:42:00] also...
- Interviewer:** Dances.
- Respondent:** ...there was the Young Judaea on Harbord.
- Interviewer:** They rented some space there, you mean?
- Respondent:** Yeah. No. The Young Judaea was up the street on Spadina near Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** It was like also a social thing.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And I don't – that's about it, you know? But I loved being at the Y and being able to sort of be with little kids and teach them art, and mural – we did a lot of murals. And I don't know how I got [0:42:30] involved, but I really – I got involved with it.
- Interviewer:** But also to be teaching you were doing that at a young age too.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Very young age. Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. It's clear that you loved art and...
- Respondent:** Oh, I did.
- Interviewer:** ...you were talented.

- Respondent:** I went on afterwards. I went back to school and, you know, became a potter, sculptor, and I had many, many gallery shows. Yeah. Yeah. And I did. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So in that respect, you and your father were similar.
- Respondent:** Very.
- Interviewer:** You were skilled with your hands.
- Respondent:** Oh. My father – oh, absolutely. Very mechanical.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Exactly. Just creating [0:43:00] everything. Yeah, for sure.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Did you have a backyard behind your home?
- Respondent:** Yes, yes. My mother – she had a wonderful garden there.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** And we had an old rickety, like, garage, but we didn't use it. Was just sort of storage, you know? And yeah. We – but it was a narrow home, so...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...you couldn't really play, you know? It was mainly a garden, quite frankly.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** I mean an edible garden, [0:43:30] you know? So it was wonderful because, you know, she had a cherry tree, and peach tree, and all kinds of, you know vegetables.

- Interviewer:** So you could eat that stuff as fresh as...
- Respondent:** Oh, it's terrific.
- Interviewer:** Pull it off, pull it up out of the ground or off the tree and wash it and eat it.
- Respondent:** Oh absolutely, yeah. Absolutely. We did. We did. Absolutely. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** What about the safety of the neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** I don't think there was any real issues, you know? Other than if there was – as we [0:44:00] lived there, you know, if there was some cars parked, cars would drive up, if they drove up fast. And I used to skate on the roller-skates, you know, a lot on the street. All of us played, you know, roller-skating. So that was the only danger is that, you know, the kids were running on the streets. Because we, we just didn't care, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** It wasn't like, "Don't go near the street." You know? Yeah. So that was dangerous actually, but whatever. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** [0:44:30] You're still – you're here to tell the tale.
- Respondent:** Yeah. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Did your mother ever work out of the home?
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** Or did she work...
- Respondent:** She did not.
- Interviewer:** ...at home in any way? I mean I don't mean the homemaking.

Respondent: No. Any elections she worked on the elections, you know? Like she would – what is it, like you go and you take people's names or whatever it was, you know, to post them. Yes. She did that, for sure.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Did any of your friends' mothers work either out of [0:45:00] the house or at home, kind of cottage industries?

Respondent: Not that I'm aware. My aunt did. She worked in a chocolate factory, Jenny Lind's Chocolate Factory. She – whatever she did there. She was one of the only people – I'm telling you, most women stayed at home. Mrs. Charndoff, who was wonderful with – very intelligent lady, but she was a homebody, but she did a lot of – you know.

Interviewer: What I want to ask you about now...

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...is [0:45:30] you lived here during your adolescence. What – talk to me please about dating at that time.

Respondent: Mm. Well I was sixteen years old and never gone out on a date, and I wasn't even interested in boys quite frankly, you know? And I used to ride my bicycle, and when Ron, my husband – he lived up on Brunswick and he'd go down to the Y on Brunswick Street, right? Because he went to the Talmud Torah there, and whatever. [0:46:00] And so I said, "Hey, Ron," you know? And I'd ride my bike and he'd be walking with his bags, you know? And I said, "I have to go to a sweet sixteen party. I don't know who to ask," because I didn't. I never went out. So I asked Ron. Well you know, he – he'll tell you stories if you speak to him. I did – this one gal I didn't like, so I put down a piece of cake on the chair. [Laughter] [0:46:30] You know, I was just...

Interviewer: She sat on the piece of cake?

Respondent: Yeah. I was just an – I was not nice. However, he was so intrigued, I think, with me because we always sort of kept in touch with one another, you know? Sixteen, and then I would go out. Then I

started to go out with a lot of the guys from [indiscernible 0:46:49], which was the medical thing. I don't know. I sort of...

Interviewer: A fraternity?

Respondent: Yeah. A fraternity, you know. They were all in medicine. They were a little older. I don't know how this – I think it [0:47:00] came about through when I was at camp.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: The sister, or the whatever, you know? And yeah. So I went out with a lot of medical guys, a lot of dentists, you know? That sort of thing. But I don't – I really didn't like – I liked Ron because he was such a nice guy. He was such a sweet man.

Interviewer: So you knew him when you were sixteen.

Respondent: Sixteen. Yeah.

Interviewer: And now you're seventy-seven and married to him.

Respondent: Yeah. And we're still married.

Interviewer: How old were you when [0:47:30] you married him?

Respondent: I was twenty-one, he was twenty-two.

Interviewer: You've been married a long time.

Respondent: Yeah. A long time. Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah. But he's a great guy. He's the sweetest guy, you know?

Interviewer: But you knew him at sixteen years old that he was terrific.

Respondent: I knew it because he was such a nice guy.

- Interviewer:** And you were right.
- Respondent:** I was. He was a wonderful guy.
- Interviewer:** And you dated other people, but...
- Respondent:** I did. I dated, you know, just nothing serious. I never really – I just didn't feel comfortable with the others. [0:48:00] And I just liked Ron. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** What were your friends doing, say, when you were sixteen, seventeen, eighteen? What was the dating at the time?
- Respondent:** You know, I didn't have that many girlfriends. As I told you before, I really didn't. I don't think they, you know, I don't think people really indulged. They went to a lot of dances, you know? The Y dances, the [0:48:30] Habonim dances, the – all these.
- Interviewer:** So they were going as a group of guys...
- Respondent:** Yeah. A group of guys.
- Interviewer:** ...and a group of girls...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...and they met there.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** I never really went out. I don't know why, but it just – it didn't happen at that time. I didn't – I don't remember people going out with tons of guys, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Not really, you know? I was sort of fixated on one person and you know.

- Interviewer:** Well I guess that was more the style that [0:49:00] this group met that group and you had some social event, like at the Y.
- Respondent:** Yeah. At the Y...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...and whatever was happening. Even there was school dances, like Harbord had dances, and even Central Commerce had dances, you know? It wasn't – it was different, you know?
- Interviewer:** Oh, it was very different from how it is today.
- Respondent:** It was very innocent.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah, I must say very innocent, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Whatever. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** [0:49:30] I think we're coming to the end of our time.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But I know that when you came in, you came in with some notes because you had given some thought...
- Respondent:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** ...to our conversation. Would you just take a look at your notes? What have we not talked about?
- Respondent:** I think I just mentioned just about everything, quite frankly, you know? There's nothing other than what I've told you.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

Respondent: Quite frankly. [0:50:00] It, it...

Interviewer: So we've pretty well covered...

Respondent: ...was such a different lifestyle, completely, you know, that – like, my grandchildren and I'm sure your grandchildren realize now. It's just entirely different. It's a different life.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: It was very simplistic. Even people that went on to university – perhaps some of my friends that I met later on in life, they had this sort of lifestyle, but then when they went on to university, [0:50:30] it was maybe their dating was – they met different people at university so they went on more dates, quote. But I didn't, I didn't have that opportunity because right after school I went directly to work, and I was just busy working and trying to make some money, and whatever. [Laughs]

Interviewer: And what are – if I was to ask you...

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: ...which I'm asking you, what are some of your strongest [0:51:00] memories, thoughts, and feelings about this neighbourhood that was in the '40s and the '50s?

Respondent: Well, I just love the fact that I would go down to my grandmother and grandfather and auntie. Like my cousin, Cecile, was living with them as well, and they – that was so warm and it was so much fun, and it was like, you know? You just – we just don't have it now, you know? It was very important, you know, that...

Interviewer: [0:51:30] The family being close.

Respondent: Yeah. The family was...

Interviewer: Physically.

- Respondent:** I mean I had my appendix out, and the first thing I wanted to see was I wanted to see my auntie Jean. I want to go to Grandma's. I don't want to be here. And you know, that's – it shows you how I've really felt very attached there, you know?
- Interviewer:** So you had them – emotionally and physically...
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** ...you were all one small community...
- Respondent:** Yes. Yes.
- Interviewer:** Close-knit.
- Respondent:** For sure. For sure.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** They especially, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** And that's – my, my [0:52:00] auntie was so wonderful to us. Now, my cousin Cecile, who's had a hard life, she's – really didn't amount to too much. And I always helped her. She's lived in New York for a while now. She lives in Toronto. And she had a tremendous amount of issues, and I make a point, and my friends always say to me, "You are so good to her." [0:52:30] "No one in the world would do what you're doing." I said, "But you don't know how good my auntie Jean was."
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So you learned, you learned very beautiful things, and you're practicing that yourself.
- Respondent:** Exactly. So.
- Interviewer:** And especially you talked about when your mother was so sick, and your aunt took care of the three children and you're doing this for Cecile.

- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So you...
- Respondent:** I do.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** But she's – she's a wonderful person, don't get me wrong, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. She's just...
- Respondent:** She just has issues.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** You know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** [0:53:00] And...
- Interviewer:** So she's lucky to have you. Kind and generous.
- Respondent:** Yeah, but not – it's okay because, you know, she's, in her own way, she's a good person.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So she's had a hard life.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And you're making it easier in ways that you can.
- Respondent:** I try. I try.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

Respondent: And I really feel very strongly about that. And know – a lot of my friends have said, "You know, she's put you through a lot of grief, Marion." But I said, "I don't care. It's not important."

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Respondent: You know? She's a good person. **[0:53:30]** She just can't help it and that's it. Period.

Interviewer: Yeah. So you're kind to her...

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: ...but you also learned that kind of kindness...

Respondent: I think so.

Interviewer: ...from this family that you felt so close to.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Oh, for sure.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: You know, even my uncle, when I was set-up in my studio as – I had another life. I was – I designed rugs and fabricated rugs, and my uncle who was a furrier came over and brought me all his, like, big cutting tools, and couldn't, **[0:54:00]** you know. He was in awe of all the things that I was doing. So you know, they all helped me in their own...

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: When I got established in my own way, my father helped me set up my studio when I was a potter, and you know, my uncle helped me with some tools, and so that's very nice, you know?

Interviewer: Yeah. You've had a good family.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: And that's why you're practicing the same with Cecile.

Respondent: I think so. Yeah. Well yeah. Cecile is special. She really is.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. Well, and so are you.

Respondent: Oh.

Interviewer: So [0:54:30] I'm going to say, Marion Kashin, thank you very much. It's been a pleasure, and you've shared very colourful stories with me today.

Respondent: Well thank you. No, it was fun. It was interesting. It's interesting be-
...

[0:54:41]

[End of recording]