

BARNARD COLLEGE CLASS OF 1971 ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Reminiscences of

Lynn Julian

2015

## PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Lynn Julian conducted by Frances Garrett Connell on May 1, 2015. This interview is part of the Barnard Class of 1971 Oral History Project.

The reader is asked to bear in mind that s/he is reading a verbatim transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

Barnard Alumni Class of 1971 Oral History Project

Interviewee: Lynn [Forberg] Julian

Location: Norwalk, CT

Interviewer: Frances Garrett Connell

Date: May 1, 2015

00:00:00 Q: This is an interview taking place for the Barnard College Voices [Class of 1971] Oral History [Project]. I'm interviewing Lynn Julian at her home in Norwalk, Connecticut, and the interview is Frances Connell. Today is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. So, we will begin. So, what—tell me where and when you were born. And a little about your early life.

00:00:27 Julian: Okay. Well, I was born, uh, in 1948 in Cincinnati, Ohio. And I lived there all my life until I went to Barnard. Uh, my dad worked for P&G [Proctor & Gamble]. He was, uh, an executive for them who actually was in charge of bringing computers and data processing to the whole company. I can remember him taking trips off to IBM [International Business Machines Corporation] to work out the big servers, and, you know, there was this giant room of computers and was, you know, that was what my dad did. My mom was an artist, and we had—she had a little studio in my house, and she even had her own etching press. So as a child, I got to make etchings with little copper plates and acid baths and things like that. I went to a great high school—Walnut Hills High School. It was public school, but all college prep. You go there from seventh grade to twelfth grade, you take Latin. I think it prepared me very well for Barnard. While I was in high school, oftentimes in the summer, I volunteered as an apprentice at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and also, well, I was passionate about drama and, you know,

was in all the high school plays, but it was fun working in the summer theater and getting to meet all the actors from New York and—You know, I got to be stage manager and make costumes and do sets, clean the seats, take the tickets. It was a great experience.

00:02:18 Q: Okay, we're going to go back and do a little more in-depth on that, but can you tell me a little bit about your parents, about your family origins?

00:02:26 Julian: Well, having spent many hours last fall on Ancestry.com, I, learned more about my different lines. My mom got interested in, you know, her genealogy late in her life, and she was able to establish that we belonged to the Dickinson family descended from Nathaniel Dickinson who came to America in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. And, also Emily Dickinson, so I have my little invitation to the Dickinson family reunion in June if I want to go eat succotash in Amherst. [Laughs] But then I found other lines. The Melyns, M-E-L-Y-N. Cornelius Melyn was one of the founders of Staten Island, and then he, you know, got banished from Manhattan and owned a bunch of acres there, and then he got banished to New Haven, I think. And another ancestor was—

00:03:30 Q: Do you know why he was banished?

00:03:31 Julian: Um, he was arguing with the—they were all Dutch—he was arguing with the head Dutch guy. You can look, he's in Wikipedia. [Laughs]

00:03:42 Q: Fascinating.

00:03:42 Julian: He had a very dangerous—he was going back to Holland to complain about the leadership in the colony, and his ship wrecked and he eventually made it back and pleaded his case. It's quite interesting.

00:04:03 Q: Fascinating.

00:04:05 Julian: Yeah, so it's very—it's fun looking up the different genealogies.

00:04:06 Q: Yeah, so your line is mostly Dutch? Or English and Dutch?

00:04:12 Julian: Oh, it's English and Dutch, and then my dad is from Sweden, and there's a whole story of his Swedish family coming over and he grew up in Minnesota.

00:04:28 Q: Oh. Very good. Okay. So speaking about your parents, can you tell me a story that kind of demonstrates how, who they were and what they did? You already mentioned your father

—

00:04:37 Julian: Um, well, one of the—my parents got interested in—well, my mother mainly—got interested in Zen Buddhism, and I remember as a little girl, we had a Zen Buddhist priest come and stay with us, and that was pretty exciting.

00:04:58 Q: Yeah, did she continue this?

00:04:59 Julian: Oh, yes. She became a Buddhist, and um, when she wasn't being a Unitarian, she was being a Buddhist.

00:05:06 Q: Well, they're close enough. Good. Um, was there ever a time when you felt different from your friends, or was it a pretty homogeneous community growing up?

00:05:24 Julian: Oh, I think I always felt like I fit in pretty well. You know, like I was saying, I went to this great high school; you know we had different cliques, but I kinda felt like I could travel through the different groups. I wasn't only in the sorority girl group. I could go with the

theater group, and, you know, the more hippie group. It was—I, um, I think growing up, I felt pretty well-connected. Sorry, that's my dog barking.

00:05:59 Q: So, prior to college, who would you say was the most influential person in your life, or persons?

00:06:04 Julian: Well, my parents. But I think, you know, we were a close family. I had one brother, um. I think they really did try to give me good guidance. We toured the colleges together. They guided me. My dad, you know, was sort of taciturn, but you could tell he cared and he, you know, wanted us to be successful.

00:06:38 Q: And were you close to any one in particular, of your siblings?

00:06:42 Julian: Yeah, my brother and I were very close, well maybe not so much. Three years younger, but, you know, we're close now.

00:06:49 Q: Good. Can you describe the street you grew up on? What might you see or smell when you were a little girl?

00:06:56 Julian: When I was in elementary school, we lived, uh, on a street that the houses were closer together, and there was a great group of kids that just ran through the backyards and played games every night. I can just remember summer nights just laying in the grass being exhausted from running up and down the street, chasing people and—you know, we played Barbies. There were several girlfriends who were neighbors, we had a tree house, and—It was like a typical, kind of just—

00:07:39 Q: Yeah, lots of children and a lot of freedom.

00:07:39 Julian: Yeah. A lot of kids to play with. We'd put on plays, we'd play strip poker.

[Laughs]

00:07:50 Q: So, I'm sure it was a very good school—elementary and middle school—to feed into that high school? Any particular—

00:07:53 Julian: Well, you had to take a test to get into the high school.

00:07:58 Q: Oh, okay.



00:07:58 Julian: Yeah, but I went to elementary school, Kilgour, that was in a nice neighborhood, and, um, a lot of the kids from Kilgour ended up going to my high school, it was an all-city high school.

00:08:17 Q: So, it was sort of like a magnet program, then? Did it have a specialty that you had to study?

00:08:23 Julian: It was just a very early example of an all-college preparatory high school, but being a public high school. And even now, it's very unusual in that it, um, the city allows it to fund raise, so all the alumni support it, and they have built beautiful science labs and, you know, it's like a college.

00:08:48 Q: Well, that's amazing. Wow. Did you have to commute there, or was it—?

00:08:51 Julian: Yeah. We had a long bus ride. It was in like an inner city neighborhood that wasn't that safe, so, you know, when I tried to walk to the bus stop several blocks away, I'd have to walk through a pretty sketchy area. And then when I got to the—because once—we left the little neighborhood right around the same time I was going from grade school to Walnut Hills. So, we moved further out of the city, so we were out in a more sprawling neighborhoods. So it was a long, you know, ride to get to high school.

00:09:31 Q: Was that a—so, you're riding on a bus—was that a good time for you? Said you had to do that for three years, four years?

00:09:37 Julian: Yeah. The bus was good. And I stayed after school a lot, so I either got picked up or—yeah, and then I had to take the city bus.

00:09:49 Q: So, what were some of the things that you did in high school? You referred to the drama group—

00:09:55 Julian: Yeah, I guess, the drama was the main thing. Being in a sorority was still a big deal, so, you know—that was one of the things when I came to look for colleges, I did not want a school that had sororities. I really had my sort of limit with the whole sorority scene in high school. I sort of got it out of my system. But, it was, and it was just—it was on the edge of fading when I was in tenth grade. It was a big deal. Dating? I mean—

00:10:30 Q: What about dating?

00:10:31 Julian: Um, I didn't really have a great high school boyfriend, but I had different ones, um—

00:10:38 Q: In those innocent days.

00:10:38 Julian: Yeah, yeah. Nothing else really jumps out. You know, it was a hard school academically. We studied hard.

00:10:50 Q: Were there subjects at that time that you felt particularly confident in?

00:10:56 Julian: Well, I always tended towards history, I liked a lot, I took a lot of AP history. I became very insecure about math. I didn't pursue math very far. Any farther than I absolutely had to. Nor did I pursue science. Sciences like chemistry or physics, which I ended up regretting even as early as Barnard [College] when I had to drop out of a genetics course because I didn't have enough math background to be able to figure out all these probabilities.

00:11:38 Q: Okay. So do you want to share a story about maybe your first date?

00:11:45 Julian: In high school?

00:11:47 Q: In high school. That's on my list here.

00:11:48 Julian: Oh boy. Really? [Laughs] Um, well I think I had a crush on Benji Schwartz in like ninth grade maybe? And, you know, they'd have these little parties, and I was very excited—this wasn't a first date, but—when he like gave me his ID bracelet. That was sweet.

00:12:15 Q: Sweet. Did they have a prom? Did you end up going to the prom and all that too, or—?

00:12:18 Julian: Um, I missed my senior prom because I was an exchange student for the summer—well, not even for the whole summer—but it was an English-speaking union exchange program, so I was living with a family in Scotland for my high school graduation. I missed my whole graduation. And the prom.

00:12:41 Q: Was that a, um—did that impact you in terms of what you wanted to do in the future, having a semester overseas, or—?

00:12:47 Julian: It wasn't even a whole semester. It was like just at the end of, um—

00:12:55 Q: Your senior year.

00:12:55 Julian: Yeah, I pretty much just went for the month of June, I think. But, it was fun going to London and then to Scotland. I didn't mind missing prom.

00:13:04 Q: How about special friends? Either as a child or through high school or people you might still keep up with?

00:13:12 Julian: Um, well one of my good friends from high school ended up moving to New Jersey before she graduated, but she still felt connected to the high school, and she was one of my closest friends whom I'm still in touch with. She ended up going to Radcliffe [College] when I went to Barnard. We, you know, stayed in touch. I was in her wedding, she was in my wedding.

00:13:42 Q: Well, since we're talking about this late 60s, early 70s, I have to ask this question. This was a time of drug experimentation. Was this anything—were you ever involved in any of that? You might want to be careful how you answer. [Laughs]

00:13:55 Julian: Well, mildly. I think the most drugs I did in high school and college was smoking marijuana. I never did anything besides that. There was definitely marijuana in high school, and then, I think, there was some marijuana in college. I don't think my college crowd did it that much.

00:14:27 Q: I was shocked to talk to someone last week who told me there was a place in Columbia [University] where people would go to drop LSD [lysergic acid diethylamide]. How did you stay so smart? Laughs

00:14:40 Julian: I don't know, but I never did that. Um, I was with people who were doing it, but I didn't take it. I was like helping out by taking care of them.

00:14:50 Q: Caretaker role. Okay. Um, How about your mother again? Did she ever do anything that illustrated her role in the family? Or outside the house that you think impacted you?

00:15:06 Julian: Um, well, my mother was not a typical housewife. She was very ambitious. She always regretted that she only went to art school, and she never got to go to proper college because her father refused to pay for her education.

00:15:27 Q: Did she grow up in Cincinnati?

00:15:27 Julian: She grew up in Ohio—in Canton, Ohio. And I think she was very bright, but her dad just didn't believe that girls should go to college. It's a sad thing. But I think that she felt a little insecure that she didn't have that college education, and she really wanted it for her kids. You know, that said, she was a leader in the city, and a volunteer on lots of boards and community groups and women's clubs, you know, she was very—. After, long after, my parents got divorced, she established her own lithography press, and, you know, printed art books and had, you know, famous artists come and work at the press.

00:16:28 Q: Oh that's amazing. Yeah, did you have, did you—were you working with her at that time, or were you long gone?

00:16:29 Julian: Oh, I was married and long gone. But those two prints on the wall over there were by two Japanese artists that she sponsored to come over.

00:16:43 Q: That's fantastic. Is your mother still alive, or—?

00:16:43 Julian: No.

00:16:47 Q: So she stayed in Cincinnati and started this, uh, lithography business?

00:16:51 Julian: And then—and then after maybe ten years of doing that, she moved to Connecticut. Not really close by here, but she wanted to be in the Northeast to be closer to my brother, who lived in New Hampshire.

00:17:07 Q: So she was definitely not a traditionalist. And then she was doing the artwork while you were growing up and you were able to help her as well, so—

00:17:13 Julian: Well, she let me. She always encouraged us to draw and do art and make things. My dad loved to make things. He actually ended up being an artist himself. In his later years, he made beautiful furniture and did wood sculpture and—yeah.

00:17:32 Q: Okay, um, do you think she was in any sense—either of your parents—were maybe overly concerned about your future, or to the extent that they were trying to direct where you would go? Made decisions for you and then you kind of followed, or—?



00:17:51 Julian: Um, I never felt pressure by them. I really—I think they helped me sort things out, especially when it came to graduate school. I don't remember getting much help from Barnard about graduate school. I mean, I think when I first went off to college, I had no intention of going to graduate school. But one of the things about Barnard is, you know, you look around and, "Oh gosh, everybody's going to do something great. I better figure out where I'm going." [Laughs] And, uh, my mom—I mean, one of her few ideas was going into prison criminology or something. [Laughs] It's like, "Mom, I don't think so." But she did come up actually with the idea of going to study public health, which I ended up doing, and, you know, it was because of her that I considered that and applied.

00:18:45 Q: How about some of the memorable political and world events that—we'll get to that in terms of Barnard and your four years. But prior to Barnard, in the years growing up, the Cold War, the assassinations?

00:19:01 Julian: I do remember—I do remember the assassination of [John F.] Kennedy, of course. Everybody remembers where they were for that, and just being glued to the TV and watching like every minute of that whole, you know, funeral procession. And then, in Cincinnati we had bad race riots.

00:19:21 Q: This is while you're still in high school?

00:19:22 Julian: Yeah. That was, um—I was still there.

00:19:34 Q: And what was your—was it something you felt, “I have to keep a distance from this,” or was it something, “Oh, how can I get involved? How can I understand?”

00:19:44 Julian: Well, I mean, my parents were working in organizations that were trying to keep communication open and things like that. Um, but I wasn’t feeling the need that I had to go out and throw Molotov cocktails or anything.

00:20:02 Q: That’s kind of a trick question, I think. Good. Okay. So, getting into some of the profile in general questions here. Can you tell me about a moment or day that, when you reflect, really changed your life? Or an event? I think an event, better than a day.

00:20:19 Julian: Oh my goodness. You mean in my whole life? Well, I think having my daughter. I mean, just, you know, changes your whole life, having a child. Um, it’s gotta be the most important day of my life. I had a lot of trouble getting pregnant. I had lost—you know, several babies. I was—I was bedridden for most of my pregnancy. I was so happy. I was like alone in Greenwich for a hurricane. While I was pregnant. [Laughs]

00:20:53 Q: Before or after she was born?

00:20:53 Julian: Well, I was pregnant. [Laughs] So, I was—I think that was the highlight of my life.

00:21:02 Q: Yeah, absolutely. So, do you think you're the same—I mean, we also have the core personality that we often carry with us through our life—do you think you're the same person, excuse me, that walked through the gates of Barnard, uh, as a freshman? And if so, and if not, what changed you?

00:21:19 Julian: I think I'm basically the same person. Um, you know, I—

00:21:29 Q: What kind of person is that?

00:21:30 Julian: I'm—I'm a little bit quiet, I'm a little bit retiring, um—I'm more of an observer than a participant. I'm not a big talker, um, I like to get things done, you know, if I see—I think this may have been an evolution, but, you know, I like practical, I'm kind of practical, I guess. And I think I was inherently that way all my life.

00:22:10 Q: Do you think of yourself as having a sense of humor, or were you always very serious?

00:22:14 Julian: Um—[Laughs] I like to think I have a sense of humor. Maybe some people would disagree. There are certain people you can laugh with, and other people, you know, it's just more serious.

00:22:32 Q: Absolutely, absolutely. Okay. How about obstacles? Can you tell me about an obstacle that was placed in your path, and how you dealt with it? Something that, “No, it can’t go that way.”

00:22:45 Julian: Well, um, I guess getting divorced. I mean, it’s not necessarily your choice. Um, I was divorced right when my daughter was born. Or, I was separated shortly after she was born.

00:22:29 Q: How long had you been married?

00:23:00 Julian: Um, since 1975, more than ten years. Um, so I guess a challenge was raising my daughter by myself. And, I guess the obstacle was getting divorced, you know, right when you’re

about to have a family. And how to overcome that, you know, I've never re-married, um. I think it pretty much kind of—the pain of that, I think, stayed with me.

00:23:44 Q: I understand. How about, on the other side—was your daughter able to keep up with her father?

00:23:51 Julian: Yep, yep. You know, he lives in Connecticut, and she—he has six other children now.

00:24:05 Q: Aren't you glad you were spared of that? [Both laugh]

00:24:10 Q: So, what do you think was the most joyous day of your life? This may go back to the other question—

00:24:18 Julian: Well, having the baby and everything. I mean, yeah, not to repeat myself, but, um, hmmm—joyous day. I think there have been a lot of joyous days. I mean, I went back to school and I got a degree in architectural technology right here at Norwalk Community College. But they had a nice program—a two year program that took me about six years to do. [Laughs]

But I took one or two classes a semester, and you know, I felt a real sense of accomplishment when I graduated from that. And, uh, then went to work for some local architects.

00:25:10 Q: So, what, uh, what exactly does that entail? I'm not familiar with it.

00:25:15 Julian: Getting a degree in architectural technology? Well, you learn, um, AutoCAD and you have to take two physics classes—I had to really, like, start—

00:25:27 Q: Oh, then you take physics?

00:25:28 Julian: Yeah! Laughs I had two physics classes. I got the whole thick book. Um, I had to like learn all the math; I had to go through pre-calc[ulus]. So, um, I felt proud of myself that I kind of went back and I tackled all that, and I got, you know, I learned how to draft and to, um—you know, be able to work in a firm.

00:26:00 Q: Did you find that the people you worked with—this isn't one of the questions, but—all the architects I've ever known are very happy people. They love what they do.

00:26:09 Julian: Yes, yes. Or, some of them can be very pretty, you know, difficult, but—

[Laughs] You know, I think I was inspired because my uncle was an architect, and I always admired him. I really toyed with trying to pursue it at the end of Barnard, but I didn't have the math, I didn't have the prerequisites so I had to kind of give it a pass.

00:26:38 Q: So this was before you did the public health degree?

00:26:43 Julian: Oh, way after. I did the architecture in the '90s. I was living here. Um, I did public health right after Barnard.

00:26:53 Q: Well, we'll have to find out more about that in a second. Is there anything else which defines you as a person, or describes your years at Barnard and since which you would like to share?

00:27:10 Julian: As a person—I mean, I had the same roommates pretty much from freshman year. We just got along. It's just—it's not like we had so much in common, but, you know, we were just good roommates, so I stayed with the same group right from, you know, I think I actually lived in Reid [Hall]. I almost said Hewitt [Hall], but I think I lived in one that was on Broadway. I think it was Reid, right? Then we went to Plimpton [Hall], then we went to 616, then we went to 620, but—back then, um, you know, we just—I had this little kind of subgroup

in my life that was kind of comfortable, um, and yet, you know, once we graduated, we never stayed in touch. It wasn't like we were that close. It was just that we were good roommates. And, um—

00:28:12 Q: That's good. Is there anything that you've done or not done in your life that you would change?

00:28:16 Julian: Well, I wish I'd taken those math classes.

00:28:24 Q: Don't we all? [Both laugh]

00:28:25 Julian: And then maybe I'd gone on to study architecture or art. I mean, I was sort of sad that Barnard didn't have more studio classes at the time. But they do have now. So, when I wanted to take an art class, I had to go down to 110<sup>th</sup> street and take some night class. There was an art school, kind of a General Studies art school down there, or somewhere. It was down there. I don't know, but I know I had to walk down a few blocks to get to it. But I don't have a lot of regrets. *Je ne regrette rien.*



00:29:10 Q: So when you were a student, what did you most want out of life at that point?

00:29:16 Julian: Well, as a Barnard student? Um, well, I actually liked being a student. You might have probably gathered that. I like being—I guess I like being in the role of student. I like being fed information or being challenged or having to figure stuff out. Um, what was the question? [Laughs]

00:29:42 Q: What did you most want out of life when you were a student?

00:29:46 Julian: Well, I liked challenges. You know, I like learning things. I was an anthropology major. One of my reasons for picking anthropology was because of the great teachers that they had. I wanted to take a class with Margaret Mead. You know, I wanted to take the classes with the good teachers. That was sort of my goal.

00:30:14 Q: Oh, yeah. Wonderful. Did you ever have Joan Vincent, Peoples of Africa? Maybe I was in that class with you.

00:30:20 Julian: Yeah, yeah. You must've been. [Laughs]

00:30:21 Q: I read across my paper that I'd written on the poetry of the Somalians, like "Somalians live in one group—" What was I thinking of? Yeah, it was—I was cleaning out years and years of stuff and I remember that class. Um, okay, great. So, is there anything that you're—well, I'll get to that later. So, let's go back to Barnard again. Tell me about something that happened which affirmed your decision to attend Barnard—that it was the right one.

00:30:48 Julian: Oh, I was dying to go to Barnard. I mean, there was no question. I mean, I was so excited when I was accepted. And, um, I never had any doubts that it was the right school. It was the perfect combination of being a supportive small college and I liked that it was women's in the bigger milieu of Columbia—I loved that it was in New York. I was dying to live in New York. I was so excited to live in New York. I, you know, couldn't wait to go to the museums and shopping and—I would walk for hours, you know, all the way downtown and back. I couldn't get enough of it. I just—and I'd fly in after going home for a vacation—I would just be energized. Landing at LaGuardia is like "Yes!" I'm like—[Laughs] Blood is flowing again—I can't! No regrets.

00:31:49 Q: Can you remember the first day—the first week—when you arrived and what you saw and what you felt and who you were around and what you were thinking? Did you fly by yourself? Did your parents drive you?

00:32:01 Julian: Well—We probably flew; we probably stayed in the Hilton. We checked in; found a trunk, and all that. I met Wendy, who was my roommate. Um, you know, we were settling in. It was exciting. Yeah. I think—we had some little get-togethers back in Cincinnati with the three of us, from Cincinnati who were going to Barnard. There was like a tea—

00:32:40 Q: Was Kay Davis?

00:32:40 Julian: Kay Davis, yeah.

00:32:42 Q: Kay, yes.

00:32:43 Julian: One of the three. And, um, it was kind of—this is kind of sidetracking here—because this was sort of reaffirming and fun—we were invited to the hotel room of the mother of the third girl whose mother was Beverly Sills.

00:33:05 Q: Oh, no!

00:33:07 Julian: And, um, so here—

00:33:11 Q: This is one of our classmates?

00:33:11 Julian: Yeah, she didn't stay long, but she was Beverly's daughter.

00:33:17 Q: So, you were invited to the hotel room. Beverly was performing at this point?

00:33:20 Julian: Yeah, she was singing at the Cincinnati Summer Opera, and she was there and that was where Kay, Nancy, and I met each other. And, uh, and then the other thing about getting ready to come to Barnard—my mother was so worried that I was going to be cold. So she dragged me downtown to buy this giant fur coat. [Laughs] This black mouton with raccoon trim that I'm sure I never wore.

00:34:07 Q: That's lovely. How about—well, from the beginning you said you wanted to attend Barnard. Were you considering other schools?

00:34:17 Julian: Well, I applied to other schools, but there wasn't any place else I really wanted to attend.

00:34:20 Q: Yeah, so you didn't do Early Decision or anything?

00:34:22 Julian: No, I don't even know if we had that.

00:34:25 Q: We did, yeah. We actually did.

00:34:27 Julian: I didn't do that, um, but there was no question.

00:34:31 Q: So, when you first arrived again, um, I'm just trying to picture—I mean, I remember you, but I didn't remember you the first day. What were you expecting academically, socially, in terms of dating, in terms of finding a future mate? I mean, were any of these ideas going through your head?

00:34:50 Julian: Well, I think I felt a little insecure because, you know, I was from Ohio, and here I was thrown in with all these girls from New England and Boston and all went to private school, and you know, boarding school. So I felt a little insecure with that group, even though some of my roommates were from Boston and went to private school also. I kind of quickly got over that. And I was a little worried, academically, if I was going to be able to hold my own. But

I went to a good school and I, you know, that was fine. I, you know, I always tried to take some classes that were going to be co-ed because I did want to meet guys, and I went to mixers. I always tried to study over at Butler Library so that I would, you know, see guys. And I did actually meet someone my freshman year who I—who was my boyfriend like the whole time I was in college. He was a sophomore at Columbia. And a nice group of friends, and that ended up being sort of a big part of my social life—his friends. Yeah, and then my little group of dorm friends.

00:36:18 Q: So when you entered Barnard, what did you expect you would become, and did reality live up to those expectations? You're a bright young woman from Cincinnati, good background, and—

00:36:30 Julian: Well, I don't think I actually thought in terms of a career necessarily when I was coming to Barnard. My freshman year, certainly, I didn't have any career—it wasn't like I was going to be a lawyer, I was going to be a doctor—nothing. No professional ambitions in the beginning. That kind of evolved.

00:36:52 Q: And what kind of an adult life did you anticipate for yourself once you got out of Barnard?

00:37:00 Julian: Well, I guess I always kind of imagined I'd live in a city, and you know, have cultural—a rich cultural life. I didn't imagine myself living in any rural area; I was very much a city person.

00:37:20 Q: And the day you left Barnard? What did you anticipate for yourself? What did you think you'd step off to become?

00:37:28 Julian: Well, at that point I was heading out to—I was heading off to the University of North Carolina.

00:37:35 Q: For public health.

00:37:35 Julian: For public health. And it was like I—it was doing the exact opposite then—it was this little town in the south, um, leaving my big city.

00:37:46 Q: Did anyone else in the class go into public health?

00:37:50 Julian: I don't think so. Not that I know—

00:37:54 Q: And your mother suggested that, or—?

00:37:54 Julian: Well, I was trying to find an application for anthropology, because I knew I didn't want to become an academic.

00:38:02 Q: Ah, you knew that.

00:38:02 Julian: I knew I didn't. I knew that.

00:38:04 Q: Even though you loved being a student!

00:38:04 Julian: Yeah, but I didn't want to be a teacher! [Laughs] Um, so this was a way—and I ended up going into health education, which is, you know, teaching people how to change their behavior, or—not teaching them—but trying to help them find ways to change their behavior, and by the time I got in to it, it also was community organizing. And so it was a fairly exciting program. And my health education program at Chapel Hill was filled with students from other countries, you know, who are going to go back to their country to facilitate change—you know, change the health system. It was very hands on, and the anthropology came in so, you know, so applicable.



00:39:03 Q: So, did you enjoy those, that studying? Doing the graduate work there?

00:39:07 Julian: Yeah, it was great.

00:39:08 Q: And did you have a, like a clinical part of it, as well, so you were doing something in the community, or—?

00:39:12 Julian: Yeah. We—one gal and I, we went off to this local community center where in the less nice neighborhoods, and were trying to teach family planning, sex education and things like that. They were teaching us, really. [Laughs]

00:39:40 Q: Challenging. It sounds very interesting, yeah. How about, um, did you have a mentor, a professor of some sort, at Barnard that you had a particularly good relationship or might have influenced you at all?

00:39:52 Julian: I had a lot of professors who I really liked, but I don't feel like anybody took a particular interest in me. Um, that's not exactly true. By the time I got to senior year, I did a senior project, I was already thinking about public health, and so my anthropology senior project

was going into family planning clinics around New York City and observing how the women were treated, and in order to do this, I had a faculty member up at the medical school who was working with me, and he was very supportive, this doctor.

00:40:42 Q: That was pretty important work. Were there protests against abortion? Were they doing abortions at this time? In the public clinics? Or the birth control—?

00:40:50 Julian: I think abortion was still illegal.

00:40:43 Q: Yeah, I think it must have been. I'm trying to remember.

00:40:56 Julian: I don't think we had Roe v. Wade yet.

00:40:58 Q: Yeah, that's true, that's 70-something. Okay, so he was important to you. He directed you, um. What would you say inspires or influences you most now? A person or action or TV show, I don't know? [Laughs]

00:41:15 Julian: Um, well...[Laughs] Um, very late in life, I've started meditating, and I think it's really helping me find happiness.

00:41:38 Q: What led you to this?

00:41:40 Julian: Just a coincidence. A girlfriend of mine back in Feb[ruary]—I've only been doing it a few months—but a girlfriend back in February said she was going to take this class, and was telling me about it, so she said, "I'm sure there's one by you, too." So, I signed up for it.

00:42:05 Q: Probably got your mom's Zen Buddhism too a little bit?

00:42:07 Julian: Well, it's funny because she always wanted us to meditate, and she'd go on long retreats out in the Catskills, you know. And just because I had to be rebelling against my mom, here my rebelling against my mom is to not do yoga and to not meditate!

00:42:29 Q: So, are you doing yoga, as well?

00:42:31 Julian: No, I'm not. Not yet.

00:42:37 Q: Well, it's great. Good luck with it. Is it a Hindu-based meditation?

00:42:43 Julian: It's TM [Transcendental Meditation], which is very popular now—but it's all—they're very convinced that TM is more, um, effective.

00:43:07 Q: All right. Now we're going to go over to this—Did you want to say something else?

00:43:11 Julian: No, no, no.

00:43:11 Q: —go over to this core of the original interviews, which was the focus on the four years of Barnard and the impact of the strike. So, when did you first hear about the strike, and what did you do from there? What did you think?

00:43:27 Julian: Oh, well, I was over there when they were occupying—the first day—that they were occupying the dean's—

Q: Low Library.

Julian: —um, and it was, you know, hectic and kind of crazy. “What’s happening? What’s going on?” And—um, I actually remember going back to the dorm. I wasn’t going to go inside the building. I was too young; I was just a freshman. I didn’t have the, you know—plus I was a Barnard student. I didn’t feel like it was my battle to fight over at Columbia, though, I was on campus a lot for a lot of the rallies and things, but it’s kind of funny, because when I got back, I got a message to call my mother. And, so I called her, and she’s like, “Oh, I saw on the news something’s going on, and I called the dean to try to find out if everyone is safe.” And the dean said, “Oh, Mrs. Forberg I can’t possibly talk to you right now. We have the Class of 1918 here for the Greek Games. The students have the dean of Columbia locked in his office, and the Mau-Mau’s on its way!” [Laughs]

00:44:59 Q: Laughs Oh my goodness! What did your mother say?

00:45:00 Julian: [Laughs] You know. So I called, “Oh, Mom, it’s fine.”

00:45:12 Q: She’s exaggerating.

00:45:14 Julian: Oh, I was just over there! Don't worry—I'm fine. But you can imagine the phone calls that they must have been getting.

00:45:24 Q: So did you have friends who were occupying buildings or—?

00:45:27 Julian: No, and my boyfriend—then I was dating my boyfriend—and I think we were all pretty moderate, you know. We weren't, um, that political? At one point—

00:45:43 Q: Were you on the other side, though? Were you trying to keep people from coming in and out of the building?

00:45:46 Julian: No, no. We were just, you know, supporting from afar.

00:45:57 Q: And how do you think that impacted you in terms of how you looked at your own generation, or maybe your own years at Barnard?

00:46:04 Julian: Well, I think, having so many years disrupted—I did feel deprived of some of my education. I know there were good reasons for what we were fighting for, but I don't know

that depriving us of our education was the best way to accomplish what we were trying to accomplish. One year, '69—I ended up getting my picture taken by the New York Times for the magazine article on, um—They had this whole theory about, you know, that we were—that our adolescence was so prolonged—that must be why we're acting out. So, I ended up being the poster child with this friend of mine from Columbia—not my boyfriend, but another friend. I have the picture over there if you want to see it. But it was kind of funny because I really had nothing to do with the—

00:47:23 Q: The actual strike, yeah. What were they asking you?

00:47:24 Julian: They weren't asking us anything. They were just asking us to take our picture.

00:47:28 Q: Oh, okay. [Looking at photo] And you were pretty, that helped with the stereotype.

00:47:37 Julian: They stretched us and made us look really stretched to illustrate—

00:47:39 Q: Slightly distorted.

00:47:41 Julian: To illustrate their theory of stretched adolescence.

00:47:46 Q: Did you feel like a stretched adolescent at all? Could you counter their argument at all?

00:47:51 Julian: No. Well, they weren't sharing, you know, what it was going to be for.

00:47:57 Q: Oh, that's interesting. An interesting story. It was a very politically and racially charged time, though. What were you—I mean, how did you feel about that, coming from Cincinnati and having gone to a school in the urban, you know, center city and obviously being around multi-national people?

00:48:18 Julian: Well, just going to school where our campus was, we were—When I lived in Plimpton, I would walk down to 125<sup>th</sup> Street to, you know, buy food for my gerbil at the animal store. [Laughs] But, uh, it was—and you look back at all the—Martin Luther King [Jr.] was assassinated that spring, then, you know, I guess after we went home for the summer, [Robert F.] Bobby Kennedy was assassinated. You know, the—then the war became so much more of a factor. It was the—it was the, you know, so many things were coming together to make—and our generation was not willing to go along anymore. I mean, I'm a pretty law-abiding person. I guess I got more so—when the Weathermen started having bombs and stuff, that was not me. And, I



guess, even one year, one year—it probably wasn't freshman year—but one year, I was trying to go to class, and that's when Mark Rudd was, like, walking by and he's calling me a scab because I wanted to go to my class.

00:49:57 Q: It was definitely a tough time. And we were so young to have a lot thrown at us and have to try and sort it out. Okay, uh, looking at other revolutions—is there an example of a time in which the sexual revolution seemed real to you, and if so, what happened?

00:50:13 Julian: Well, I think pretty soon after—you know, I was a virgin coming into Barnard. But pretty soon after I started dating, you know, seriously the boy who ended up, who I ended up dating all through college, um, you know I figured out that I could buy birth control down at some doctor back on 110<sup>th</sup> Street. [Laughs]

00:50:45 Q: Did you try Planned Parenthood?

00:50:48 Julian: [Laughs] So, I think we all got on the pill. And, um—

00:50:57 Q: So, that was kind of the introduction to the sexual revolution that you had that option. It's funny, for some reason I remember visiting Kay Davis in Cincinnati, on my way back

to St. Louis where I was from, and she told me this soulful story about one of her cousins who was only in high school who had gotten pregnant. And it was like, “Wow, what are they going to do?” I still am haunted by whatever—this was in ’68, what did she do, you know?

00:51:23 Julian: Well, I never got pregnant in college, but, um, I, you know, some of the girlfriends of the circle of guys, one of these girls got pregnant. She wasn’t a Barnard student. They asked me to take her to get her abortion. So, I guess I drove her to New Jersey someplace to have the illegal abortion. And then I brought her back, and took care of her—

00:51:53 Q: Must have been traumatic. She was okay?

00:51:57 Julian: Yeah, she was okay.

00:51:59 Q: Yeah, I think more of that went on than I was ever aware of. But, still—And why did they choose for you to do it?

00:52:08 Julian: Um, I guess maybe she went to Catholic school or something, and they didn’t want to let anybody know.

00:52:17 Q: Yeah, you had to keep the secret. No, those were—So, was there ever a time when you did something and thought, “Who am I? Who have I turned into? What am I doing? I would never have done this before?” Again, this is back to ’67, ’71. Obviously, it’s never happened since—

00:52:42 Julian: [Laughs] “What am I doing? I wouldn’t have done this before?”

00:52:48 Q: Kind of like you felt like you weren’t being true to yourself. That core of who you were raised to be and wanted to be, had always been and will always be.

00:53:01 Julian: I’m sure there’s probably something, but I’m not putting my finger on it.

00:53:10 Q: Okay. If it comes to mind, we can—So you already mentioned some of the events of that era of social, political, and culture change—the late 60s and early 70s—that you were aware. Did you want to add anything to that? You mentioned the assassinations, and I guess the riots continued in Cincinnati, the race riots.

00:53:37 Julian: I was pretty removed from the [Vietnam] War. I didn’t have any close friends who got drafted. Um, I don’t know. I—One year, I can remember being on campus when the TPF

[Tactical Patrol Force] came in, the mounted police on the horses, and that was very frightening.

I can remember having to like dive into a little alcove to get out of the, out of the way. And I think ever since then I've been fearful of being in really big crowds. You know, I—I guess that's all I can add about political—

00:54:27 Q: That's quite significant. Um, so again, going back to—we'll look beyond Barnard, though we'll touch on it a little bit later. Um, so how has your adult life been since the day you left Barnard? I think you may have answered that in terms of anthropology major and public health and going into something else.

00:54:47 Julian: Well, I haven't told you about my marriage.

00:54:51 Q: No, we'll get to that. You can talk about it now, in fact. When did you get married? Was it soon after college?

00:54:54 Julian: It was right after graduate school. In fact, I met him in Chapel Hill.

00:54:59 Q: And graduate school's two years?

00:55:01 Julian: Yeah, you go through the summer—it's like a year and a half. So while I was in Chapel Hill, I met my husband, Alexander, and he was in the men's clothing business. And shortly after we got married, he decided to—we would move to New York, and go into the men's clothing business. Designing and manufacturing men's clothing. So we started this whole company together in partnership; he was the designer and I was sort of the business person. And

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00:55:41 Q: How did you figure all of that out?

00:55:42 Julian: Well, we just had a kind of can-do attitude. You know, he was friends with Ralph Lauren and all these other designers and he's like, "Well, you know, I can do what Ralph can do." He had a lot of confidence, and, uh, so we kind of threw ourselves into this life of making clothes.

00:56:06 Q: And how long did you do that?

00:56:09 Julian: Well, he's still doing it. Um, but we got divorced in the late '80s.

00:56:16 Q: After ten years, you said.

00:56:16 Julian: Yeah.

00:56:20 Q: And you were pregnant with your first?

00:56:21 Julian: Well, I had my daughter in '85. We were separated for four years before we got divorced.

00:56:28 Q: Wow, so that would definitely be different than what you had anticipated.

00:56:32 Julian: Yes, because I mean—Well, actually it was an amazing life. I mean, we traveled to Japan; we had a licensee there, so we went on all these lovely trips to Japan. One year, we got to take our parents, um, and our families. We went to India, we went to Hong Kong, we went lots to Europe, you know, Italy. We even had an apartment in Italy for a while. Um, we you know, had—traveled all over the U.S., San Francisco, we had a store in Dallas, we had a store in D.C.

00:57:13 Q: Huge! This is huge. Oh, my goodness. So you had to leave that as well?

00:57:18 Julian: Yeah. Probably one of the most excited I ever was was when I found—we needed new office space, we were growing—and I found office space—

00:57:36 Q: In Manhattan?

00:57:36 Julian: In Manhattan. It used to be Corbu's Studio. It was like one of these little houses that sits on top of a building with vaulted ceilings and studio windows and double height and little balconies, I mean—terraces. I was so excited.

00:57:56 Q: Do you remember where it is?

00:57:56 Julian: It was 8 West 40<sup>th</sup>. Looked right down on the library, by the Chrysler Building. It was the best space ever.

00:58:06 Q: Did you end up using it?

00:58:07 Julian: Oh, yeah. We rent it. We renovated it.

00:58:12 Q: Oh, my gosh. You'll have to go back and look at that. That's exciting. Goodness. So, having—so were you involved in the whole circle then? You knew other designers and you were constantly being around these people. And Ralph Lauren was a friend, a personal friend, or—?

00:58:25 Julian: Well, he was in the beginning, but not so much later.

00:58:34 Q: And I'm just curious what kind of clothes they were. For women, or—?

00:58:42 Julian: He designed mainly for men. But he liked to do color and, you know, he'd customize all the fabrics and patterns.

00:58:54 Q: And did you take any of those skills? As someone who could organize that and do the business side of that, do you feel you ever used them in any things you did in your life? For your architecture and stuff?

00:59:08 Julian: Yeah. I mean, you—Getting things made, you kind of learn that you can get things made, and customize things. And also, just, having a business, having employees, all of that.



00:59:35 Q: And how did you actually meet him?

00:59:36 Julian: Oh, in Chapel Hill, you know. He had a retail shop—it was mainly a men's store, but it had a little section for ladies clothes in the back.

00:59:46 Q: Was he older than you?

00:59:47 Julian: Well, not much. One year. Yeah.

00:59:52 Q: All right. So if you could go back to the first day of Barnard, and whisper words of wisdom into the ear of Lynn, what would they be? Back when—you were eighteen when you started? Nineteen?

01:00:07 Julian: Well, for my whole life, kind of? Or just what I should be doing at Barnard?

01:00:14 Q: No, I think either. Doesn't matter.

01:00:16 Julian: I don't think I would have done—I don't wish I would have done anything differently. I mean, maybe I shouldn't have stayed with the same boyfriend the whole time. Um—you know.

01:00:37 Q: I think that's a hard question.

01:00:38 Julian: Yeah, yeah.

01:00:39 Q: A lot of people say, "I would have made a point of having, finding a mentor there, and having someone who was more supportive of me." A lot of people said that.

01:00:48 Julian: Yeah, the guidance thing was kind of—or even having an older student that mentored t or having somebody to—

01:00:59 Q: Do you have a bird? Or is that outside?

01:01:01 Julian: No, I don't have a bird.

01:01:01 Q: I'm hearing a chirp.

01:01:06 Julian: I opened the window. It's probably in the tree.

01:01:09 Q: It's lovely. Ah, okay. How about the most memorable day—either during your career or in the community, volunteer life, or family life? Or just a memorable day. The superlatives, they elude me, so don't worry.

01:01:29 Julian: Well finding that space was one of the highlights of my kind of memories of great things. Um, my daughter's wedding. She got married last year. You know, it's just so great.

00:01:51 Q: Did she marry here, or somewhere else? Was the wedding here?

01:01:51 Julian: She got married in Connecticut at her dad's house. He has a big house in Ridgefield. Um, so, you know, it was just a very special memory.

01:02:10 Q: Now, did you have a special role in that as the mother of the bride? Did you help plan that?

01:02:14 Julian: Yeah, my daughter and I worked on it very much together. She was really a great bride. You know, we picked out a lot of stuff from tabletops to the bridal gowns, all of that. The catering, we did it all together.

01:02:40 Q: And where is she now?

01:02:40 Julian: Williamsburg.

01:02:46 Q: Virginia?

01:02:46 Julian: No, Brooklyn. [Laughs]

01:02:46 Q: Oh, Williamsburg! And what does she do?

01:02:50 Julian: She works in music PR [public relations]. She does tour publicity for a music label. It's what she wanted to do. She wanted to work in the music business.

01:03:00 Q: Does she play herself, anything?

01:03:04 Julian: No, no. She's not musical. Um, she, um, you know, just wanted to work in the music business, and she pursued it. She went to Emerson [College], which is a college in Boston, and they have really good connections to all that.

01:03:26 Q: So, she would have been—trying to think—because my youngest son's high school sweetheart went there, and would have graduated. Did very well there.

01:03:37 Julian: Yeah, she's twenty-nine and a half.

01:03:42 Q: Yeah, she would have been a little ahead maybe. That's great.

01:03:45 Julian: Yeah, I'm happy for her. She's pursuing her dream.

01:03:49 Q: Which is rare in this day, when people are sort of marching in line to do things—

01:03:54 Julian: That they don't really want to do.

01:03:57 Q: Yeah, I think we had more freedom. Maybe more confusion, but—[Laughs] Great. So, what would you say is your biggest achievement or accomplishment? Or maybe you've alluded to this already.

01:04:11 Julian: Well, hmm. I guess I've done so many different things. I mean, one thing—one big accomplishment—goes back to my painting career. Um, I had an art show.

01:04:24 Q: You're very modest. Tell me more!

01:04:25 Julian: In a little coffee shop in Old Greenwich, but it was really fun to see all of the paintings together and hanging in the, in the coffee shop. Because I guess, while I was raising my daughter as a single mom, I took a lot of art classes.

01:04:57 Q: And you were in Greenwich?

01:04:57 Julian: I was, yeah. When I first got divorced, I was in Greenwich, and then I moved to Rowayton, which is where you were, down there on the water. And now I live here.

01:05:10 Q: And tell me a little more about what kind of art work you did. I probably could see it if I looked around.

01:05:13 Julian: Well, mainly oil painting. But, it's like I very, kind of belatedly came to it after all the, you know, enjoying it in high school. My mom had wanted us to do art. It was like I finally—when I didn't have any career going—what I wanted to do was learn how to paint.

01:05:46 Q: Well, you had to have a talent. You can't just learn how to paint.

01:05:49 Julian: Well, I mean I'm not that talented, but I do enjoy it.

01:05:57 Q: And how long have you been doing that now?

01:05:57 Julian: Well, since the 80s. The mid-80s. My first class I took, I guess, a neighbor of mine in backcountry Greenwich, she said, "Well, we're going to go to The New School." So we signed up for this class together, and the teacher's like, "I'm looking for some volunteers who are going to get here early and set up the easels and, you know, do all that. Maybe we're going to give you a little, like \$10." So this neighbor from Greenwich, she's like looking at this guy, "Are

you crazy?” He's asking us if we want to do this. “Are you crazy? All we have is money!” [Laughs]

01:06:55 Q: Laughs Oh, that's funny. Was he a good teacher? Despite his insane question?

01:06:55 Julian: [Laughs] Yeah, he was a good teacher. And then I ended up switching and taking painting classes closer to home, like here in Connecticut, but it was fun. I'm not telling the story well, but it was funny at the time.

01:07:22 Q: Did she continue painting, too, or—?

01:07:22 Julian: Um, she—I don't know what happened to this woman. They moved away. But I did get invited to her birthday party in Paris. And I went.

01:07:36 Q: Oh, that's good. So she was using her money well. Oh, I love it. Okay, so the other focus has to do with race and class and gender experiences. So, did you ever have a friend who was of a different race or class than you, and if so, what was that person like?



01:08:04 Julian: Um, well, I guess the closest person to me now who is of a different race is Alva. Uh, when I had the big house in Greenwich and I was there by myself, I had a couple who lived with me and, um, Jesse and Alva. Jesse was, you know, grew up in Connecticut, and Alva was a Jamaican—her Jamaican husband. And I became very close to them. Even though they were working for me, they were my best friends. They are now living in Maine and have a restaurant and an organic farm. But they are the gentlest, sweetest, most down-to-earth, truly wonderful people, and I love them dearly, and they love my daughter. They like raised her from a baby. Her first word was “Alva.”

01:09:08 Q: That’s great. My mother’s name was Evangeline, and she was always called Alva. I don’t know where that word comes from. Maybe German, but Jamaican?

01:09:16 Julian: Yeah, he makes the best jerk chicken and goat.

01:09:20 Q: So, you raised your daughter on Jamaican patties. No wonder she’s so spunky. That’s great. Um, okay. Were you ever treated differently or discriminated against because you were a woman? Any career, community, any kind of situation that you were acutely aware?

01:09:40 Julian: Because I never was in corporate America, I was kind of sheltered from a lot of that. And, above that, I'm in real estate, which is very much a woman's business. But, um, I know it's out there big time, but I guess I can't say that I've felt it a lot personally.

01:10:05 Q: And you didn't when you were working with the architects? You said some had egos.

01:10:15 Julian: Yeah. Um—he was just tough on everybody. Like half hour for lunch, be right back. I mean, this is why it didn't last too long for me. I actually made the segue from slaving in the—I kind of realized that working as a draftsman isn't well-paid or easy work, so then I became a Realtor.

01:10:46 Q: Okay, so you've been doing mostly that for the last, how long?

01:10:49 Julian: Well in 2000 I became a Realtor.

01:10:52 Q: And do you just work locally, or—?

01:10:53 Julian: Yeah, yeah I am.

01:10:56 Q: And that's satisfying? You enjoy doing that?

01:10:58 Julian: Um, well, I like challenges.

01:11:04 Q: Yes, and you've been up and down with the market, right?

01:11:05 Julian: I like learning. Um, I've been up and down in the market. You know, I find some things about it very rewarding. I find some things very difficult, to—I think I'm on my way out of real estate at this point, and looking for some new direction. Back to the painting maybe.

01:11:35 Q: All right. Can you—looking at political and social activism—can you tell me about a time when you decided to become involved in a cause, or was there ever a social movement that you particularly identified with?

01:11:54 Julian: Hmm, well, I did support [Barack] Obama pretty hardily. Um, but I didn't get into the community organizing or any special efforts for him.

01:12:08 Q: And why were you so—what did you think—what did he spark in you?

01:12:12 Julian: Oh, I just thought he would make a great President. Um, I, you know, I don't know how I'm going to do with Hillary [Rodham Clinton]. I guess I should be getting very excited about helping her, but I'm not sure.

01:12:30 Q: Yeah, I think we all have a little ambivalence about her. Yeah.

01:12:36 Julian: And the other—I mean, I feel strongly about gun control, but it's kind of a hard cause to participate in other than, you know, just trying to elect the right people.

01:12:53 Q: Has that—gun violence—impacted your life personally, or—?

01:12:59 Julian: Not personally, but it's just so crazy that we have so many guns.

01:13:05 Q: Yeah, and you've traveled a lot overseas. You've seen European attitudes toward this. "What, you're from America. Where's your six pack?" Yeah, it's pretty embarrassing.

01:13:16 Julian: Well, it's just so many people shoot their family members.

01:13:24 Q: Yeah, it's an important cause, but who knows how to ever move the political agenda forward?

01:13:32 Julian: It's a very intractable problem.

01:13:34 Q: Well, as you said, you remember the assassination of Kennedy. And I thought, "Oh, gosh. The president's been killed!" Now nothing. Okay. All right, so, again this is a very general question, so answer it in any way you feel comfortable—how have you conceived yourself as a woman, and how has it changed over time?

01:14:02 Julian: Well, I guess I've never had any identity questions about being a woman, and a heterosexual woman. But I've been a single woman for a long time, and I think being a single woman has its challenges, and being a single parent—and not being that—I guess, I've come to a point in my life where a lot of my friends don't live nearby anymore. They've moved away to different places, and it's kind of lonely, so I think one thing I have to do is figure out how to have a more social life at this point.

01:15:01 Q: Yeah. So what do you think kept you from ever remarrying? The hurt from the initial divorce?

01:15:13 Julian: Some of the hurt. Also, just finding the right person. I mean, I've had long-term relationships, but some of them didn't turn out, you know, it wasn't my choice that they ended. So, I just never had the right opportunity.

01:15:35 Q: Uh, can you tell me about—I guess this is the same—a relationship that really changed the trajectory of your life, and maybe that's going to be your first marriage?

01:15:51 Julian: Well, here is the problem with relationships. You become so involved with a person, and sort of so much a part of their life, whether it was with Alex and his business and his, you know, our nice life, or my other long-term relationship, which was with an architect—this is before I went back to study architecture—because I just loved being with somebody who could build things and who liked architecture. I was with this person for like nine years when my daughter was little. And he was renovating a house in Italy, so we went there, and he had this barn in Vermont, and, um—I really, you know, loved him very much, but when these relationships end, it's like that whole life ends. And, um, you have to go back to square one and

rebuild your life again and again. And it kind of makes you want to hold on to something that you know is yours and you're not going to lose when the relationship ends.

01:17:28 Q: How to do that.

01:17:28 Julian: How to do that.

01:17:31 Q: Do you feel that there's been romance in your life?

01:17:34 Julian: Oh, yeah. No, I just—my last relationship just ended two years ago, so I've only been without a boyfriend recently— but I've had long stretches where there hasn't been anybody, but unexpectedly I met this guy like five years ago that I saw for three or four years.

01:17:58 Q: And how did you meet him?

01:17:58 Julian: Right here in the condos. We were on the board of directors together.

01:18:09 Q: Okay, so locally involved in things and connections to other people like that. Great.

How about careers and choices. Did you ever feel any challenges in balancing career and family?

I mean—

01:18:26 Julian: I was lucky because I didn't have to work. The only good thing about being a single mom is that I didn't have to work. I didn't have to earn a living, because we were taken care of.

01:18:41 Q: Alex made sure you were taken care of?

01:18:45 Julian: He took care of us. And—So my career choices were mainly the fashion business and real estate, working with him in the fashion business—and then the real estate was my own career—it's a really loosey-goosey career. It's really—you work as hard as you want to. You have to be very self-motivated in real estate.

01:19:16 Q: So what—and you were never pulled to do the social work again? I'm sorry—not social work—public health?



01:19:26 Julian: —I toyed with it. Um, but it—I mean, I did work in public health in North Carolina after I graduated. I worked for a mental health center and did the community education for them. They were brand new and needed to get the word out in the hinterlands of these rural counties that there was this service available. So, I would drive, you know, go meet with the community groups and give them my little dog-and-pony show, try to get them to use the services. So that was fun. Um, but I, you know—I never pursued it later on—and I should have tried harder because I feel bad, because they paid for my whole graduate school education. I didn't even realize this. I arrived in Chapel Hill and I was assuming I was going to have to pay the tuition and they said, “It’s all paid for.”

01:20:33 Q: Oh, my. Well, you must have done quite well, then.

01:20:37 Julian: I think everyone. I think it was everyone. The whole department. There must have been so much government grants or something. I was like, “Dad—guess what?” Laughs

01:20:49 Q: “Guess what, Dad? This time you don’t have to pay.” Good. All right, um. You mentioned about the meditation. Were you brought up in any particular faith? Do you have any memories of being brought up in the church or whatever? And then have you—how has that continued in your life or not? This is a three-headed question.

01:21:13 Julian: Wow, you have so many questions. Um, I was raised—my parents were very, you know, regular members of the Unitarian churches in Cincinnati. I think we went to both of them at different times. Um, and—

01:21:30 Q: Is it true for communion you just pass out flowers?

01:21:30 Julian: Oh, it's very nonreligious. It's very—you know, it's based on—it's for humans, not about divine entities or things like that. So that was my upbringing. Um, but not to say I didn't like going in all the beautiful churches in Italy.

01:22:10 Q: That's the artist in you more than, maybe.

01:22:11 Julian: But I guess I personally haven't belonged to any organized religion since, you know, since I've been an adult. Alex was part-Jewish, part-Baptist.

01:22:28 Q: Woah, that's a volatile combination!

01:22:33 Julian: He's non-religious, too. My brother is Jewish, because he converted to Judaism because his wife is Jewish. So, I guess some of my biggest religious events are going to my brother's house for Passover or celebrating because they always celebrate that and it's wonderful. My daughter says she feels mostly Jewish because that's her only religious experience—but she's being a little sarcastic.

01:23:17 Q: Do you feel, I mean—do you feel that there's been a spiritual pull throughout your life? What sort of makes you move forward in light of depressing things and challenging things in our world today?

01:23:33 Julian: Well, I do think I'm kind of a seeker, whether it's for knowledge or [refers to barking dog in background]—um, what was the question?

01:24:00 Q: About being a seeker. And that you love knowledge.

01:24:00 Julian: I'm on spirituality, so I think that's my path. And inner knowledge. So just finding—I mean, I think the thing about TM is maybe they redirect you towards not getting your satisfaction through material things or certain kinds of successes or goals—well, you're achieving certain goals—but more getting in touch with the profound, you know, unified force of life. Maybe there's something to that.

01:24:50 Q: That's another place to grow. Absolutely. Okay. So I think you already told me about meeting your spouse. Do you want to share the moment, or when the divorce came about? Is there anything you'd like to share, or rather not talk about that?

01:25:09 Julian: Not really, not really. It was, yeah. It was very sad.

01:25:14 Q: I totally respect that. Okay, so I think we're actually moving towards the closing. And I think the first question is: what do you look most forward to happening in the future?

01:25:21 Julian: Well, I guess I feel like I'm on the cusp of maybe some new direction, that I don't quite know what it is yet. Um—I'm phasing out of real estate, and maybe getting more back into art, or—not sure. I mean, I've done some volunteering, but I think there's maybe some more kinds of volunteering that I'd like to consider.

01:25:57 Q: In what areas, or—?

01:25:58 Julian: Maybe more like mentoring or tutoring, or—that kind of thing.

01:26:08 Q: Uh, what about hopes, dreams, and fears for the future? Let's start with the hard one—is there anything you're fearful of in the future?

01:26:24 Julian: Well, I guess failing health. I just had a surgery which corrected some internal problems that were—so now, I think I'm feeling much better. And, uh, I just had both my eyes, the cataracts, removed, so you know you just realize your body is starting to have, you know, deterioration. I mean, I've been lucky—knock on wood—that I haven't had any serious health problems. But, you know, that can't be fixed, but you do worry about that. I think in terms of fear—certainly, losing your memory—Alzheimer's is this huge fear, especially when you live alone. It's like, “Oh, God, if I forget something—” Um, and—you know, dreams. I would like to get a painting studio or some space going for myself. Take some more classes and get back into that. I really do enjoy it and now that the eyes are seeing again, you know.

01:27:50 Q: Do you like traveling, or—? It sounds like you do a lot of that.

01:27:54 Julian: You know, I've done a lot of traveling. And, you know, I don't have the great bucket list of stuff I have to do. I do, like, see—like that Barnard trip—I think it's a Barnard trip to the Galapagos. I look at that and go, “Oh, wouldn't that be fabulous!” I get tempted.

01:28:19 Q: Yeah, but, I mean, what a rich array of places you've already been to around the world already. Okay, I don't know if this is repetitious or not. To me it is, but in reflecting back at your experience at Barnard, is there one decision or event that you would have done differently? Not joined SDS [Students for a Democratic Society] necessarily? [Laughs]

01:28:56 Julian: You're just keeping asking me about regrets and doing things differently. I guess I just don't have those.

01:29:04 Q: Which is fine. Many people don't, which is good. You don't have to answer if it's not relevant.

01:29:12 Julian: You know, I was lucky. Because after my sophomore year, I went on an archaeological dig in Arizona way out in the country, you know—way, way, way out in the country. And we lived in tents with the rattlesnakes and the scorpions. But there was a woman there who just by total coincidence was transferring to Barnard to start, you know, she was transferring in for our junior year, and she was on my dig. And we became really good friends. And for the last two years of Barnard, she was like my best friend. Um—

01:29:58 Q: I guess rattlesnakes can kind of make you bond.

01:30:00 Julian: But it was such a coincidence that I met her, you know, out in Arizona. Because, probably, if I had—she had just transferred in to Barnard, I never would have gotten to know her, even though we were both anthropology majors. But, um, that's not something I would do differently, but I thought it was a fun coincidence of things. But that's one thing about Barnard. Did you notice after freshman year that a group of girls left to go to the Ivy men's after they went co-ed? So, we lost some people there, and then, we got this whole new group to come in through the junior transfers. And then you put that together with the commuter group, there just wasn't a lot of continuity.

01:30:59 Q: No, that's absolutely true. I had forgotten about, yeah, how many had transferred to some of the male Ivies. I mean my own future husband was at Princeton and I remember [thinking], "Well, maybe I should just transfer there," but I never—I didn't go through any of that. I stayed where I was.

01:31:14 Julian: Yeah, I wouldn't have transferred. I wouldn't have wanted to go off to a men's Ivy. I was totally happy. But I guess, in terms of sort of regrets, was just the lack of cohesion for our class because it had so much of the coming and going.

01:31:31 Q: Yeah, so many people we never got to know. Or even knew of.

01:31:37 Julian: And people who lived off campus. If you weren't in a class with someone—and the classes were so small that, well a lot of them were—

01:31:51 Q: Oh, okay. So is there anything we haven't covered that you feel that you'd like to share that speaks of who you are or what you value or what you remember?

01:31:58 Julian: I think we've covered a lot.

01:32:05 Q: Well, great. Thank you so much.

01:32:08 Julian: A lot more questions than I was expecting.

[END OF INTERVIEW]



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