

BARNARD COLLEGE CLASS OF 1971 ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Reminiscences of
Margery Isaacson Goldberg

2015

PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Margery Isaacson Goldberg conducted by C. Ricci on [unknown] 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: Margery Isaacson Goldberg

Location: Portland, Maine

Interviewer: C. Ricci

Date:

00:00:01 Goldberg: Margery Goldberg, 10 Gable Court, Portland, Maine. (207) 577-1266
mggmaine@gmail.com

00:00:18 Q: Okay, so tell me a little about where you were born, and about your early life.

00:00:34 Goldberg: I was born in Lewiston, Maine. I was the first child in my family, the oldest of four children. I have three brothers. My parents were born in the United States, and their parents came from different parts of Russia and Poland. My father's father came from Radoshkovich, a shtetl in Russia. My mother's father came from Koasne, Russia. My two grandfathers came to avoid the draft. . My mother's mother came from Vilna Gubernsa, Russia. My father lived on a dairy farm. He was the youngest of nine children and he would have to milk the cows before he went to school. And he smelled and he hated that.

My mother was part of a blended family. Her mother was twelve years old when she came to the United States, and she came with a cousin her age. Her mother had died and an older sister, who had been like a mother, had already come to Bangor, Maine. She missed her greatly. She got to Ellis Island and was turned back because she was too young to come into the country. So she came back again, only to Canada, and they snuck her across the border. She was married and had a child, and her husband died. My grandfather's wife had died; he had six children. And she was very, very young. She was probably in her early twenties I think. And they were introduced, and

they got married, and they had my mother and my uncle. She grew up in a home with six siblings. She was the youngest.

I grew up —when I was young—in an apartment in my grandparents' house, my mother's parents, which was wonderful. There were stairs that were open between us, inside stairs. And I remember as a very little girl getting up early in the morning and sitting on the stairs. There was stained-glass on a large window at the bottom of the stairs. . I would sit on the stairs and wait to hear some noises from my grandparents. Then I would go down and I'd jump in bed with them. [Laughs] It was really wonderful. They had twin beds. And one morning, I go in and they're both in the same twin bed [laughs]. And I said, "Why are you in the same twin bed?" And my grandmother said, "Papa was cold, so I was warming him up." [Laughs] And that was made sense to me at four or five.

So I was very, very close to my Boli and Papa. We lived in that house, I think, until I was about in the eighth grade. Then my parents built a house. My father started a lumber company after World War II, and then invited his brothers to join him. At that time, we were quite poor. We lived above my grandparents because my parents really didn't have the money to live on their own.

Then every three years, there was another child. There's two and a half years between me and my first brother. But before he was born, my mother became pregnant and the baby died while in utero. She knew the baby was dead and then had to carry the baby to term. So I think she was quite depressed for a while and felt guilty about—she didn't want to be pregnant at that time

because I was so young. So I think that she clung to me, maybe more than she might have otherwise, when I was an infant and toddler.

As time went on, my father became quite successful with the lumber company, his family business. When I learned to drive, he was able to—buy a car for me. But when my third brother learned to drive—I had a pretty basic car. My third brother had a BMW. [Laughs] So we grew up very differently. My brother Tom and I, who are the two oldest, grew up feeling like we were poor. My other two brothers grew up feeling like they lived in an affluent family.

My father was a very generous and charitable man. He was always the one, if somebody was in trouble and needed a little extra money, he would lend it to them or give it to them. He also—although he was very successful businessman—he drank a lot and I would say he was an alcoholic. He never drank during the day, and his drinking did not interfere with running his business. I think it was really difficult for my mother. Another thing, which is really interesting, is that my mother was a nurse, but once they were married he wouldn't let her work because that wasn't okay to him at that time. So I think she always would've liked to have worked, but wasn't able to. She was busy with a lot of different kinds of things. She was very active in the community and in organizations, and she had friends. We had a housekeeper when I was a little bit older, so she had a lot of freedom. (When my third brother was young.)

But there was a lot of tension, a lot of fighting between my parents, and a lot of times, I think I was parentified. I took care of my younger brothers quite a bit—or felt like I did. I always felt responsible. And the good part was that we were really close, but I don't know that I really had a

carefree childhood. An example of that is when my third brother, who had a September birthday and wasn't really ready to start kindergarten—but in those days nobody thought about that—and he really didn't like going to school. He would give my mother a really hard time, and eventually I had to ride on the kindergarten bus with him, because he wouldn't go on the bus otherwise. Then at lunchtime—I was in the sixth grade when he was in first grade—he would come and he would sit at the table with me with his little lunch box [laughs]. I would have hot lunch and he would have his little lunch box [laughs] and he would sit next to me.

00:09:32 Q: A lot of responsibility.

00:09:33 Goldberg: Yes. I think there was a lot of responsibility. And I may have said it before—my mother had a hard time with my father's drinking. He was very loving at times, and he also would be very critical at times. I was favored. I was the only girl, I was the first child. And I think he had some trouble with his—I know he had some trouble with his sense of himself—and I think had a hard time with the two older boys. The younger boy, by then—the baby he had an easier time with.

So I remember sitting at the table at dinner time feeling really angry toward him often.. Angry at how he would act toward my mother, angry at how he would pick at my brother Tom, who was the next oldest. We'd be sitting at the table and he would be criticizing him or putting him down, and I'd be very angry about that. There were some times where I would defend him, defend my brother. And that was really scary to do because my father was a big man. He never really hit me, I don't think, but he did hit them. But it was still scary, because I didn't know what he would do

to me.. So mealtimes, dinner time, was really stressful and I would just eat and eat and eat and couldn't wait for it to be over. I think I may have been depressed when I was little. I don't know if anybody knew that. I had a really hard time—I had a lot of feelings, but I kept them all to myself. And there really wasn't a place to say, I'm angry about this, or this bothers me, or that bothers me—except with my friends. So I was able to talk to my friends. The only one who was able to be angry was my father, He called me the lawyer.

When I started school, I went to a school that had two classrooms. There kindergarten and first grade in one classroom, and second and third in the other classroom. A lot of the students at the school lived in a children's home. A lot of children in foster care lived in this children's home, and there were kids with special needs and they were in my classes. The teacher for kindergarten and first grade was a very old woman who really had no patience at all. She was a pretty scary person too. Again, I was a good little girl, but the kids around me would talk or not know the answers to questions, and she would take the ruler and hit their hands. She would say awful things. Some of these were, kids with emotional problems or intellectual issues. Kindergarten and first grade were stressful..

I was really happy to go into the second grade because the teacher was really warm and nurturing and was very enjoyable.

00:13:28 Q: Tell me the story of being in schools in the early 1950s.

00:13:52 Goldberg: Right. Right.

00:13:53 Q: The details that you offer have terrific detail as you go along. I'm thinking about you as a sixth grader with your first grade little brother with his lunch box.

00:14:04 Goldberg: [Laughs] My little brother, Jamie.

00:14:06 Q: Yeah. You've done a good job of telling me about your parents, where your family came from. Was there a time when you experienced feeling different from your friends?

00:14:24 Goldberg: Well I think being Jewish. Growing up in a mill town, most of the people were Catholic French Canadian or Protestant. There was a large French Canadian population. I don't remember this, but my mother said when I was four, the neighbor children wouldn't play with me because I was Jewish. I have no memory of that. That was more a part of my parents' experience. They experienced a great deal of prejudice growing up. The Jewish community was very strong and a lot of the people—the Jewish people from our community—came from the same part of Russia Poland, and they knew of people who had gone to Maine. I had a very large extended family, lots of cousins, and we spent a lot of time together.

00:15:35 Q: You said you father was one of nine?

00:15:39 Goldberg: My father was one of nine and my mother was one of seven, I think. Yes, there were lots of cousins. Most parents were the youngest of their families.

00:15:50 Q: How big was the Jewish community, if you had to put a number on it?

00:15:51 Goldberg: I think there were four hundred families.

00:15:57 Q: Big enough so--.

00:15:58 Goldberg: Right. Bigger then, than it is now in Auburn,-- Lewiston, Maine

00:16:05 Q: No one has that many children anymore.

00:16:07 Goldberg: [Laughs] That's true, that's true.

00:16:11 Q: Almost all organizations, based on that, are getting smaller.

00:16:13 Goldberg: Right.

00:16:15 Q: Were there any upsides to being Jewish when you were little?

00:16:30 Goldberg: There was really a very strong sense of community. There were lots of activities that we were involved with. It didn't keep me from having friends in school that weren't Jewish. Although my parents, most of their friends were all Jewish. I was one of the few people, even as a child, that enjoyed going to the synagogue. I used to go to children's services every Saturday morning. I just really loved it. None of my friends did, but I did. And I remember

that my grandfather used to pray—it was called davening—would pray in the house at least once a day, and sometimes twice a day. I used to love being around him when he was doing that. I would hang out with him as a little girl, when he prayed.

[INTERRUPTION]

00:18:01 Q: This is the grandfather that lived in the house with you?

00:18:04 Goldberg: Yes. Yes. I was going to say something about my other grandfather.

00:18:36 Q: [Okay.]

00:18:38 Goldberg: Okay, I wasn't close to my other grandfather. My grandmother had died when my father was in Europe in World War II. My father had married a woman who wasn't Jewish, before he went into the war, because she was pregnant. My grandparents sat Shiva for him and had nothing to do with him at all. They disassociated from him. (Shiva is a mourning prayer for someone who's dead, and they acted as though he was dead.) Also, his mother died while he was in World War II. So he was never able to reconnect with her. And while he was there, I guess the baby died—or she was pregnant, but never gave birth. The marriage was annulled. I never knew this until an older cousin told me when I was in my 20s.

When he came back, one of my aunts, one of his sisters, lived in the apartment that we later lived in above my grandparents' and introduced my mother to my father and they fell in love and got

married. My father and grandfather eventually—it took a very long time for them to reconnect. His sisters reconnected with him first, and then eventually his father did. But the relationship was never good, and I remember my grandfather seeming to be a very harsh, cold man. He had remarried and his wife was not that warm either. So we would visit but there was not the kind of connection that I had with my other grandparents. And my mother's father thought my father was great, and he became a father to him and supported him and helped him out when he started the business—helped him financially. Whereas his father said, “You're crazy if you give him any money,” because he had such a negative attitude towards my father.

My father's first marriage came into play when I was a teenager because, without understanding why, my father was very much against me dating anyone who wasn't Jewish. And anyone in our Jewish community who was my age was a cousin or somebody like a brother [laughs] that I grew up with. So it was very difficult. If I was dating somebody, I would have to hide it or lie about it. It was difficult being a teenager, growing up, and perhaps if he had told me, or somebody had told me, at least there would be some understanding there about that. He would say things like, they'll call you a dirty Jew, because that was his experience. But it never made any sense to me. I was inwardly rebellious as a teenager.

I remember having this fantasy that I would go out with a Jewish boy and I would get pregnant—(that was a no-no also)—but he would be Jewish, so that would be okay.

00:22:31 Q: [Laughs]

00:22:32 Goldberg: I think growing up in our community, in some ways I kind of absorbed a lot of Catholicism and Christianity too, because a lot of my friends were Catholic or Protestant. I had a best friend who was Jewish—we met when we were I think about eight years old, and we spent an incredible amount of time together. She was always either at my house or I was at her house, and we were very, very close.

I think that I did feel different in this community because I knew that I was going to college. That was something that was really important. Education was important to my family, and it was something that I really wanted. Most of the people in my community, that wasn't a goal. People my age, in junior high school and high school, were just into having fun and drinking. There was a small percentage of people who went on to college, at the time. There wasn't a lot of intellectual stimulation, except for—I had a small group of friends—there were five girls, five of us who were all bright and going to college. And that was fun. We enjoyed each other.

00:24:39 Q: In terms of relatives and your own parents—did any of them go to college?

00:24:47 Goldberg: I had a couple of uncles who went to college—one of my mother's brothers—his name is Bunny Bornstein, and he went to Bates. He was in Ripley's Believe it or Not as the smallest football player ever. He was a tiny guy. I have no idea [laughs] how he was able to do that, but he played football on the Bates College team. So, in my mother's family, I think two of her brothers went to college, and she went to nursing school. She went to school in Boston. It was really hard for her. She was really homesick and almost dropped out. And most of my cousins that were older went to college.

00:25:54 Q: Before we get into the college territory of your life—prior to college, who was the most influential person in your life? Tell me a story about this person.

00:26:04 Goldberg: That's a hard one, because there were lots of teachers that were really supportive and nurturing and nurturing my intellectual abilities. My sophomore English teacher, her name was Paula Skolnick, was from New York, and she was very Bohemian looking. She was a tall woman. She created her own syllabus, and they allowed her to do it, which was very different from the typical sophomore reading list. . And it gave us an opportunity to read really interesting and stimulating books. It was just really interesting. Her classes were just fascinating because she talked to us as though we were adults rather than kids. So we discussed all sorts of interesting subjects.

00:27:07 Q: Describe the street that you grew up on.

00:27:12 Goldberg: The street that I grew up on in the first house that I lived in—it was Jefferson Street. There were mostly single-family homes. Our home was actually—when my grandparents first moved there, it was just their family, and then they made the second floor into a second apartment. There was a lawn, we had trees, there was a yard to play in, we had a swing set. But the houses were close together. The first school that I went to was within walking distance. It was a very short walk, a couple blocks away.

When I was, I think, four and a half, one of my aunts and uncles moved to Auburn and into the same neighborhood. My cousin, who was a little bit older, was going to start school. So my mother asked me to show him where the school was. I took him to the school and then across a very busy street was—I had an aunt and uncle and cousin who lived there—and I decided I would go visit them. My mother—it probably wasn't a good idea to let somebody so young be on her own. But in those days I guess that wasn't uncommon. But they were very upset with me. First they worried, because they didn't know where I was. My aunt called to let them know I was there. But that was probably the only time I remember getting spanked. They were very upset with me.

00:29:23 Q: When you were in school—tell me a little bit about being Jewish, or not Jewish. Was there bullying going on? Did you get bullied or did you see that happen to somebody else?

00:29:35 Goldberg: No. I didn't have that experience at all. People—everybody pretty much treated everybody else well I thought. I can't even remember people being bullied.

00:29:52 Q: Was there overt discrimination?

00:29:57 Goldberg: No, not overtly. Two of my close high school friends said that their parents were anti-semitic, but they never said anything to me or acted negatively toward me. .

00:29:58 Q: Did you observe the religious holidays?

00:30:01 Goldberg: I did.

00:30:02 Q: Was there ever an issue around that?

00:30:02 Goldberg: No. We just—we would just tell our teachers it was the Jewish holidays and we weren't going to school those days. . And we celebrated all of them, the little ones as well as the big ones [laughs].

00:30:19 Q: Why not.

00:30:20 Goldberg: And actually, my family did, so it was fun to do that.

00:30:27 Q: Okay, let's talk about your teenage years. When did you first start noticing boys, and what was your first date?

00:30:40 Goldberg: I think probably in the sixth grade, I started noticing boys. In the seventh grade—it wasn't so much a date—but there would be a dance and there was one particular boy I danced with. So we were going out for a while because we would go to the dance, and dance together. I think we kissed. I think that was our first date—that was the first person I dated.

00:31:24 Q: Any other romantic relationships in your teenage years?

00:31:29 Goldberg: I'm trying to think. I did a lot of longing for people [laughs].

00:31:40 Q: Would you like to elaborate?

00:31:41 Goldberg: Well, I was very shy. There were guys that I would've liked to have dated, but I didn't. There was—

[INTERRUPTION]

00:32:10 Goldberg: So I would see somebody that was really handsome, but I don't know that I knew how to flirt or to meet him.. And I was shy. I did date some, but not a whole lot and no one really seriously while I was in high school. Between my junior and senior year, my best friend and I—Robby, who was my friend throughout childhood—went to Israel and lived in a kibbutz during that summer. Her parents had friends that had relatives on this particular kibbutz. It was Sarid in the Jezreel Valley. And the two of us went for the summer. I had several boyfriends while I was there.

00:33:12 Q: Well, that's great. Not the boyfriends so much as exposure to another country at that age.

00:33:17 Goldberg: It was really amazing, learning about the kibbutz, and what life was like, and how different it was and how the children lived together and the parents lived separately. People worked—they grew apples and pears. And people worked in the orchards. They had a swimming pool and it just seemed very idyllic. They also had an *ulpon*, which is a program for people who

wanted to Israel to learn Hebrew and live on a kibbutz. So we had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, as well as the Israelis. And because we had a family sponsor, we were living in one of their regular houses. We had a bedroom, bathroom, to ourselves. The weather was beautiful. They had a common eating facility, so we were included in that, as well as the opportunity to meet the people from different parts to he world. It was a pretty amazing experience. And there was a lot more freedom. The kids on the kibbutz had a lot more freedom. The people our age or a little older were in the army, and that was fascinating learning what that experience was like.

They arranged for us to travel with the ulpon to do some touring. Later Robie and I and two of the men who were on the ulpon did some traveling throughout Israel by ourselves. The Israeli couple that was sponsoring us thought that was great, that we were traveling with some men. My parents would have been very unhappy about that.

00:35:41 Q: Any exposure, or experimenting with drugs or alcohol?

00:35:48 Goldberg: Yes. Alcohol on the weekends. Sometimes we would go skiing and stay in a dorm or stay with friends and not go with our parents, and there was a lot of beer drinking. I would drink very little. I wasn't crazy about beer. My father drank beer, so I wasn't too crazy about the whole idea. And if I drank just a little bit, I would feel it, and I never wanted to lose control. So I didn't drink very much. Also, not just when we went skiing, a lot of people my age drank in our community.

I think I was sixteen—sixteen or seventeen—and my cousin, who I was very close with from Massachusetts came to visit and he brought some pot. So a few of us got together and smoked pot. And I liked it. Also, I'm sure I didn't have that much, but I could feel it. My father never forgave that cousin for introducing pot. I don't think that he knew I smoked it, but he eventually found out my brother Tom smoked it.

00:37:12 Q: _____ [??]

00:37:13 Goldberg: No. [Laughs] I didn't, but I think it was good that I'd had that experience before I went to school.

00:37:27 Q: Tell me a little more about your mother.

00:37:37 Goldberg: She was very loving. She was anxious a lot. She and I—she also, when I was little, she would want me to dress a certain way and wear my hair a certain way. And I didn't always like that. I would feel annoyed about that. She was—I felt she was quite controlling about things like that. When I was eight, my youngest brother was born, and she sent me to camp. And I was really pissed about not being there when he was born. She was doing it because she thought it would be a boring summer when she was pregnant. It was only a couple weeks that she sent me, and actually she sent me when I was five. I think I went for four years, and I was homesick every single day [laughs] of the whole time I was away. I was really too young, even at eight, I was too young to be away.

She managed the household. She made all the decisions about us. My father wasn't at all involved in that. She managed the finances. She was really a very bright, very capable woman. She liked to garden. She was an artist. She painted. And I think—the other thing was that, because she had difficulty dealing with my father—I don't know if that was the reason—but she would kind of not deal with things. It was almost like her head would be in the clouds a lot—not dealing with things. That was how she got by. She would ignore things.

00:39:53 Q: Any major crises in their marriage, that you were aware of?

00:40:02 Goldberg: I don't know of any crisis, just there was a lot of fighting, a lot of screaming.

00:40:08 Q: On any consistent topic?

00:40:10 Goldberg: I don't know. I think it was about his drinking, and maybe not being home when she wanted him to be home, or not participating. But we never really talked about anything in our family.

00:40:37 Q: When you were growing up, was there a memorable political or world event when you were young?

00:40:47 Goldberg: Well, I remember, when JFK [John F. Kennedy, Jr.] died, how shocked I was. But I think that that—I really don't remember much more than that.

00:41:20 Q: Vietnam during your high school years, or did that come later?

00:41:22 Goldberg: It came later, more when I was in college.

00:41:28 Q: The Civil Rights Movement? The emerging Feminist Movement?

00:41:32 Goldberg: Most of that really occurred when I was at Barnard. I think I was aware of the Civil Rights Movement, but not aware of how to be involved.

00:41:55 Q: Now moving to territory they call personal events, but first take a little break.

[INTERRUPTION]

[START AGAIN]

00:47: 29 Goldberg: – so it is this about the time we were in school, or just in general?

00:47:36 Q: General. Then we get into--[Goldberg: Okay.] Some significant experiences?

00: 47:57 Goldberg: There were a number of them. At Barnard, I think the Strike at Columbia and being part of that changed my life.

00:48:10 Q: Other times in your life?

00:48:16 Goldberg: Giving birth. Getting married before that. Adopting our son. Starting an adoption agency. Going to healing school. There have been lots of things that have really changed my life.

00:49:00 Q: Inaudible

00:49:01 Goldberg: ..Sure, we were already married. Not planning on having a child, and I became pregnant. I always knew that I wanted to have children, and I was a little bit afraid, but I –was pregnant. I'm trying to think. She was born in '73. So, it would have been '72. So I was 23 when I became pregnant, and when I became pregnant, my husband decided that he should go back to law school. He had dropped out. I can talk about that later. [Q: Go ahead now. If it's part of the story.] Okay, so when we met at Columbia. He was in law school; he was a freshman. And I was a sophomore at Barnard. That year they had the lottery and he got a really low number. And they were drafting people out of law school. When he started, there were deferments for law school, but then they were drafting people. So he decided to teach, so he got a job on Long Island, and I couldn't imagine being without him, and we decided to get married. There was no way I could have lived with him. My father would not have been able to deal with that-- and I couldn't deal with him about that.

So that changed my life, too. Really changed my life. So I transferred to Stonybrook at that point, and we were living way out on Long Island. And then he was going to be drafted out of teaching. He taught, for I think, a semester. But he was teaching social studies, so they were drafting teachers for that. He was able to get into the National Guard, which was really bizarre, because here I was the year before I'm striking and i'm against the war, which he was too, and he goes to Fort Dix for basic training., which was a very scary experience for him, but he got through it. I would go and visit him sometimes there, which was really bizarre. That's bizarre. [Q comments.] Yeah, I wanted to be with him, but at the same time I was very much against the war in Vietnam. So it was definitely a conflict, but wanting to be with him was stronger than demonstrating at Fort Dix.

So he gets out, and he's in the National Guard, and he had created a newspaper, but it was a give-away. It was before *Rolling Stone*. A give-away on college campuses, so he was doing that for a while and not making any money, and then I become pregnant. I had been working, teaching, early childhood programs, and he decides to go back to law school, and when he left, he had told the dean off. The dean at the law school. He told him what he thought of Columbia Law School, which he didn't think a lot of. He probably would have been happier at a school which did more with trials, and did a lot of working with poor people and that kind of work, which Columbia Law School didn't do at the time. He saw the dean he had to talk to, when he decided to leave law school. That brought us back to New York City and 104th and Riverside. And during that time, I took art classes at the Art Students' League. I took a life drawing class-- it just felt very creative. You know, being pregnant, and I was really excited about being pregnant, and having a baby, and I was drawing, and the Upper West Side. It was great.

00:55:15 Q: We lost some of the chronology... Were there other colleges? What were you looking for in a college? How did you choose Barnard?

00:55:19 Goldberg: I knew very little about Barnard, except that it was in New York City, and I knew I wanted to really be in a city. I thought that I really wanted to be in Boston, but all of my female cousins-- there were three of them-- had gone to Simmons, and I applied there. And I applied to B.U.[Boston College], and someone had suggested Barnard. And the application, if you remember, was quite simple. There wasn't a whole lot we needed to do, so I applied. I had a really fantastic interview and it seemed like it would be exciting to be there. But it wasn't something I had really thought about.. I knew I wanted to be in the city., get away from Maine, get away from the country.

00:56:15 Q: And once you got there?[Unclear]

00:56:26 Goldberg: The high school I went to, eventhough I was in the most advanced classes, really didn't prepare me educationally to be taking courses at Barnard. So it was very difficult. I got “C's”, I think, my first semester. It could have been worse, I suppose. [Q: What was so difficult?] I didn't know how to study, how to write reports, and there was so much going on, so many great things to do which I took advantage of. I went to the theater and all of the speakers and groups, and everything that was going on. It was just so exciting that it was hard to spend time studying. And I was not disciplined at all. And I think my writing was not that good, in terms of being able to really express myself. And I loved it. I mean there were so many women that I met who I felt really comfortable with, and that was so different from my high school experience. I mean, I had a few close friends, but I certainly didn't feel connection with most of the people. **Coming from a very small town in Maine, very unsophisticated, [I found them] thinking about things, questioning things; they were doing things, they were active.**

It had always been important to me to have a meaningful life and to do things that were important, and I was probably a little bit too serious. I had a good time, too, but I wish that had ben as much a priority as doing “meaningful things.” There were a lot of people with similar interests. In terms of politically, in terms of wanting to improve life for people who weren't as fortunate as we were. And it is such a wonderful bonding experience. That was part of it, too. I made really close friends while I was there.

And the courses were really fascinating. I wish, in some ways, that I had been able to stay there, but – I could have, but I chose not to—but on the other hand the one thing that disappointed me was [that] I was always interested in psychology, and I wanted, I think I wanted to be a therapist.

01:00:06 Goldberg: I think I wanted to be a therapist, but I didn't know how to do it or what to do it, but at the time the psychology classes were behavioral. That did not interest me at all. So that

was disappointing. I didn't really have the science background. I started taking a biology course and I realized within a very short time-- I dropped it-- and I took an easier science course because there was no way I was going to be able to get through that, because I just didn't have that kind of background. [Q: Unclear]

01:00:59 Goldberg: And then, my friend who I grew up with and went to the kibbutz with, was at the University of Michigan [talks to cat or dog?] She was at University of Michigan, and I went to visit her for a weekend, and went to Madison-Wisconsin to work for the McCarthy campaign. And actually, I didn't know it at the time, but Gary (my husband) was managing the McCarthy campaign in Madison., and he traveled around with McCarthy on the campaign. I think I saw him. I'm not sure. But, we never met then. So that happened.

And one of the courses[at Barnard], Catherine Simpson has a course on something like “Rebels and Revolutionaries,” and one of the things she said was, if anyone is involved in a demonstration or gets arrested, they get an “A.” For the course. So we were reading all this radical stuff during that time and that was really very interesting.

01:03:04 Goldberg: And when I heard about Hamilton Hall, I went there.. I think it was April. And I think it might have been in March when I had gone to Madison, WS, but I'm not really sure. I had heard that the African-American students were having some sort of demonstrations, so I went there in support and to find out what was going on. And I found it really fascinating and I stayed.

[INTERRUPTION.PAUSE]

01:04:20 Q: Tell me more about that.. What were the issues...?

01:04:22 Goldberg: I don't know that I remember what their issue or issues were, whether it was Morningside Park. I would have to research that; I don't remember. I remember going and I

remember being very interested in what people were saying, and I stayed to support them, until they asked us to leave.

1:05:08 Q: And you were there specifically....

1:05:11: Goldberg: To show that I believed what they were asking for. And then I felt that they were right and that-- [Q: ??] I think they were not allowing classes not to go on in Hamilton Hall by sitting in. People were sitting in. And then, while I was there, I met a young man from Columbia, and we kind of hung out together. We left, and then I think I went to Low Library after that, and I was there for a little while. And, then I had heard that there were differences in the different buildings, and at this point there were the demands about Morningside Park, IDA, and I think there was a third reason and I can't really remember what that was.

And I felt, I think, that there was a lot of discontent at Columbia and at Barnard, in terms of student involvement, student support, and I felt that the demands the students were making were valid, and participated. I eventually went to Avery Hall, the Architecture School, and that's where I spent most of my time during the Strike [Q: ??] Well, it was really fascinating the way decision-making was made there. We would have these meetings and talk about things and as a group, make decisions about things, and I just found it really fascinating, that kind of experience of government. And being able to participate in that. I was probably not, I doubt I was vocal; I don't think I said very much, but it was just really interesting. And sometimes I would leave during the day and [01:08:30] go back to the dorm and take a shower, and call my parents, and lie to them about not being in the building. They would say, "You're not doing that, are you?" I'd say, "No, no no, I'm fine."

01:08:53 Q: They knew about it because?

01:08:54 Goldberg: Because of the television.

01:09:00 Q: What is it they were seeing on the television? Can you describe that?

01:09:05 Goldberg: They were seeing SDS [Students for a Democratic Society]. They were seeing students—men with beards. My father thought, at that time, beards were really awful. They thought it was really crazy. They didn't understand it.

It was just the most amazing experience being part of this history being made, and feeling that we had some say, that we were going to have some impact on the school and being part of that. One of the days I went back to Barnard, I saw that there were policemen on horses in the tunnel, and that was pretty scary. I knew that eventually they were going to come and get us out of the buildings, but I felt it was important to still do that, to still participate even though that was going to happen. I was very idealistic and I believed very, very strongly in what we were doing.

I was in Avery when the police came. I was handcuffed to a male student. And we were sitting down. We were sitting down and they handcuffed us, and then they pushed us down a set of stairs. I was really fortunate—I wasn't really hurt going down the stairs. The person I was handcuffed to was also kicked by the policeman as well. Before that happened, we were sitting, and I think we were singing "We Shall Overcome," and it was really very powerful, being part of that. It was very scary, but very powerful.

I was arrested with everybody else who was arrested. My parents were very, very upset and very worried. We were all bailed out. And then afterwards, I wanted to stay at school. I think classes ended, but I wanted to stay at school and my parents wanted me to come home. I was telling them, No I wanted to stay a little bit longer. They were very worried and very upset about my being arrested. My mother said to me, on one call, that my father was talking about committing suicide and I needed to come home. He was just so upset by this. He didn't understand it. He was really upset. I cried, I was hysterical when she told me that. Previous to that—not too long before that happened—he found out that my brother, Tom, who is a couple years younger than I am, was smoking pot. And the same cousin had gotten the pot for him. He was very, very upset and he had hit him. He was being punished. I remember writing a letter to him talking about—it was a very long letter, talking about the Strike and talking about how he should get other people to help him and organize. It was crazy, the letter that I wrote. I actually found it recently and was looking for it last night, but didn't find it.

So, I came home. My father was very depressed, and at that time people didn't do very much—at least my family didn't do very much about it—and he was very angry. I had this very naïve attitude that I was going to be able to explain to them why I did what I did and why it was so important. I had this idea that my father was going to understand and my mother was going to understand and they would support me. And of course that never happened.

I had to go back—I think it was during the summer—for court, and my father went with me. I wanted him to come because, again, I expected him to be able to understand it. And the first thing that happened—we flew. I had flown many times back and forth from Maine to New York.

I told him, We put our suitcases here. And of course they didn't take our suitcases so we got to New York without any suitcases. We went to see *The Man of La Mancha*, which I thought was just wonderful, and perfect for that time. He hated it. And then, we went to court, [laughs] and I saw some of my friends and I'm giving people hugs, and there are guys with beards and they look old—a lot older than I look. And one of my girlfriends is sitting on the ground with her legs yoga-style and you could see underneath her skirt. My father told her that you could see and she should not sit that way, and she said, "I don't care." Nobody talked to my father that way [laughs] who was my age. He was quite upset.

None of what I expected happened. It was awful. It was good to see my friends, but it was pretty awful. I probably spent the most miserable summer after that with my parents—my father being really depressed. I just couldn't wait to get back to school. But my parents had said to me that if I was involved again, they would not pay for me to go to school. So I get back, and --I think it was at Barnard—there were a circle of people and television cameras [laughs] and I had to really be careful not to be photographed.

So, I think it really changed my life. I really felt empowered. I felt that we could make change, that I could be part of something to create change. And I think being at Barnard, at a women's school, also helped. I think Barnard fostered fostered the idea that, that we could do whatever we wanted. So I think being at Barnard those two years really changed my life.

01:17:59 Q: Could we just go backwards—?

01:18:02 Goldberg: Sure.

01:18:03 Q: If you hadn't taken that class with Katherine, , do you think you would have gotten involved?

01:18:17 Goldberg: Oh absolutely.

01:18:18 Q: If you could, discuss that moment of being arrested. Could we just go back to what that was like. With your arms behind your back, or the description of those minutes between when you were sitting there and then suddenly you were in police protection?

01:18:55 Goldberg: My memory is of—I remember we were singing “We Shall Overcome.” They must have come into the building. And they handcuffed us two by two. They pulled us up from sitting—pulled me up from sitting. And were forcing us to go a particular way. I was probably in shock, really in shock, not really feeling what was going on. I think I probably was numb. It was pretty traumatic, and seeing all the police, and seeing what was happening. It was very scary.

01:19:58 Q: Was it both men and women?

01:20:00 Goldberg. Yes. Policemen or students?

01:20:01 Q: Students.

01:20:02 Goldberg: Yes. There were men and women students.

01:20:07 Q: _____ [??]

01:20:10 Goldberg: I don't remember.

01:20:11 Q: Okay, so you got arrested, being forced in one direction, then what happened?

01:20:20 Goldberg: We were taken to jail.

01:20:21 Q: In a paddy wagon? What was the transportation?

01:20:32 Goldberg: I don't remember.

01:20:33 Q: So you got to jail. Where was jail?

01:20: Goldberg: I don't know. We were taken—I think it was early morning or—it was dark still, I think. And I didn't know New York that well, so I had no idea where I was, but there were a lot of people in the cell. There were students and then there were other people in the cell who weren't students, I think. I don't think I was afraid of the people. It just didn't feel good, being there.

01:21:25 Q: How long did they keep you there for?

01:21:27 Goldberg: It seemed like it was, maybe, late afternoon before we got out. It seemed like a really long time. I don't really know how long it was.

01:21:57 Q: Did you sleep in the middle of the night, or were you anticipating their arrival?

01:22:02 Goldberg: I think we were anticipating their arrival. I think we knew that they were coming. And we may not have been the first building that they went to.

01:22:13 Q: Talk about the court proceeding, what was that like?

01:22:24 Goldberg: It was really not—the court proceeding itself was not very much. I was under twenty-one, I think, so nothing really happened. Charges were dropped. I guess that's what happened. The charges were dropped at the court proceeding.

01:22:48 Q: How long did that take? It sounded like you had to go back to court later in the summer. Is that when the charges got dropped?

01:22:56 Goldberg: Yes.

01:22: 57 Q: But they kept you in suspense _____ [??] until that point?

01:23:05 Goldberg: Yes. But I don't think I was worried about it, so maybe I already knew the charges were going to be dropped. I think I must have already known.

01:23:13 Q: Was it different for the student who were over twenty-one?

01:23:19 Goldberg: I don't know. I don't know. And it may have been different for people who were members of SDS. I didn't become an official member. I wasn't a part of the steering committee, even though I felt the commitment. I think I probably intentionally chose not to do that to keep away from public notice and my parents, I think.

01:23:53 Q: Do you think this was the precipitating actor in your father's depression?

01:23:58 Goldberg: Probably not. I think, though, those were two extreme stressors, my brother smoking pot and this happening. But I certainly felt guilty. My mother made me feel guilty. She didn't say any more about it after that. But just her saying that, I felt really guilty about that.

01:24:28 Q: In your sophomore year, you came back. What did you do during your sophomore year?

01:24:35 Goldberg: I was interested, but kind of stayed back, because there were some political things going on. I went to classes. The second semester I took a course that combined several subjects, and it was about creating an experimental college. We read all kinds of philosophy and—it was philosophy and sociology, so we read about schools and experimental colleges in

different ways. I think we also, during the strike, started to talk a lot about what we were unhappy about, both at Barnard and at Columbia. One of the things we thought about was wanting to have more of an intimate experience, wanting to have more involvement, more choice in courses, more connection with students from Columbia. So in this course, we did this reading and came up with a plan to start an experimental college.

I think sometime in February—my mother was actually visiting then. Sometime in February, we went to Columbia to present this idea of an experimental college and to see if there would be students from Columbia who would be interested. And my husband went to an experimental college, Hofstra [University], New College. And he was at the Law School. He had a friend who didn't date, and he told the friend, "This will be a great place for you to meet somebody." He was going to find somebody for this friend to go out with. And we met, and he forgot about his friend. We were together from that moment on.

01:26:57 Q: So by the end of your sophomore year, what was happening? What were the decisions you were making at that point?

01:27:05 Goldberg: He had found that he was going to be drafted. He had already dropped out of Law School. We had decided to get married. I met him in February and I think in May we decided to get married. I remember calling my mother and she said to me, "Well we'll talk about it when you come home." [Laughs] And he's sitting there, and he said, "What?" So I called her back and said, "We're getting married."

So then he came to Maine and he and I lived with my parents, and we took education courses, because he was going to be teaching and I think I took some courses too during the summer. We got married in August of '69. August tenth. And then he was going to be teaching in Brentwood, Long Island, and we moved to Port Jefferson, which is near Stonybrook. Then by January, he was in basic training and I was living in Port Jefferson—knowing nobody in Stonybrook and living in an apartment by myself. I took in a roommate, and then gave up the apartment and moved in with his parents who lived in Westbury, on Long Island. [Pause] Then we got an apartment in Valley Stream, on Long Island, after that. And I started teaching in early childhood nursery programs.

01:29:16 Q: Had you graduated college at that point?

01:29:20 Goldberg: I'm trying to think. Probably not.

01:29:27 Q: But you left Barnard behind.

01:29:29 Goldberg: Right. I took enough courses—they accepted all the courses from Barnard at Stonybrook. I took enough courses at Stonybrook—I was actually there just a year, but I took enough courses to graduate with a major in social science, putting all my courses together. And then I took courses here and there, and I think I took some courses while I was working.

01:30:07 Q: Are you the same person who walked through the gates of Barnard as a freshman?

01:30:11 Goldberg: No. [Laughs] I mean, basically I am. I am very different. I'm much more able to express myself. I'm much more in touch with my feelings—I think I really didn't always know how I felt when I started school. I was very naïve. I'm much more comfortable in my skin than I was then.

01:30:48 Q: Is that because of Barnard, or just—?

01:30:51 Goldberg: I think Barnard contributed to it, but I think there are a lot of things along the way—other things as well that contributed.

01:31:07 Q: Tell me about the most joyous day of your life.

01:31:18 Goldberg: Probably giving birth to my daughter, as well as when we met my son—my adopted son. I think those were probably the most joyous ones. I think with my daughter, after she was born and they placed her in my arms and she stopped crying—I mean that was just such an amazing experience.

01:31:44 Q: And your son?

01:31:45 Goldberg: My son is Vietnamese, and he came on the baby lift. We were living in New York and one of our friends had adopted an interracial Vietnamese child, an African-American Vietnamese child. She was sick and had asked me to watch her kids, and it was at that point that I realized—my daughter was already born—that I realized that I could attach to any child.

So when we started talking about having a second child, we decided that we would adopt. We were in Maine at this point. So I called my friend and she said (IT WAS 1975)—she said that the orphanage and the agency that her child came from were looking for families because there was a famine in Vietnam and babies were starving. They were trying to get as many families as they could to adopt these children and get these children visas to leave Vietnam. And then around the same time, they knew that the United States was going to be leaving, and Vietnam was going to fall, and they really wanted to get these kids out because they didn't know what was going to happen to them if they didn't.

So we found an agency to do a really quick home study. We sent it in and within a very short period of time—normally it takes longer—but within a very short period of time, they sent us information on our son, Matt. He came to the United States on the baby lift, which involved airplanes that were able to take these orphans from Vietnam, if there was a family waiting for them, in either the United States or Australia or Europe. Matt came in April, but was really sick and he was in Colorado. And it was about a month before he came to us. He was about six months old when he came to us, and he looked like a newborn. But he had the eyes of an older baby—he would follow you with his eyes, which newborns don't usually do. So it was pretty scary, but it was also amazing. And our daughter, Amy, who was two, thought babies came on airplanes. We went to Boston to meet the airplane where her brother came from [laughs].

We had to—he was very passive—he had salmonella and he almost died before he came to us because he was refusing to eat. A volunteer sent this letter saying that she stayed with him and

eventually he would drink a bottle if she gave it to him. So he was malnourished—we had to feed him—and he wouldn't cry if he was hungry. So we just had to feed him like a newborn every four hours. It was really scary. I asked our pediatrician, "If we feed him, and we love him, will he be okay?" And he said, "I don't know," and that was really scary. So we called the agency and they said, "He'll be fine. Just feed him and love him and he'll be fine." And he was. I was still waking up and feeding him every four hours and he started to get fat [laughs]. And then I didn't have to do that anymore.

01:36:32 Q: You mentioned an adoption agency—

01:36:37 Goldberg: So a couple of years—he was a couple of years old. I was starting to think about wanting to work. Before that I had created a toddler program. They were doing that at Barnard, in New York. They had started toddler programs around that time. So I did a toddler program one day a week with children Amy's age, for that. But I was trying to think about what I really wanted to do, in terms of a profession. I didn't think I wanted to do early childhood education. I was thinking about becoming a midwife. And then because of our experience—because we were pretty much out on our own. This agency didn't have a lot of experience with parents adopting children from foreign countries—I decided to start an adoption agency that specialized in foreign-born and special needs children..

I found another friend who had an adopted child and we found a social worker, because I wasn't. I just had a B.A. It took nine months to get the paperwork in order and to do what we needed to do, and I started an adoption agency, placing foreign-born and special needs children. That was

pretty amazing, to be able to do that and to be able to match the children with families and watch how the families did with the kids. It was really great. And I did that for about thirteen years. While I was—but it was a lot of responsibility. It really shouldn't have been a part-time job. I was twenty-eight years old. It certainly wasn't a little part-time job.

I think the one thing was that it was hard for me to—there was always something that needed to be done. I carried the responsibility of how these kids did and how they were being treated by the parents. So it was a lot of responsibility and I probably—when I was home with my kids, I was thinking about the children, their families at the adoption agency. That's one of the things that I wish I could've done differently, to be able to know how to stop thinking about work when I was at home and really be at home when I was at home.

I did that for thirteen years and while I was doing it, the part that I enjoyed the most was working with families and the therapy part and the evaluation part. I really didn't enjoy being an administrator. One of the clinical social workers said to me at one point, "You should really get your M.S.W. [Master's of Social Work], you would be a wonderful therapist." I realized that was really what I always wanted to do. So I went back to school at that point and got my M.S.W., and was running the agency and going to school and having a family. That was really a crazy time.

I found several executive directors and, once I got my degree, I was the clinical social worker for the agency. We had financially supported the agency, also. And there wasn't a lot of funding for that, because it was international. So we merged with another agency. My social workers took

their families to the other agency and continued to work with the families. And then I started private practice as a clinical social worker.

But I think that's also—if I hadn't experienced Barnard and experienced the strike, I don't think that I would have ever had the confidence to do something like that.

01:42:04 Q: What was it about the experience at Barnard that gave you the confidence?

01:42:10 Goldberg: I think it was the attitude that women could do whatever they wanted to do, and that women were as capable as men, and that intelligent people can do things.

01:42:42 Q: What was the most awful day?

01:42:50 Goldberg: My father died when I was thirty-two. He had sleep apnea before they really diagnosed sleep apnea—this isn't when he died. This was before that. He was driving a car and he fell asleep, and hit another car and killed somebody. He never recovered from that. He had a history of being depressed and he was very depressed as a result of that. And he drank. I got a call at about eleven o'clock at night from my mother and he had been drinking and he had been at the Elk's Club playing cards, which he did, and a friend of his was going to go get the car and bring him home. He must have aspirated something that he ate, which caused him to have a heart attack. He was taken to the hospital and he never woke up. We had to make the decision to take him off the machines that were keeping him alive. I was thirty-two and it was awful to do have to do that. It was such a shock. It wasn't anything that you could plan for.

01:45:07 Q: Let's give ourselves a little bit of a break.

01:45:14 Goldberg: Thank you.

[INTERRUPTION]

01:45:18 Goldberg: I can talk about that.

01:45:20 Q: Just talk a little bit about what, besides being politically active, talk about your experiences of being a young girl, sex and birth control and all that. What do you remember about some of those things?

01:45:40 Goldberg: Well, I think there was a freedom that we had that our mothers didn't have and our grandmothers didn't have to be able to be sexually active if we wanted to be. We thought of ourselves—and I really think that was at Barnard. If I hadn't been, I don't know if I would've had those same thoughts—thought about being a woman and being able to do anything that we wanted to do, in terms of work and having equal rights, and that there was no reason for a man to be treated differently than a woman.

01:46:30 Q: What about sexual activity, or inactivity?

01:46:35 Goldberg: Yes. I think that I—until I—when I was in Israel, I had some sexual experiences and that was before Barnard. So I think I already, in a sexual way, felt more freedom. But I was always very controlled, in terms of—I think my personality was one in which I didn't totally let myself just do whatever I wanted to do.

01:47:30 Q: Did other Barnard women do that?

01:47:33 Goldberg: I think so. I think they allowed themselves to be much freer, sexually. I met my husband—I dated a lot of men when I was at Barnard, but until I met my husband there really wasn't anyone that I just—you know, that I wanted really to have a full relationship with. So he was the first person that I really had a full sexual relationship with, and went on birth control pills.

01:48:07 Q: How did you get access to birth control?

01:48:18 Goldberg: I must have—I would doubt that I went to my doctor in Maine. I would imagine that I saw a doctor in New York and got birth control pills. One of my friends at school gave me the name of someone I think.

01:48:48 Q: Were you aware of people who didn't use birth control and ended up getting pregnant?

01:48:51 Goldberg: There was someone in our class, I think, who did. Was that Linda? I'm not sure.

01:48:59 Q: I don't know.

01:49:00 Goldberg: Yes, I think there was someone in our class who became pregnant.

01:49:07 Q: There was a process, that if someone _____ wanted an abortion, [classmates] gave her money—a collection, I think?

[DOG BARKS]

01:49:33 Goldberg: I mean, at times it felt [pause]—it felt kind of like there were no boundaries. I was able to have my own boundaries, but I also knew that I had the freedom, really, to explore and to do whatever I wanted, which is wonderful.

01:50:07 Q: I always come back to Barnard, but we'll push forward now, because there is life after college, which was a total shock to me at the time.

01:50:18 Goldberg: [Laughs]

01:50:19 Q: Has your adult life been the life you anticipated on the day you left Barnard? How has it been different?

01:50:33 Goldberg: No, I had no clue what my life was going to be [laughs] like. It definitely—my fantasy of even being married, and what that was going to be like, was a fantasy. It wasn't based on any reality. It's been very different, but it's been very meaningful. I've done a lot of very meaningful things, and I'm grateful that I've had the opportunity to do the things I've been able to do. But there was no way I could have ever thought about those things.

01:51:24 Q: How have you and your husband worked out your careers?

01:51:43 Goldberg: When he went back to Law School, and he was a lawyer—when we moved back to Maine, he kind of—my work was taking care of the kids and part-time, and his work was more than full-time, with his job. I had all the other responsibilities. And that wasn't quite what I had in mind [laughs] when we got married.

Before we were married he was washing dishes, and he was going to the ballet with me and doing things [laughs]. And we didn't know each other for that long, so it's not a surprise that he didn't really like going to the ballet and he really didn't want to wash dishes. And I struggled with that for a long time. We struggled.

But I did love being a mother and taking care of the kids, so that wasn't an issue. We did have different ideas about parenting. And especially because my father was so strict and difficult and scary, I really didn't want any of that with the kids. Perhaps even towards setting rules—there were rules and boundaries, but it was harder for me to do that than it was for him. That was stuff

—I wish I had been a therapist when my kids were young, because I would have been very different in terms of knowing that there were things that would have been really helpful for them that I couldn't do. He was much more interested in that, and much more having boundaries and pushing kids to do their best. I didn't believe in pushing. So we had a lot of conflict about parenting. We fought a lot about that. Actually, our relationship improved when the kids got older.

01:54:20 Q: If you could go back to the first day of Barnard, and whisper words of wisdom in the ear of the girl you used to be, what would they be?

01:54:33 Goldberg: I would say to not be as serious. It's okay to enjoy yourself, and everything doesn't have to be meaningful. You'll have a lifetime to do meaningful things.

01:55:04 Q: Tell me about the most memorable day during your career, your work history, and/or community and volunteer involvement.

01:55:10 Goldberg: There are a lot of them. I've been really fortunate. I think placing children was always an amazing thing. When we would get information on a child—we worked with other agencies in different parts of the world and we'd get a picture and some information. I would call the parents and say, "We have a child for you." It was just an amazing thing. And being an adoptive parent, I knew what that felt like, and I knew how these people really wanted a child. It was—and we placed about two hundred kids, so there were a lot of those moments.

In the early '90s, my husband and I—and it was his idea, but we worked on it together—started this program with Save The Children, where our community adopted a community in Africa—in Doukala, Cameroon. And we raised over three years, I think, \$320,000. Then they were able to get more money from [US]AID as a result of that and we created an exchange in the schools—there were other people who joined us. It wasn't just the two of us who did it. There were other people in the community who joined us.

The kids in schools were having pen pals with kids in Doukala, Cameroon, Africa. We did lots of different fund-raising events and then a group of us went to Cameroon from here and went into the different villages that we had raised money for. We went for three weeks and lived on a Save the Children compound, where they had their program based out of. We traveled throughout this region to the many different villages. We put in wells and we gave them money so they could buy immunizations for the kids. We were working on ending infant mortality in those areas. The people would have this huge party where the whole village came, and they would feed us and they would dance and they would talk with us. We saw the schools and it was just really—we built some school buildings. It was an amazing project. And Gary's idea was to use this for Save the Children, rather than just having the foster children program—to use this as an example for other communities. And I think that they were able to do that. That was pretty amazing, that trip.

01:59:08 Q: In your adoption work, were there bad experiences? Did any of them not work out?

01:59:19 Goldberg: Yes. Some of them didn't. The ones that didn't were older children—mostly older children adoptions, where the kids really had come from some really difficult backgrounds and had a really hard time integrating into the particular family. The other thing that happened was that, when we first started, the families that came to us it were self-selective. The families that came were families that were really capable of being the appropriate family for the kids. As time went on, there were more issues in foster care about abuse, and that became more of an issue with some of the families too. That was also one of the issues why I wanted to stop having that responsibility.

02:00:34 Q: Okay, let's see. Here's another topic area—class and race and gender experiences perspectives. Did you ever have a friend who was a different race or class than you? Tell me about that person and offer a story that exemplifies who they were.

02:00:54 Goldberg: I had lots of friends who were of a different class. Growing up in Auburn, Maine, when I was young, there were mostly Caucasian families. It's been more in my adult life, I think, that I've had—in terms of the class thing, that a lot of the friends I had in school were poorer than we were.

02:01:49 Q: Any in particular, or were they mostly acquaintances?

02:01:56 Goldberg: Mostly acquaintances. Our son is Vietnamese. But one of the things that we did was we became Fresh Air Fund parents. We had—over a period of time, we had children of inner city New York. We had two children from the Bronx and a child from Brooklyn. The child

from Brooklyn was African-American and the two kids from the Bronx were Hispanic. They came and they lived with us for two weeks at a time. And they came twice a year because we had them come up during February vacation and we'd go skiing in the winter too. And that was really wonderful.

The first child we had was from the Bronx and the year that he came—he was our first child—he was about eight and his uncle had been killed on the street. When he came—he was a very sweet kid and we'd go out and do different things and we'd be riding the car. The first day he said, "How many murders are there here?" And we'd say, "Very few." And the next day, "How many armed robberies?" And we'd say, "Very few." And every single day there was a different crime that he would ask about and when he got to the end of the list of crimes that he was afraid of, he said, "Well this place must be paradise."

02:03:44 Q: Were you ever treated differently or discriminated against because you were a woman?

02:03:48 Goldberg: I don't think so. I never worked for anybody else, so I didn't have that kind of experience. I never worked for a corporation. I always worked for myself. It was a board of directors, a non-profit, the adoption agency—and then I've been—I worked at a mental health center for a while, and then I worked in private practice.

02:04:28 Q: Social activism experience _____ [??]?

02:04:35 Goldberg: The other social activism experience was in Auburn and Lewiston, there was a large influx of Somali people who moved here, to a primarily white Caucasian environment. At one point there was a hate group that planned a rally, and the police chief was very bright and he had the rally scheduled on the outskirts of town. A group of us in the community had an alternate program. We called it “Many in One,” and it was a way to support and meet the Somali people, and to indicate our happiness about they're being here, and get to know each other. We started a movement here. Nobody went to the hate group rally, which was really wonderful. Our rally was filled with the Somali people and the local people.

02:06:00 Q: Did the Women’s Movement ever intersect with your life?

02:06:04 Goldberg: I think I read. I read a lot, and I think being at Barnard during that time. There were so many important women from the Women’s Movement who were there. It was just part of everything.

02:06:35 Q: Intimate relationships between men and women, and women and women. Tell me about an especially important sexual relationship.

02:06:46 Goldberg: It was the relationship with my husband. It was the first time that I had had a full sexual relationship and it was wonderful. We were at John Jay [College], [laughs] I stayed there with him quite a bit. It was just wonderful learning about each other and having that experience.

02:07:27 Q: Tell me about your first romantic relationship. Were there any other romantic relationships you want to share?

02:07:38 Goldberg: No.

02:07:39 Q: Was there a relationship that changed the trajectory of your life?

02:07:43 Goldberg: In terms of a romantic relationship?

02:07:45 Q: Intimate relationship.

02:07:46 Goldberg: Intimate relationship. Well, my marriage did. And from high school—actually, earlier, from elementary school—I have and have had a really close woman friend. It wasn't a sexual relationship, but a very close friendship. She was a therapist before I was. She was out in California and ran large group psycho-spiritual programs. And that was really very influential, both the friendship and then later the group work.

Then the other thing that—then, also I went to the Barbara Brennan School of Healing, which I think really also had a great influence in my becoming more of who I am, and exploring spirituality, various different forms of spirituality, and various different forms of therapy. I think when my father died, I started therapy for the first time. That really made a difference in my life. Then after the Barbara Brennan school, I went to another school, which I have continued to study

with—non-dualistic healing. Jason Shulman, who is the head of that program, has really had a big influence on my life as well.

02:10:20 Q: What were some difficult choices around family and career. Tell me the story of an especially difficult choice you had to make about your career.

02:10:33 Goldberg: Well, I think that when I went to social work school—it was a part-time program for two years in Maine, and the third year I took classes at Boston College. So I went to Boston for two days every week for a year. I think that was really hard for my kids, and my husband, also, for me to do that, but I did do that. And I'm glad I did. I'm sorry it was hard for them, but.

02:11:19 Q: It was worth doing.

02:11:20 Goldberg: Absolutely. Absolutely.

02:11:25 Q: I gather you enjoy being a social worker

02:11:28 Goldberg: Yes, I do. And I've been doing it for close to thirty years, having a therapy practice, and I just really love it. I have a lot of passion for it and I'm actually working more than I had in the past because I'm trying to increase my practice in Portland—I have a practice in Auburn and a practice in Portland, because I know I'm going to not want to drive—it's forty-five minutes from here to Auburn—and I'm not going to like driving in the winter sooner than I'm

going to feel that I want to stop working. So I'm working more and more in order to establish that.

02:12:28 Q: Okay. Spirituality, faith or practice of religious traditions.

02:12:30 Goldberg: I'm still Jewish. I kind of think that once I reached adolescence, I kind of didn't pay so much attention to that. Also, when I got married. My husband's family's not religious at all. I wanted my kids to go to Hebrew school and to have an education and to have bar and bat mitzvahs, but I didn't really participate much. I have been, now. I do now. I think that I'm much more connected to my spirituality. I think also I have studied a lot of Buddhism and that it really—that my spiritual practice really combines some aspects of Buddhism with Judaism.

02:13:51 Q: We haven't touched on your children. Can you talk a little about your son and your daughter? Just give us a thumbnail of what their doing now.

02:14:04 Goldberg: Okay. They're both—they're under two years apart. My daughter, Amy, lives in Boston. She was born in New York City, and the city is in her blood. She never liked living out in the country, and loves being in Boston. She lived in New York for a little while to try it out, but decided she liked Boston better. She went to Tufts and then got a Master's in business at Kellogg [School of Management], which is Northwestern [University]. She started out wanting to work in non-profits, and had some positions as executive director, worked her way up, and then decided she wanted to be someone who gave charitable contributions rather than being the

one who asked for them. And she is a real estate agent in Boston now. She likes that work. She is single.

My son, Matt, lives in Auburn and he doesn't like cities and he likes being in a small town. He was married and is divorced now. He has a stepdaughter that he's been the full-time dad to, and she's going to be thirteen and he's still her dad. She spends part of every week with him still. He's a technical engineer at a local television station, and is very techy [laughs]. Whenever we have something that doesn't work, he fixes it for us. And he's a musician and he's also a recording engineer and he has a recording studio in his house.

02:16:52 Q: His being Vietnamese and Jewish and adopted --that must make for a lot of cultural balancing..

02:16:59 Goldberg: Yes. I think he always felt a part of our family. I think he may have experienced some discrimination at times. But he really sees himself as an American. I went to visit, in 2010, I went to visit Jane Andros Purananando who was in our class and a really good friend of mine at Barnard, who lives in Bangkok. I spent some time with her and then I went to Vietnam and toured Vietnam. I asked my son Matt if he wanted to come, but he didn't. While I was there I was sending pictures and emails telling him about it. And he said, "Sounds like it might be great to see. If it took just three or four hours to get there, I'd be more than happy to do that." [Laughs] And that's where he is with that.

02:18:33 Q: On our last page.

02:18:36 Goldberg: Okay, good.

02:18:37 Q: What do you look most forward to happening in the future?

02:18:47 Goldberg: I look forward to working as long as I can. I'd like to, at some point, take some art classes. I'd like to travel.

02:19:25 Q: Have any hopes, dreams and fears for the future?

02:19:28 Goldberg: Well, my grandmother had a form of dementia and my mother had Alzheimer's. I look exactly like my mother, [laughs] so I worry about that. She didn't have the genetic form of Alzheimer's. I exercise more than she does. I'm hoping that will make a difference. I'm also hoping they figure out some kind of medication for that.

02:20:08 Q: When looking back on your experience at Barnard, is there a decision or event that you would have done differently?

02:20:16 Goldberg: I think the one thing that I would have done differently is that—during the period of time of the strike, that semester, the end of the year, that's also the time of the games—the Athena games. At the time, I, as well as other people, felt that it wasn't appropriate for Barnard to have them, and I think that was a mistake. I have felt badly about that.

02:20:56 Q: They have re-instituted them.

02:20:58 Goldberg: Yes, I know they have, but there was—there were people who had worked hard to set that up and then they weren't able to happen.

02:21:20 Q: I have a question in the back of my brain.

02:21:36 Goldberg: About what?

02:21:37 Q: About it not being as involved_____ [??]. The question will become clearer to me as I'm driving home when it's too late to ask you. But there were some kids who didn't get involved. Did they miss out on something wonderful?

02:21:57 Goldberg: I think so, I really do. I think that my experience in Israel on the kibbutz, where there was more of a communal decision making process, and then in the buildings—at least in Avery—where the same thing happened, I think was just a wonderful learning experience. The politics and the conversations that people talked about were really fascinating. I learned a lot and I think people who weren't involved in that missed it.

[INTERRUPTION]

02:24:31 Q: We were talking about kids who didn't get involved.

02:24:33 Goldberg: Do you want to do it over again?

I think they missed out. I think that it was such an amazing learning experience, and so empowering. The government, the communal governing was fascinating. Having been on the kibbutz before, it was interesting to see that happening in Avery Hall. I don't know how it was in the other buildings, but it was—and the kinds of discussions people were having about all kinds of political issues, about all kinds of equal rights issues, about discrimination, about fairness, it was—I learned more during that week, or those couple of weeks, than probably any other time in my life.

02:26:00 Q: Is there anything else that we haven't touched on that you think we should take a record of and reflective of your life?

02:26:10 Goldberg: The only other thing is that when my husband and I were about forty, my husband was diagnosed with MS [multiple sclerosis], and he became very ill, and stopped working, and was retired for twenty years. It wasn't working out financially toward the end of that, and then he started doing a little real estate development, which worked for a while, but then real estate didn't work so well. And then he was going to do mediation and was invited by a friend to join a new law firm that he was starting, which he did. But that was really a very difficult period of time for him and the four us (when he became ill)—not the whole twenty years, the beginning of that. So that really had an impact on my life as well. But, I always had confidence that he would eventually be healed and be able to work, and that happened. I didn't think it was going to take quite as much time, but I did think that was going to happen.

02:27:57 Q: What did happen? Is he still with us?

02:28:00 Goldberg: Yes. He's working [laughs].

02:28:04 Q: I wasn't sure how _____ [??].

02:28:06 Goldberg: Yes. But, everybody else is talking about retiring and the two of us are continuing to work, because he was retired and we both need to be working now. So I don't have the same experience that most people have at this point in their lives.

02:28:32 Q: Was it better meds, or better strategies for how to deal with it?

02:28:37 Goldberg: He's in remission. May have been something else, but it did incapacitate him for a long time.

02:28:50 Q: How stressful, not knowing, etc.

02:28:55 Goldberg: Yes. Well, he was very worried. He was in a high-powered—he was a trial attorney—is a trial attorney—and stress impacts MS and there was no way he could continue to work in the capacity he was working. So he had to stop.

02:29:26 Q: Anything else?

02:29:27 Goldberg: The only other thing is my mother died in 2010. And she had Alzheimer's. One of the things that I realized was—and she continued to connect emotionally even though she couldn't really intellectually. We had these conversations where she had the emotion and not really any content in the conversation. And she said to me one time, "I may not know who you are, but I know that I love you." And that helped me to continue to feel connected to her. One of my brothers—all of my brothers and I—especially the one who—Jamie, who sat with me at lunch—we ran an in-home nursing care program for my mom and stepfather.—she stayed at home and we had twenty-four hour care, and we kind of took care of that.

Then, one of the other things I realized was that, when my kids were young, I really enjoyed and loved being a parent of young kids. And she was very childlike, and that made it easy for me to relate to her. She wasn't really—she was my mother, but wasn't able to relate as my mother. And I was more the mother at that point. It became okay, and we were able to continue to have a relationship, as long as I changed my expectations of the relationships.

02:31:14 Q: That's a good story. Thank you for sharing that.

02:31:18 Goldberg: Thank you.

02:31:19: It's not easy to talk about.

02:31:20 Goldberg: You're welcome.

02:31:22 Q: And thank you for everything you've shared. We had a wonderful one-way conversation [laughs].

02:31:28 Goldberg: You're welcome [laughs].

02:31:30 Q: It's been a privilege to hear what you've done.

02:31:34 Goldberg: Thank you.

02:31:35 Q: And the decisions you've made. I think Barnard was a pretty unique time and place.

02:31:45 Goldberg: I think so.

02:31:46 Q: I must say, I feel like the institution itself was somewhat invisible.

02:31:51 Goldberg: Right.

02:31:52 Q: It was just a group of women at a particular spot in a particular time. I don't remember significant from the institution per se.

02:32:06 Goldberg: For me, there were a couple of teachers there who were influential. But I would agree—the institution itself was not. But it also supported and allowed us to have the kind of experiences we had.

02:32:34 Q: Yeah. _____ [??]

02:32:35 Goldberg: My daughter—and this was over twenty years ago—went to a high school summer program between her junior and senior year. It was very different, and much more supportive of the girls. It sounded really very exciting, and she loved the program.

02:33:03 Q: I think it will be fascinating for this oral history project to also get some interviews from some of the people who were on the faculty, and some of the administrators.

02:33:14 Goldberg: That would be. That's a great idea.

02:33:19 Q: What would they say? And what were, how did it change their lives, and how had it changed their jobs.

02:33:27 Goldberg: Right.

02:33:28 Q: Maybe we'll get to that. In the meantime, we've done you.

02:33:31 Goldberg: Thank you.

02:33:32 Q: Thank you so much.

02:33:33 Goldberg; You're welcome. Thank you for doing this and coming here. I'm sorry it was so difficult [laughs] to find time.

02:33:35 Q: I think it worked out just fine.

02:33:39 Goldberg: Good, good.

02:33:40 Q: And I know you have a schedule that's far less flexible than mine.

02:33:47 Goldberg: Great.

02:33:48 Q: Okay, time for us to pack up.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

B

Barbara Brennan School of Healing, 42
Barnard College, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32,
33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 45, 46, 51
Boston College, 42
Bunny Bornstein, 10

H

Hofstra University, 26

J

Jason Shulman, 42

John F. Kennedy, 17

N

Northwestern University, 44

S

Students for a Democratic Society, 18, 25

W

World War II, 2, 8