

<p>Elizabeth Wise-Horan: Today is November 19th 2017, we are in Glickman library second floor group study room 7. I am Elizabeth Wise-Horan E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H W-I-S-E - H-O-R-A-N. I am here with..</p> <p>Rachel Spigel: I am Rachel Spigel, R-A-C-H-E-L S-P-I-G-E-L. Alright and if you could give your name and spell it.</p> <p>Frank Brooks: My name is Franklin Brooks, F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N B-R-O-O-K-S. But you can call me Frank... please</p> <p>EWB: I just want to remind you that you can refuse to answer any of our questions at any time. And we can end you interview at any point. And we will let you know around 90 minutes about the duration of our interview. But if you would like to schedule another interview with us or Wendy you are absolutely more than welcome. Yea with that we can get started.</p> <p>RS: Yea with that would you start with your sexuality, gender identity, and preferred pronouns.</p> <p>FB: Yes, I am a gay man, and prefer pronouns are he/him/his. And what was the other question</p> <p>RS: Your gender identity, so you've covered all of it</p> <p>FB: Male</p> <p>RS: Yes. What year were you born?</p> <p>FB: 1953</p> <p>EWB: Where did you grow up?</p> <p>FB: I was born in Portland and I grew up in cape Elizabeth. So I'm a Maineiac.</p> <p>RS: Wow awesome!</p> <p>FB: And I went way for graduate school and came back So I have lived here most of my life.</p> <p>RS: You mentioned in the questionnaire growing up in a family that had tension along class lines. Could you tell me a little more about that?</p> <p>FB: Yes, my mother's family was upper middle class. Had some wealth and I guess social status. And my father's family was middle class, they were entrepreneurs and business owners and I remember lots of arguments between my parents about those class issues. For example my father said, my mother's name was Priscilla, oh Priscilla the only thing you had to worry about in the Depression was whether or not you had to let go of your maid. Things like that, that didn't register at the time, during my childhood. Then I realized there was a lot of resentment even though my father did not come from poverty, there were still class differences there. And my mother had a very different attitude towards money and social standing than my father did.</p> <p>RS: How do you think that affected you growing up?</p> <p>FB: Well, I think it made me feel guilty about having things to a certain extent. Guilt about not.... guilt about privilege and lots of different ways, again I didn't realize that as a child but later. I mean Cape Elizabeth is a very privileged community it's very..there are lot of non upper middle class folks there, wealthy folks there. The</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>Place</p> <p>Interviewers</p> <p>Frank Brooks</p> <p>Sexuality</p> <p>Gay Man</p> <p>Pronouns: He/Him</p> <p>Born in Portland</p> <p>1953</p> <p>Grew up in Cape Elizabeth</p> <p>Maine</p> <p>Class Tension</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Childhood</p> <p>Guilt</p> <p>Privilege</p> <p>Wealthy Environment</p> <p>Mostly white</p>
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<p>trend it towards white wealth. EWH: How did that... FB: Still is actually. EWH: Sorry. How did that kinda, make you approach your life differently, family life. You also mentioned having like a biracial son, a biracial relationship. FB: I became a social worker, which I think is a meld between being a professional and being a... serving vulnerable populations. I think my father was much more conscious of how poor people feared and how they... more social justice issues actually. Even though he was conservative partially. So I think I am in the middle of my parents with regards to that. My mother really wasn't.... she had pity for the poor and those kinds of issues but she didn't really understand it as a systemic problem. My... I think my father helped me understand that and it helped guide my professional choices although I have many many conflicts with my father. RS: What was it like coming out in 1978? FB: Actually you know what reflecting on that, it was hard. I was in a marriage, a heterosexual marriage. It was time of great conflict and it never occurred to me before I got married in a heterosexual marriage that could live openly gay. And then it was just a growing consciousness of what was going on with regard the beginning the very beginning of the LGBT -which actually was gay civil rights at the time in the late 70s. So when I read about.... the Harvey Milk assassination and all of those things it started to affect me differently. Especially after... so it's what happened was that the person I was married to and actually said Frank do you think you have sexuality issues? And I was resentful, I said well what do you mean no, because cus' I had spend my whole life not trying to figure that out and I didn't want to deal with it then. And I said well no and then I was talking to another friend who said, "well frank maybe there is something to this". We are always the last to know especially in the era. "I have a friend who is in the same situation as you and he was married in a heterosexual relationship. Was Coming to terms with being gay and was a parent like me and you might have something in common" and so we met and we did and then coincidentally a couple months later I happen to see him out on the town and we got together and had a very nice time together and I realized that oh I am gay and this can happen and then I started to get connected to the whole gay scene, whole gay male scene, the lesbian scene too, very lucky to have lots of support and loving lesbian friends. Then... 78, 79, 80. It was a process. EWH: Can you tell me about the community that you... the gay community at that time? FB: Yea it was very, exciting there was a lot going on. It was also very scary because it hard being open and out there. But I.. Through that friend I met Richard Steinman who taught here, in the Social Welfare department back in the 80s, 70s actually. He came here and he was a very strong gay activist and really helped radicalized and politicized me. It didn't take that much pulling but</p>	<p>Social Worker Father's influence</p> <p>mother</p> <p>Coming out in the 70's</p> <p>Heterosexual Marriage</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Awareness of the Gay rights movement</p> <p>Questioning Sexuality</p> <p>Gay Friendship</p> <p>Lesbian Friendship</p> <p>Richard Steinman</p> <p>Intro to Gay Activism</p> <p>Radicalization</p>
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<p>because I had been a progressive and worked on anti war movement all those things in the 70s but I hadn't been radicalized. I was like a suburban hippie anti war movement, you know, my kinda thing was we would go to anti war movements in your parents station wagon, I mean those kinds of conflicts and so I was not an SDS member. Maybe if I had lived in New York I would have been. But the point is we were doing the best we could but we weren't; well we weren't old enough either to understand the politics of power and all that was going on.</p> <p>RS: You said that it was scary, can you tell me some of the things that made it scary to be out then?</p> <p>FB: I remember being frightened walking into gay bars and being concerned wonder if someone saw you. It wasn't so much that they say me but that wonder if they did something about that, and taunted and or yelled. I been yelled at a couple of times but I know lots of people at that time were. Well still into the 2000s there have been attacks on people for a lot of different reasons. The other group that I belonged to right from the earliest LGBT parents group. At that time all the children that we were parenting came from heterosexual marriages and in there there were lots of people. There were lots of people who were having trouble with custody, who were being denied access to visitation with their children because they were LGB sometimes T but T wasn't there yet in our thinking or it was very isolated even more isolated and LGB parents were. So that parents group was very important and we did a lot of support of each other trying to get through these really nasty custody battles. At the some time the courts were ruling in favor more and more of especially lesbian mothers with regard to their right, parent rights to their children from either husbands or other male partners to prevent them from having influence on their children, access to their children. So that was an active group for a long time. I was interviewed for our paper that probably still somewhere in the archives about being a gay parent. That was exciting. Then I went back for, I had being the hippie anti establishment person that I was I really what I wanted to do when I first came to USM taking philosophy classes with Joe Grange- so funny the good thing about that was you could smoke in class then. So we were sitting around... it so unbelievable now when you think about it. But we were... that helped radicalized me too because Joe Grange introduced me to a whole series of conceptual frame works that I hadn't even considered. And um then... I was working and I came back in 1982 to get my BSW in the program that Richard was teaching in bachelors in social welfare and then I worked for two years in public child welfare all the time working on legislative efforts and political issues around civil rights protections because that was happening and then in the late mid late 90s and early 2000s you know all the referenda but Richard and I belonged to an LGBT social workers group and is a lot of interesting work there, we produced an LGBT annotated bibliography for the few films that were available that were relevant to social work education actually</p>	<p>Anti-war protests</p> <p>Fear Gay bars</p> <p>Fear of being seen</p> <p>Homophobia</p> <p>LGBT Parents Group</p> <p>Custody battles</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Gaining rights Access to children</p> <p>USM</p> <p>Philosophy</p> <p>Work in child welfare Legislative efforts civil rights</p> <p>LGBT Social Workers Group</p> <p>LGBT literature</p>
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<p>we expanded it to anyone who wanted any access to LGBT resources produced at so at that time there was no-the literature today is-incredibly-its huge it's gigantic and -we now have whole generations of LGBT scholars who are producing incredible work there was nothing in the late 70s early 80s there would be a breakthrough book every now and then you could go to a bookstore and find a shelf of LGBTQ books and well now-well you all know what it's like I think it's just amazing.</p> <p>EWH: how did the AIDS epidemic impact your life?</p> <p>FB: you know... it's so interesting because I'm thinking you know I'm 64 and I've been through a whole round of losing peers and Portland was not an epicenter of the epidemic - there were 5 gay boys who I knew about at cape Elizabeth high school. And I'm the only one alive. Two died of AIDS, one died of a tragic sepsis infection and the other died of unknown causes so it could be aids so 3 of the 5 of us I'm the only one alive out of that 2...2 or 3 year cohort. So two of those men died of AIDS. Both of them had moved from Portland to New York and San Francisco and became infected with HIV there and then came back towards the end of their lives and died here um but I remember I had a friend- this is totally illegal and HIPAA non compliant but I had a friend who followed the first HIV case at Maine med a man who had become HIV positive in Maine. And he worked at the hospital and of course he wasn't supposed to be telling anyone information about that but he did and so I could follow that case he eventually died because in the early parts of the early 80s probably 83/84 this is all chronicled too in that book on HIV and AIDS the AIDS project by um... I should have brought it with me. Anyway that -the first cases were- people were filled with terror because no one knew what was happening ...I had been again informed by Richard Steinman who went to the second national LGBTQ health conference... I think it was held in Philadelphia or Chicago -anyway so he came back and he said- this was in 1982- he said frank you have to understand that something terrible is going on and you absolutely need to think about this as a sexually transmitted infection... probably saved my life in many ways -he was the early warning person he was also very active with the aids project at the beginning as well as another social worker named Gary Anderson so we were all trying to do pre and post test counseling and ...if the epicenter of the big cities: New York, Chicago, LA, Miami, were like... probably the third concentric circle out so a lot of people came from those places back to Maine and then infections of people here started and I continued to volunteer at the aids project and deal with some of the losses although none of my inner circle was affected-did not die from it people who I knew acquaintances who I knew did. And there was a lot of controversy around ...public health efforts to try to reduce infection rates and promote safe sex there was a huge backlash against -you've probably heard of this- against closing the bathhouses and all of those things in the big cities it seem so incredible now-and the new york native was a paper in new york</p>	<p>Aids</p> <p>Losing peers</p> <p>Cape elizabeth high school</p> <p>Sole survivor</p> <p>First HIV case in Maine</p> <p>Terror</p> <p>Lack of knowledge</p> <p>Richard Steinman LGBTQ health conference</p> <p>Early warning about AIDS</p> <p>AIDs project</p> <p>Pre and post test counseling Volunteering at AIDs project</p> <p>Losses Promoting safe sex</p> <p>Backlash</p>
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<p>that did some really interesting investigative reporting but they contended that HIV did not cause aids. It was very controversial and if you see any of the documentaries on ACT up, and early aids intervention- the act up- you can hear and see and learn about those controversies. About what should people do act up was incredibly effective in getting the FDA to get rid of all the barriers around drug trials and all of that and if something worked and they stopped it and they gave it to everybody. If first it was blind clinical trials that... you might get the drug you might not. And that can go for certain length of time but you know people were dying by the thousands tens of thousands... I think New York's had half a million AIDS deaths. Half a million in that one city, it's incredible. Since the beginning.</p> <p>RS: how did that-</p> <p>FB: it was terrifying.</p> <p>RS: yeah</p> <p>FB: it was terrifying I oftentimes is would worry that I had become infected and you know you go through all these symptoms because nothing was known so you'd get a cough and you'd think oh my gosh its me. Even if I didn't have any risk factors. And then the other piece was of course was the nightmare that HIV had an incubation period. And so you could be infected with hiv and have no symptoms for 3 or 4 years and that's when the- I was doing research for Richard here in this library-which was over there and part of my job was to monitor the centers for disease control weekly reports called morbidity and mortality weekly report the MMWR and they were predicting in 1983 there would be 10000 hiv cases aids cases they were calling it aids hiv did not become used until-what, 84, 84? Anyway if was first HTLV and then it was hiv - and I said to Richard "that's ridiculous ...10,000 cases?" and then in 1985 there were 10,000 cases. And then there were 200, 000 cases. The rest is history but I remember that being terrified of who would be next.</p> <p>RS: and how did that change the gay community and the culture?</p> <p>FB: well, the problem from a social work practice point of view or from a social work perspective or from a progressive political perspective- you really - people who became infected became pariahs and the bad gays. to a certain extent- except for if you were working with aids. And I was so I saw the effects of that on people. And of course it brought out terrible terrible political and social repercussions from the radical right and religious folks who were saying: good gay men deserve to die and good this will get rid of them finally and all of that having to live through all of that. It wasn't until 1996 that the protease inhibitors came out. And so people had a chance to live. Before that people died. There are some long-term survivors- 3 percent maybe but it's not many-and I know several people who've lived with hiv for 30 years. And now with the protease inhibitors plus the huge progress the huge progress they've made since 96...you could now live with hiv as a chronic health issue. But many people I know died before 96 and</p>	<p>Controversy</p> <p>ACT up</p> <p>FDA</p> <p>Fear</p> <p>Fear of infection</p> <p>MMWR Morbidity and mortality weekly</p> <p>Disbelief at projected hiv tolls</p> <p>People with aids as pariahs</p> <p>Radical right and religious reaction</p> <p>Protease inhibitors</p> <p>Improvement of HIV treatment</p>
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<p>hose protease inhibitors did not help everybody in the beginning. Now they're much more effective. [00:22:22.10]</p> <p>FB: And the sooner you get on the prophylactic or I mean the antivirals the better off you'll be. I mean you can have PREP now that would prevent you from getting infected if you thought you might be. So that to me, you know.. This is all great new from a public health point of view but with regard to community, social... it was people with HIV infection, people with AIDs the people around them who could support them and love for them and care for them and be compassionate and then it seemed like there was everyone else.... And they, these people out here had mixed feelings about it.. But it was already a vulnerable oppressed very at risk population that then went through AIDS. And all the addiction issues and all those things that all oppressed groups do with their exacerbated a lot of the stress.</p> <p>EWH: Absolutely.</p> <p>FB: It was hard... it was an awful time actually. But there was also wonderful wonderful activity going on to try to make it bearable.</p> <p>EWH: Where were kinds of those things was it just your activist or was it..</p> <p>FB: So being part of that parents group. I was very.. We were all very motivated to try and help our children deal with this HIV, AIDs phenomenon because it was scary for them too. Dad does that mean you'll get AIDs and working through all of that e and trying to support each to get information and also support to be healthy and listen to safer sex messages and understand what the roots of transmission really were once those became evident. And once it because.. Once anal sex became the number one conduit of HIV into gay men's bodies the uses of prophylactics and condoms and all that even though it was controversial it was... you could do something about it. Either not engage in that sexual activity or use condoms. But at that time before 96 there was a high chance of infection if something happened to the condom. There was no prophylactic to take after or before for that matter. Now I talk too gay men whether or not take PREP. Not just because they want to engage in unprotected sex of any type actually but also should they just protect themselves period. I take meds some of which had side effects. So it a totally different world now. Plus I'm also in a very different I was in the height of my life social life and wanting to be social and wanting to connect with other gay men.</p> <p>EWH: Kinda changing topics, do you mind telling us a little but about your work on transgender issues?</p> <p>FB: Yea. So I have an interesting history with this. This is like a little anecdote. When I was in 6th or 7th grade was in children's theater in Portland and that was a no no if you were a heterosexual boy. But us gays boy liked it... I was there and there were two other gay boys I hung out with and we actually had a lot of fun. One of them recently died, they're both dead again my gosh I... its astounding. One of them name was Bobby Callahan we were all in middle school and so he had to leave theater because his sister</p>	<p>Division of the community</p> <p>LGBT parents group</p> <p>Children of queer parents Coping with AIDs</p> <p>Safe sex</p> <p>PREP</p> <p>Children's theatre</p> <p>Loss of peers</p>
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<p>lived in German and was in a terrible car accident so that ended that and I was like his understudy so I took over his part. The next time I saw Bobby Callahan was in a gay bar called the one way down on commercial street and union living as an openly trans woman. And I said bobby is that you because I had heard something about that, it was a wonderful reunion. So that was my first experience I didn't know that Bobby was trans in middle school, but I wasn't totally surprised either, it was just wonderful to see Bobby and so I've always made the connection between gender role non conforming behavior, being gay and being trans. My behavior was probably on the non-conforming continuum in school like that so I got crap for that. So I'm trying to connected this... I've always seen the overlap.. I think most gay and bi men and heterosexual men who are picked on, are picked on, bullied and physically attacked because of their gender role non conforming not because of their sexual orientation because who knows their sexual orientation. So a light bulb went off and then this is later when I was in practice in my MSW program, I wanted to go on and get my PHD in social work. So I was keeping up on the literature and all of that there was their wonderful book called death by denial. It was a study on suicide amongst young gay men, young gay and bi men. Gary Rebmefettie was a public health doc who put this book together and in in the book was their list of various risk factors for increased suicidal ideation and risk of suicide attempts. There are all the demographics including.... so there attemptor and non-attemptor. They are all gay and bi and lots of question about did you... are you out to your father are you out to your mother and all these things and attempters were less likely to be all of those things but down below that had administered the Bem androgyny scale and Sandra Bem did awesome androgyny scales back in the early 80s and they included those in this research study so they administered these and those boy and young men in this study who reported much higher feminine identified behavior from the Bem scales were 3X as likely to have attempted suicide. So that light bulb went off again I said I outta study that in my dissertation. I had to modify it a little bit, but what my dissertation was transgender behavior in boys, the social worker response. I didn't know or- the focus of my study was not whether the child identified as transgender but looking at the behavior and what are social workers.. How do social workers think of transgender behavior and what do they do with behavior like that if the kiddos that are working with are gender role non conforming it was that inclusion of set of questions in that list of factors That was a wonderful moment I didn't realize that at the time but that drove my research. Over time I just kept exploring this and I've always in my practice my clinical social work practice I've always dealt with, I've put myself out there are openly gay and open to LGBTQ communities and all that. A lot of people... I was in practice long enough that I got known as the professional homo counselor and social worker. A lot of trans people came to me, at the time it was</p>	<p>Trans friend</p> <p>Gender role nonconforming behavior</p> <p>Being targeted Homophobia</p> <p>Suicide in young gay and bi men</p> <p>LGBT Research</p> <p>Androgyny</p> <p>Dissertation</p> <p>Gender nonconforming behavior Research</p> <p>Social work with the</p>
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<p>very constricted these protocols from the world professional... towards transgender health you had to do all these things, which I actually never followed, and I also did not diagnose gender identity disorder unless I had to. And I could, you had to write letters, you had to do this you had to do that, none of that is actually necessary anymore except for usually in very kind of stolid medical communities docs that want to make sure they're covered now it's much easier because trans activists have really changed the whole scene so now trans people come to a person like me because they have psychological, emotional issues. Some of which are related to their trans experience some of it not separate from but maybe parallel to the medical conditions that they are dealing with with regards to gender dysphoria. That is a sea change, it used to be mental health providers were the gatekeepers had to write letters and you had to be adjusted and all this stuff it was quite awful actually now that doesn't exist as much. It exists some places and some people want that. They want to make sure they are making the right decision and there are sorts of tools to help folks with that. Now there's a gender clinic Maine med in Barbara Bush hospital Jerry Olshan is a pediatric endocrinologist. They have 100 kids in that clinic. And so they are dealing with these issues in childhood almost all the folks I dealt with at the beginning of my practice were adults young adults who have suffered through puberty and all those changes that were so painful until that could get to over 18 and out of their homes into college in to supportive environments where they could act on that gender dysphoria or try to resolve it. It is different world now and that's a good thing. And so my work has always been.. Oh we also have gender expression inclusion in the Maine human rights act one of six or seven states that have that which is good so you can be... I just read about a case I think someone who was going through transition and was fired and took their case to the Maine human rights commission and they have repress. That's all good that's been in the law for ten years now. EWH: You said you wanted to know more about Jean Vermettie? FB and RS: Oh Jean Vermette. EWH: Sorry. Did you work together or? FB: Yes, Jean Vermette was... single handed for a long time in the late 80s early 90s single handedly did most of the trans education issue, education on Maine. She and PJ Mears, who was a trans man often did that together and pretty much covered the state. At all of conferences and all the symposiums and all those things Jean was always there and she did wonderful training and she's her own person and she not a character if you know what I mean by that, but she's very out there and direct and knows how to do really good training for professionals and social service providers. Jean from the very early on was saying this is not rocket science you don't need to have to go to an endocrinologist in Maine especially Jean P family practice and general practice people need to know these protocols and plus it would be so much easier for trans folks to get this though family practice or family practitioner.</p>	<p>LGBTQ community</p> <p>Working with trans people</p> <p>Trans healthcare</p> <p>Progress</p> <p>Barriers for trans people</p> <p>Trans children</p> <p>Trans rights</p> <p>Jean vermette</p> <p>Trans education</p> <p>Transitioning</p>
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<p>She was way ahead of everybody else, and she still lives in Bangor but Jean rightly had to take a step back from all of that because it was taking most of her life. She wondering and she wrote an incredible story called *French Title* all about in very detailed in a very detailed way her gender affirmation surgery, gender reassignment surgery it was called back then. I highly recommend it, that in the archives too. I don't know why I keep recommending things to you you're just interviewing me. You may or may not be interested in all these other things but Jean was pioneer, that why I tied it to the trans issues, she helped me tremendously understand what, what it was like to be trans.</p>	<p>MLGPA</p>
<p>RS: Did she train you? FB: Yes, well yes. We worked together a lot through MLGPA, which is now Equality Maine. All those things if I was working on a conference program we'd always make sure Jean was part of that so I learned a lot from her both personally and in professional settings, sure. Absolutely.</p>	<p>Symposia</p>
<p>[00:37:44.00] RS: What kinda things did you do together that MLGPA? FB: Well we did symposia together and I always attended those, those went from the early 70 through the early 90s with some revivals every now and then where the symposia would be held. I always called on her in my practice to give me a referral for someone that was in some rural area. She was very very open to that. Another pioneer is Bobby Kemple around bi-sexuality issues; we'd talk about that, lives right in Maine.</p>	<p>LGBT candidates</p>
<p>EWH: Wonderful FB: Yea Jean Vermette is... she used... she's one of the unsung heroes. She does.. She did get some recognition but not enough.</p>	
<p>EWH: What about election LGBT candidates? FB: Yea. EWH: Who were they? Did you ever run their campaigns? FB: Yes I voted for a lot of them. I remember Karen Graettie, Peter Donnelly, Barb Wood they were all on Portland city council. I would... and I suppose all the legislative agenda including candidates that equality Maine would endorse sometime I'd work on those campaigns. I work on all the referendum campaigns those were endless. So we would just win one and then we'd have to fight another and loose that and then fight another one so it was amazing so I was always active in all of those.</p>	<p>Campaign work Referenda</p>
<p>EWH: Do you want to tell me some of them? RS: Maybe describe one in detail or something? EWH: Yea. FB: Yea, oh Kathy Remle and I.... oh there was.... I was involved in a court case to... back in the 90s..... There was a referendum to I think it was probably to repeal the Maine human rights sections that protected people on sexual orientation. The opposition which was lead by the Maine Christian Civic League and some other politics conservatives They were... they were gather signatures to try to do a repeal or to bring forward a question that that would</p>	<p>Christian Civic League Petitions</p>

<p>deny LGBT people rights, so anyway. What we did, we were part of the group that went over the petitions that they had found lot of discrepancies in, duplications, lots of mistakes in the petitions an so Kathy Remle and I just named as plaintiffs. They need someone to put it into court, so the court reviewed all of that. We did not prevail, that was very disappointing and I remember being interview for that, that the courts in Maine are very loath nixing referendum questions first of all much less take a look at all of the they weren't willing to take a look at the duplications and all the mistakes that were made. It was a strategy that we took to try to get the petition the signature thrown out at the secretary's states office but the courts ruled in their favor. We weren't surprised because they don't like to interfere with people's referenda and the process of government.. So that was just one, I there that had been six and were always active in getting up the vote organizing the community around supporting the campaigns. It did just seem like one endless campaign. And of course supporting financially and doing all that we could so the were two send of referenda the ones about the civil rights protections which finally became law 2007. The Maine humans rights act amendments and then the marriage and the anti marriage referendum. We lost half of them anyway. Then finally in 2012 the Maine voters passed same sex marriage by popular vote... that was a good night. But by then you know I was on the board of MLGPA when it first beginning in the mid 80 MLGPA was established after the murder of Charlie Howard who was the young man throw off the bridge who was gender role non conforming in his presentation which made him a prime target and after a year after that I remember being at first marriage church on congress street and being really frightened to get, we all got together to try to support each other after this murder. Realizing when I came out that I was afraid, I'm afraid that someone could do the same to me or to someone I cared about around me. That was very motivating for me to keep. Yea. Did I answer that? EWH and RS: Yea. FB: Did I describe.. I described it in general terms because it feels... I can't even remember all the different issues. Like those petitions were they for we they to prevent a question what was for or against us I mean. For some repressive or oppressive legislation or to repeal something on people's veto or something. I'd have to review all that history. RS: I think I read something in an old MLGPA newsletter about you helping people register civil partnerships? FB: Yes. RS: Could you tell me about that? FB: There was a movement in Maine to get civil partnerships and that was successful and so my partner and I registered our relationship with the city of Portland and you could also register. The city of Portland passed that easily, so that the city of Portland you could register but at the state you could so yes I was involved in that too I had forgotten about that part. Yes and so we would</p>	<p>Court battles Civil rights Same sex marriage MLGPA board member Charlie Howard Referenda confusion civil partnerships Registering civil partnerships</p>
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<p>encourage people just to get the number up in regard to that. That all seems so ancient now, domestic partnerships almost quaint, but because they would never equal to marriage. But my partner and I have you know have problem with marriage for other reasons. The institution of marriage anyway. The civil right issues were clear, civil projections... And I was on the board on the MCLU with which is now the ACLU of Maine and worked on wonderful project called the workplace equity project, which we received a small grant to do work with employers on how they could, -this was after the defeat of the one of the referendum that would have protected us through the Maine human rights act in employment so this was specifically called the workplace equity project and it was specifically designed to help employers who wanted to do the right thing even though they didn't have to legally and that was fascinating work that was 1993 and 4 after one of those defeats. Yes I'm still angry with Angus King because he put the legislation passed Maine Human rights acts protection for us and Angus King, this was the time, '92 said he wouldn't sign it unless it went out to referendum and of course we lost. I'm still angry with him that's 25 years ago. I tried I'm trying to forgive and then forget. If he hadn't done that, sign it into law we wouldn't have gone through everything after that.</p> <p>RS: Referendums [00:47:27.16]</p> <p>FB:Yea, so that was. Who would have expected it from Angus King. But we worked on that campaign to try and get it passed, the get referendum passed and we lost that was when the workplace equity project came up. We were less sophisticated by 2012 for sure. Had a great operation by then with leaders and those folks and understanding how to raise real money and all of those kinds of things which we did on a much lower level That is a whole other set of issues about money raising in politics.</p> <p>EW: Understandable for sure. You mentioned both Ogunquit and Provincetown in the 80s as both important places and communities.</p> <p>FB: Yea.</p> <p>EW: Can you tell me about those spaces?</p> <p>FB: Ogunquit was always known as a place you could go and be different. And so after I can out, I actually remember going to Ogunquit beach with a bunch of gay men for the first time and feeling very awkward because here we were out and public. It was so much fun. Ogunquit always intrigued me and it was a central part of the social scene. P Town was like Ogunquit cubed and I had a lot of fun in Ogunquit I mean P Town too. Just being in a totally LGBTQ affirming community. Yea and Socially and politically they are just important places. Ogunquit managed to raise money for political issues even though well both Pea Town and Ogunquit despite there being, it all about being on vacation, sex, drugs, rock n' roll, which that was not my scene after the early 80s at all. Because I think boy tap into some of those resources without all of the diversions we would be quite remarkable. It's hard to organize</p>	<p>MCLU board member</p> <p>Workplace equity project</p> <p>Angus king</p> <p>Anger</p> <p>Ogunquit Place to be out</p> <p>Provincetown Affirming LGBTQ space</p>
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<p>people around P Town and Ogunquit because you are there to have fun so anyway.</p> <p>RS: Could you tell me a story about one of those places? Like a memory, you kinda already did but..</p> <p>FB: I have an international story that I can tell you, I had.... I was at... I was at Maine Street or whatever it was then and people would... we'd all socially as young gay men and think about and sometime young lesbians but usually it was gay men, think about what we'd do for on a Saturday night. Would we go all the to Ogunquit, down to Ogunquit and do all up that. I went with a friend to Boston quite a few times and we had a really good time and with Ogunquit we would go and dance. I met a wonderful person from Sherbrooke, Quebec who could bare speak english and we had a great time and realized I thought oh... it's so incredible that people conceptualize being gay on an individual level you condemning individuals when cross culturally there are LGBTQ everywhere and it's just mind boggling to be just how long it taken people to realize that and so that my international connection I thought Oh. I had another Canadian that was with Richard Steinman we went over Fredericton New Brunswick, which still has elm trees its beautiful. Some of the cross cultural differences of being gay and catholic churches influences in certain and how that lead to closeted that was a long time ago, closeted lives. So people could be gay in weekends in gay bars and then go back to another life. That true everywhere but they were interesting inter cultural four-ways for me. And that was an Ogunquit story, so Ogunquit had an aura around it when I was younger. It hard to remember now it really did but so did Boston and New York. Boston especially because they had such a huge gay community it has a huge gay recovery community, I'm in recovery from Alcoholism since 1982. So that's really why my focus on bars changed and we would go to Boston to LGBT recovery conferences and there would just be 1000s of people there, it was thrilling. So that really helped so focus of my life has been services to the LGBT community both politically and through my practice and now that I'm teaching trying to integrate LGBT issues into the curriculum. There was one other thing. Politically supporting LGBTQ candidates and political movements are much as I can.</p> <p>EWH: You've talk about in this interview about some pretty transformative kind of moments but is there one that can you really pinpoint to wow this really changed me as... your gay identity or as a gay man or just in general?</p> <p>FB: Did you say MSW?</p> <p>EWH: Sorry sorry just like a transformative kind moment for you?</p> <p>FB: I think ... well my first adult sexual experience was transformative not because of the sex but because of what it meant and the fact that two men could be together and probably have a relationship in a healthy manor was transformative. SO on a personal level the intimacy and including sexual intimacy was absolutely transformative, it changed me overnight. That for sure.</p>	<p>Memories of Ogunquit</p> <p>Queerness as cross-cultural</p> <p>Closeted lives</p> <p>Gay recovery communities Service to the community</p> <p>LGBT inclusive curriculum</p> <p>First adult sexual experience</p> <p>Intimacy</p> <p>Conferences</p>
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<p>Then the political and social transformations were slower. They were slower. But when I went to... I mentioned a recovery conference in Boston in 83 I walked into this room with 1000s people there that transformed me. Oh I Forgotten before that I had been to several AIDs related conferences in Boston and that transformed me activist wise because it was so organized and so well done I thought oh again you we can do this in Maine too. It will be different and on a smaller scale but that was how I learned how to do that and be in support of it, that was transformative too. The transformation over the parenting was I just thought my being gay would just hurt my child my son but I've let go of that. But that was a slower process. That Gay LGBT are psychologically and emotionally healthy just trying to deal with the effect homophobia heterosexism transphobia, that's the issue. Those are the issues not the individuals.</p> <p>EWH: Absolutely.</p> <p>RS: So you're a teacher, how is it working LGBT issues into the curriculum for social work? What's that like and how's it been going?</p> <p>FB: Well Richard Steinman actually the first LGBT studies course in northern new england in the early 80s and after I got my MSW I thought, co-taught that with another faculty member after Richard had retired. The council on social work education and the national association of social workers are incredibly supportive LGBT efforts to both at the national association of social workers at the profession level to integrated LGBTQ issues and LGBTQ people and social workers into practice and the council on social work education has tried to catch up to NASW but they are very much behind. There's a council, I served on the council on sexual orientation, gender expression for six years which was the council that brought forward different initiatives that the council on social work education could do to approve LGBTQ inclusion, including it to the curriculum. Because the council on social work education which is the accrediting body for all the social work education programs across the country, has standards and one of the social inclusion and that includes LGBTQ folks sexual orientation and gender expression and there are standards by which schools of social work have to be inclusive and infuse, that a term they use infusion, infuse the course work with those issues so some school are really great at it other schools aren't. You won't find LGBTQ case study in lots of schools of social work. It other you will from lots and some, some more now more programs now have LGBTQ courses clinical courses, which is good. I'm teaching one in a month as a matter of fact, it great. It is wonderfully interesting and it allows me to bring in all the policy practice that miro, macro. mezzo issues all together it forms social workers, future social workers.</p> <p>EWH: Wonderful.</p> <p>FB: The council on social work education is incredibly important in that the effort to bring that in. NASW policy statements have been there since the mid 70s affirming LGBTQ it has a policy statement</p>	<p>Being a gay parent</p> <p>LGBTQ studies</p> <p>Social work education</p> <p>Integrating LGBTQ issues</p> <p>Council on sexual orientation</p> <p>LGBTQ Inclusion in curriculum</p> <p>LGBTQ courses</p> <p>Council on social work education</p>
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<p>on sexual orientation, lesbian, gay, bisexual issues and then a separate on transgender issues. They are both impressive and they have both been done recently, I use that in my teaching.</p> <p>RS: We've got about 15 minutes left.</p> <p>FB: Have I talked that much?</p> <p>RS: It goes by fast.</p> <p>FB: Yea it does. Your questions are good.</p> <p>RS: Is there anything else that you wanted to talk about?</p> <p>FS: I was thinking about my personal experiences working in social work parts the miro experiences the community around here experiences and then the Macro experiences which tend to be narrow in scope so I was trying to stay plugged into all those levels. I have had a great social work career; I've been really lucky because I learned I could do training and education. I didn't know that at the beginning of my career and my, the focus of my life actually profession life has been around LGBTQ issues and that I'm lucky. I'm one of many many LGBTQ social work practitioners some are just scholars and are producing this huge literature I was talking about which is fantastic. I just got a brand new book social work practice with LGBTQ people edited by Michael Dentado it's just fantastic I mean I could teach my whole course on it but there have been some books before that two or three that are outstanding and this just just broadened the literature just for social work education. There is a very active wonderful group in the American Psychological association that does incredible work Division 44 it's called. They do amazing work, Doug Kimmel... so I'm on the SAGE Maine board now, which is service, and advocate for LGBTQ Elders. Doug Kimmel who founded that SAGE national office in New York many years ago moved to Maine, lives in Hancock, Maine. He just resigned as executive director of SAGE Maine but he was one of the founding board members. The other thing I think about it this whole life span for school age children to adolescence to young adults too middle adults to older adult LGBT issue and how well they are being researched now crosses that whole life span, life course. I'm interested in it all, I'm lucky; I'm interested in practice, individuals and families, and groups although my practice is very small now and I love policy. So I've been lucky to have those two pools of interest... I don't think I have anything else. I appreciate my kiddo my son is now 41 years, has a 5 year old daughter, they live in Philadelphia and he was really much more comfortable with my being gay before I was with him. So that another set of issues would I have had a child had everything happened 15 years earlier you know that happened later. I don't know I might have with a male partner later but it wouldn't have been this particular kiddo. It's been an interesting life. Then there is all the cultural musical stuff that we... I haven't really been talked about it just really been focusing on political social.</p> <p>RS: You could do a whole other interview.</p> <p>FB: Yes.</p> <p>RS: You are allowed to do that.</p>	<p>Social work career</p> <p>LGBT social work literature</p> <p>SAGE Maine</p> <p>Social work practice and policy</p> <p>Son</p> <p>Loss of peers</p>
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FB: Yea. I'm not the most active person there are a lot of people who have so much cultural and what... experience in Maine and the LGBTQ. But I was profoundly moved I was telling my partner yesterday. Out of those 5 gay boys I am the only one left. It's just stunning to be I'll have to write about it. It just hit me. Wow. What an experience and I'm just one person in a small town in Maine. And it was all serendipity but we were all in those places at the same time in the same place and we knew each other so... anyway.

RS: Great.

EWH: We appreciate your time.

FB: So what's going to happen to these things? They're gonna get transcribed and?....

RS: Yes

FB: You're going to be looking at themes and patterns.

[01:04:37.07]

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