

Interview Transcript

Narrator: Jean Vermette

Interviewers: Annie Holland, Olivia Tryon-Nadeau

Transcript	Indexing/Coding
Annie: So today is November 19th, 2016. We are in the Glickman Library at the University of Southern Maine. My name is Annie Holland, spelled a-n-n-i-e h-o-l-l-a-n-d.	Date Location Interviewer
Olivia: My name is Olivia Tryon-Nadeau, o-l-i-v-i-a t-r-y-o-n-n-a-d-e-a-u	Interviewer
A: And today we are interviewing Jean Vermette. Jean could you please spell your name?	Narrator
Jean: my name is spelled j-e-a-n v as in Victoria e-r-m-e-t-t-e.	
A: And also your age if you don't mind.	Age
J: My age is 62 at this time.	
A: All right, so we figured to start off if it's all right with you we would just like to get some background information, like family, childhood, your identity, things like that.	Background information
J: Oh, I'm supposed to speak. (laughter)	
A: Yes if you want.	
J: Ah, family, grew up in Maine, my parents were from Aroostook County, both from Caribou, my grandparents were from Caribou. My great-grandparents were from Quebec Province. I grew up in Skowhegan, and I identify as a woman, and as female. I was born a male, what else did you want to know?	Maine Aroostook County Caribou Quebec Skowhegan Woman, female Birth, male
Family?	
A: Yes, family, childhood.	
J: Five brothers and sisters, I was the first, first born. My parents were French-Canadian Roman Catholic so I had the experience of being the "first born son" from a large French Canadian Catholic family. That gave me a certain amount of privilege and responsibilities because I was the one who got, you know, the special school and all that kind of stuff. It was a happy childhood, my parents were kind they were nice they were loving, they were beautiful people and they were good parents, and my siblings and I all get along very well together, we like to be together, enjoy our company, enjoy each other's company. We	Family French-Canadian Roman Catholic, spirituality First born Privilege Happy childhood Parents Siblings

<p>grew up in, I was born in 1954 so I guess you would say we grew up in pretty much the 60s and the 70s in Skowhegan and that was a pretty, a time of social upheaval in the country with all the 60s and 70s and the Vietnam War and the sexual revolution and all that kind of thing that was going on. Our family had as much upheaval as most of the other families, but we got through it okay. All my siblings are still alive, both of my parents are gone, and that's where I've run out of things to say if there's anything else you'd like me to add. (laughter)</p> <p>O: You mentioned special schooling in the beginning, about being the oldest.</p> <p>J: Well first of all in 1st grade and 2nd grade we were in parochial school with the nuns, because my folks wanted us to be quite Catholic. And my dad was a dentist so he had probably at the time probably not as much income as, as after he'd been practicing for 60 years, but still you know essentially he was a doctor in town and so he had a little more income that was disposable and he decided to put it towards Catholic education, our education at a Catholic school let's put it that way. And also included weekly Catholic catechism classes in Skowhegan. But for 1st and 2nd grade we went to, me and my brother, went to Mount Merici which was the first Ursuline Catholic nun school in Waterville so that was a half hour drive each way every day. And after that, we were in Skowhegan school system until like high school and then I and one of my brothers was sent to Waterville again to a private school called Coburn Classical Institute, which had originally been founded in the late 1800s essentially as a prep school for the children of Colby College professors, and we ended up going there, I was there for 3 years, my brother was there for 1 year, he didn't like it so he went back to Skowhegan, but I loved it. It was a very liberal school, and very open and very sort of free-range kind of thing. School, I hated school, I hated all my schooling, it was dull, only not because, because I found it dull and boring it was not a challenge to me, I was always on the</p>	<p>Born 1954</p> <p>Growing up, 1960s and 70s</p> <p>Skowhegan</p> <p>Social upheaval</p> <p>Vietnam War, sexual revolution</p> <p>Family upheaval</p> <p>Siblings: alive</p> <p>Parents: dead</p> <p>Special schooling</p> <p>Parochial school</p> <p>Father, occupation: dentist</p> <p>Financial stability</p> <p>Reputation</p> <p>Catholic education</p> <p>Skowhegan</p> <p>Mount Merici</p> <p>Waterville</p> <p>Skowhegan school system</p> <p>Coburn Classical Institute, Waterville</p> <p>Prep-school</p> <p>Skowhegan</p> <p>Liberal school</p> <p>School, lack of interest</p>
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<p>honor roll, I didn't have any problems I always you know, but it was just like okay, do this and then go do something else because this is not fun, not interesting, but I but I kept my nose to the grindstone and sort of did what was expected in terms of having the proper grades in school because my parents were like you know, you can do better than B, you should be doing A, if it was an A, well you should be doing A+ and that kind of thing. And I gave that to them they wanted it I gave that to them it wasn't any trouble for me, I didn't find it to be any exertion on my part really. But school was just not interesting or exciting. So after 3 years of going to school at Coburn Classical Institute, what happened, this is kind of interesting because the school at the time, and this was just before I identified as, I mean I knew when I was 3 that I was different, that I was transgender, but I didn't have a word for that because in 1957 the word transgender probably didn't even exist, but, so through all of this I mean I knew that I was transgender, but this was sort of pre any expression of that, pre any knowledge of how to handle that sort of thing. So after 3 years at Coburn, what happened was Coburn Classical Institute was essentially prep-school for liberal arts college professor's kids, and it had all of the kids it needed to run, but it didn't have any money (laughter) it was poor school, and nearby was another school called Oak Grove, which essentially was a finishing school for the girls of wealthy parents (laughter) And they had a lot of money, but they didn't have any kids. So the two schools decided well, we have the kids, you have the money, why don't we merge? So they took this very liberal school and tried to merge it with a very conservative, you know school, and that was my third year in high school when that happened, and it was chaos. Everybody was fighting, I mean the two different teaching staffs were fighting, the administration, the head co-principles, they had two principles, one from each right, and they were fighting, parents were fighting, kids were fighting, and it was like this is not a good situation. But I looked at the end of my third</p>	<p>Honor roll</p> <p>School grades Expectations of parents</p> <p>Academic talent</p> <p>Coburn Classical Institute</p> <p>Identity Felt "different" since age 3 Transgender</p> <p>Coburn Classical Institute</p> <p>Prep-school, liberal</p> <p>Low socioeconomic status Oak Grove High socioeconomic status</p> <p>Merging of Oak Grove and Coburn Classical Liberal, conservative</p> <p>Chaos: 3rd year of high school Conflict: administrators, parents, and kids</p>
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<p>year, I looked at my credits and I had enough credits to graduate except for one, so I went to my parents and said look I've got enough credits to graduate, can I just leave because this is not a happy place now. And they said well, go ask the school if that's okay, and so I went to the headmaster of the school at the time and said well I've got enough credits to graduate except for one, and I could do that over the summer so I said can I graduate? And he said well, are you going on to college? And I said no (laughter) And he said well then you can't graduate because a certain percentage of our students go on to college and if you go, and if you leave and don't go on to college that brings the percentage down and makes us look bad. I said okay, screw you! I didn't say that, but that's what I thought. So I chatted with one of the professors there at school, and I said well this is the situation. I have enough credits to graduate except for one to meet my minimum state requirements. Will you give me you know, classes over the summer by email, by mail, we didn't have email then, you know by mail? He said sure, sure and so my parents, I was able to convince my parents said okay, you have to do this over the summer, you have to you know graduate, or you have to get enough credits to graduate, and we'll let you do that but you have to tell us what you plan to do, you can't just leave. So okay, so I had to work up a plan. At the time, I had been working in professional theater every summer for probably 6 years at that point. I had started when I was like 12 and then it was a professional Summer Stock Theater right in our town so I had gravitated towards that, it made me feel very grown up because I was like 12 or 14 and everyone else there was like college kids, okay, you know. So my plan was I wanted to do theater work, as a profession at that time. So I worked up an entire, you know, developed an entire plan of what I would study you know architecture, art design, lighting, blah, blah, blah. And I would have to get my high school diploma because they weren't going to let me leave unless I got my diploma. So I made this agreement with</p>	<p>Credit to graduate</p> <p>Graduation, dropping out</p> <p>Meeting with headmaster</p> <p>Summer school, graduation College plans</p> <p>Reputation of school Anger</p> <p>Meeting with professor</p> <p>Summer classes by mail</p> <p>Approval</p> <p>Future plans</p> <p>Summer professional theater work</p> <p>Summer Stock Theater</p> <p>Feelings of maturity</p> <p>Future profession, theater</p> <p>Self-schooling, lesson plan</p> <p>Diploma</p> <p>Approval</p>
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<p>my professor, with one of the professors, and there was like a 600 page book that had to be read, there was a workbook that had to be done, and there was, he wanted a paper from me every week over the summer, and if I could do all those things, you know, I think it was English literature or something was the last class I needed to graduate. If I could do all those things I would get a good grade. So I agreed, but then what happened was when the school year was over, from the time the school year was over until the time the summer theater season began when I was going to be working was like 2 weeks, and I knew that once the summer theater season began I was not going to have any time because they were essentially 80 hour weeks at the theater. So in two weeks, I read the 600 page book, I wrote 6 papers, 6 or 8 papers, I did the workbook, and just sorted stashed them away and then every week I sent an installment to the professor, and at the end of the summer he said okay you got an A, blah, blah, blah, and that was sort of you know my whole experience through school, you know, I could do this work quickly, why are you making me take 9 months to you know study this history or that history or math or whatever, I could do that in about 3 weeks. So at that point, I had the required credits to graduate from high school, but I still didn't have a high school diploma because the school wasn't giving it to me. So my parents said okay what are you going to do, I said don't worry I'll handle it. So I went to the Skowhegan High School, which is where all my brothers and sisters had gone, and I had gone to the Skowhegan school system's schools until high school. And I went to the adult education person there and I said look, here's the situation. My parents want me to have my high school diploma, and so I need to, you know and I've dropped out of school after my third year, and I'd like to graduate. He said okay, let's look at your credits. So we looked at them and he said well, you have enough credits to graduate, I said well I know that. He said well, we can't just give you a diploma,</p>	<p>Summer school, requirements</p> <p>English literature</p> <p>Summer commitments</p> <p>More than full-time work</p> <p>Highly motivated to complete requirements</p> <p>Completion of course</p> <p>Academic talent</p> <p>Graduation requirements</p> <p>Denial of diploma</p> <p>Skowhegan High School</p> <p>Diploma</p> <p>Graduation</p>
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<p>you've got to do something for it. I said okay, so I took a woodworking class for 6 weeks, and then they gave me my high school diploma, and then I was off on my own after that. So that was sort of my schooling. But as I said, I had started working in the summers in professional repertory theater. When I was, I was exposed to it at 12 and then I started working there at the age of 14, so I had been working for 5 or 6 years already, and that's sort of where I was, the direction I was heading in for a profession, professional theater, setting, lighting, designing.</p> <p>A: So how did you get involved with the theater, did somebody kind of like take you there and then you just liked it?</p> <p>J: Ah it was sort of an accident. I got involved with the theater because one year when I was 12 years old, the and I had never done theater, seen theater, had any interest in theater, really at that point. The professional repertory theater company and actually its called Lakewood Theater near Skowhegan, they were doing a play, obviously, and they needed a dog in the play, but they needed a big dog and so they started asking around, who in town has a big dog? Well we had Saint Bernard's and so someone came down, chatted with my mom and said well, can we borrow one of your Saint Bernard's for the show? And mom said sure, go ahead. And he looked at the dog and said can we borrow someone to take care of it? And that was me because I was the oldest. So I got to go up with the Saint Bernard, made sure he pooped and pissed before he got on stage, and then every night you know, I would simply hand the dog to the actor, he would walk on stage, everybody would laugh, he would walk out the other door and take the leash and blah, blah, blah. Well part of this show, so I was sort of just standing around backstage, seeing everything from back stage. And part of this show was, I can't even remember the name of it, but at one point in the show, this guy is supposed to run through the back door of the house and trip on something on the porch and the whole porch collapses on top of him and everybody laughs</p>	<p>Woodworking class Receiving diploma Independence</p> <p>Summer theater work for 6 years</p> <p>Future profession</p> <p>Involvement with theater</p> <p>Lakewood Theater, Skowhegan Play, dog required</p> <p>Family dog, borrowed for play</p> <p>Caretaker for dog</p> <p>Involvement in play</p> <p>Back stage experience</p> <p>Play details</p>
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<p>its a big comedy right. So the guy comes running out, the stage manager goes, "now!" and some guy releases a rope and something comes down and somebody throws over a ladder that's full of junk that makes a lot of noise, the whole audience laughs, and I go well this is great! This is what I want to do, and that's sort of how I got sucked into it.</p> <p>A: Did you continue to pursue your studies in theater after you dropped out of school?</p> <p>J: Oh yeah, after I left school I had a year. My folks, I said I want a year off to just study. They said fine. I was home but I just went to every library, I went to Colby college, at that time when I was Colby college age, everybody just thought I was a student, nobody had ID's or anything then. So I walked into classrooms, sat down, listened, and you know I would go into the library, take out a book, they had a computer center, "computer center" then, which was you know the keyboards with the carts, and they had one printer for like 20 keyboards and everybody had to share, that kind of thing. I would walk in and just kind of look over people's shoulders see what they were doing and I'd go sit down try some of it myself. Nobody asked me a thing, I'd walk in the language labs and say oh I need tape number 2 on French 101, okay here you go. I just kind of like hung out around that area, and then I did a lot of my own study, remember I had come up with a list of things I had wanted to study, architecture, art, design, costuming and lighting, history, you know all of that I figured I was going to need. So basically I just spent the year, literally you know reading and studying on my own, and it was, it wasn't a year of slacking off because I would spend like 8 or 10 hours a day reading books and studying, things like that. I taught myself drafting, and of course then it was hand drafting because they didn't have the CAD programs. And just, did what I could do. Does that answer that question?</p> <p>A: Yeah. So then after that year, what happened? Did you start working in a different theater, or did you continue to work the summers at the Lakewood theater?</p>	<p>Reaction to play Enjoyment Interest in theater work Continuation of studies</p> <p>One year, self-schooling</p> <p>Library, Colby College</p> <p>Audited classes at Colby</p> <p>Books Computer center</p> <p>Used Colby resources</p> <p>Independence, studies</p> <p>Courses</p> <p>Self-schooling: 1 year Discipline</p> <p>Self-taught</p> <p>Theater work</p>
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<p>J: Well, I continued working Summer Stock at Lakewood for a while, and then I went to this other theater called the Theater Monmouth, here in Maine, which was the Shakespearian theater at the time. I spent a summer there, which was very, I can't say it was difficult in terms of work, but it was very, very long hours because just the way it was arranged. There were basically 3 technicians, I was a technician, so help put up the lights, build the sets, run the show, blah, blah, blah, wasn't doing any designing at that time. And there were like 3 of us who were technicians, and someone hadn't quite figured out the scheduling correctly so that what happened was we would build sets all day or whatever and then all of the people who were working during the day, all the actors and stuff would go home, relax, and then the lighting designer would come in and keep us up until 1 o'clock in the morning because he's been sleeping all day. So then he'd come in at night so we were essentially working you know 16 hours a day, and so in that respect it was very difficult and there was a lot of emotional upheaval for a while until we sort of revolted and said we're not doing this anymore. But, so it was a good year and that was the year I learned to understand spoken Shakespeare because we were listening to it every day you know, and there were really nice, fine actors who were doing the shows so they really you know put their best into it and made it, when you're just exposed to it like that it becomes very easy to understand what they're saying and what's going on. So, and then after that went back to Lakewood for a year or two, for a season or two and then there was another theater, this theater in Bangor, it was called at the time the Acadia Repertory Theater but now its Penobscot Theater, and they had a summer season. They were starting their second, no it was like their third summer season and they were starting their second winter season, so I arranged to go work with them for the summer, which was down on Mount Desert Island, and I was doing the setting, lighting, and design for them and then I went over to</p>	<p>Lakewood Theater, continued work</p> <p>Theater Monmouth Shakespeare Summer work</p> <p>Long hours</p> <p>Job title – technician Backstage work</p> <p>Over-scheduled</p> <p>Difficulties, long hours Emotional upheaval Revolt</p> <p>Shakespeare</p> <p>Knowledge through exposure</p> <p>Lakewood Theater</p> <p>Acadia Repertory Theater, Bangor Penobscot Theater</p> <p>Summer work, Mount Desert Island Backstage work</p>
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the winter and I was basically working with them summer winter for I think like 3 years or so. And during that time, I had somehow in all of this, what happened was when I was, one year when I was working at Lakewood, the lighting designer and I were sitting around chatting and he said, "gosh, wouldn't it be great if we had an electrical license because then when we went on tour, we wouldn't have to hire somebody to connect up the machines and stuff, we could just do it ourselves". And I said yea wouldn't that be great. So during the wintertime when the summer season wasn't going on, I had started working with a local electrician towards getting an electrical license. So by the time I had come up to working with the Acadia Rep in Bangor I had a license. And I used it, I mean obviously it was a good selling point when I wanted to get employed, by the way I have a master license, master electrician blah, blah, blah, oh, come right in. So I had, it helped me to get work, and it kept me busy, but after like 11 or 12 years of doing theater work, I kind of assessed where I was, you know, and what I was, where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do and then I realized that theater work didn't pay very well (laughter). So I was essentially working 80 or 100-hour weeks for less than minimum wage. I thought well, I really enjoy this, but A) it's not paying me enough money to live and B) because of the way the summer and winter seasons were scheduled, you'd have the winter season then you'd have like 2 months off and then the summer season and then 1 month off. Well in that 2 months and 1 month, you really didn't have any time to go out and get other work because who wants to hire you for 1 month or 2 months? So it meant that I was stuck with you know the theater and I didn't have any other time or other ability to go out and earn other money. So I had a friend who lived in Bangor area whose family owned a telephone company. And it was called the Hampden Telephone Company and it was the Gamble family. And Lonnie, who was about my age, was a good friend of mine and he said oh, you're looking for work, and I	<p>Summer/winter work</p> <p>Lakewood Theater</p> <p>Company electrical license</p> <p>Interest in electrical studies</p> <p>Pursuing electrical license</p> <p>Acadia Repertory</p> <p>Electrical license, asset</p> <p>Life assessment</p> <p>Ambitions</p> <p>Over worked, under paid</p> <p>Work scheduling</p> <p>Lack of employment</p> <p>Theater commitment</p> <p>Bangor</p> <p>Hampden Telephone Company Gamble family</p> <p>Employment</p>
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<p>said yeah, he said we could use an electrician, I'll talk to my dad and we'll get you out here. So I got hired with the Hampden Telephone Company to do essentially electrical work, and that's what I started doing. But the Hampden Telephone Company was very small, and this was, literally it was a family owned telephone company so there was Larry who was the owner, his brothers Elmer and Earl, their wives, their kids, so there were maybe a dozen or so people and they were all family members and they owned and ran the telephone company in Hampden, Maine. And it's a small enough situation that everybody essentially had to do everything. So then in a few months they had me programming the switch, wiring up inside the building, installing telephones, climbing telephone poles, burying cable, everything and anything that needed to be done, plus electrical work. So I did that for 3 or 4 years with them, and besides the fact that Larry could sometimes be difficult to work with, as any family kind of business would be, eventually, you know after 3 or 4 years, I thought I guess its time to try something else. I had met a young lady, and we were going to get married at that point. And I was like 32 then, so I didn't get married until I was 32 almost at 33, but I decided that I was going to, that we were going to get married, we would move to the Portland area where we thought there would be more opportunity for jobs and I since I had you know an electrician's license, I would try to try to find work with an electrical company, so that's essentially what we did. She went to work for the hospital here in town, I went to work with a local electrical company, which was not large but not small, probably 10 or 12 employees, and worked down in this area in the Portland area for about 3 years. And then Portland got to be too big for me and at that time, this was early 80s I guess, first half of the decade of the 80s, and there was a big sort of boom going on in Portland at that time, building boom, and everybody was like what's in it for me, how can I get money, and the focus was all on you know, essentially screwing whoever you could</p>	<p>Electrical work</p> <p>Hired as electrician</p> <p>Small company</p> <p>Family-run business</p> <p>Hampden, Maine</p> <p>Job tasks</p> <p>Electrical work</p> <p>Difficulties of family business</p> <p>Life assessment, change of plans</p> <p>Female partner</p> <p>Marriage at 32</p> <p>Portland</p> <p>Job opportunity</p> <p>Electrical work</p> <p>Hospital</p> <p>Electrical company, small</p> <p>Portland</p> <p>Big city life</p> <p>1980's</p> <p>City growth, Portland</p> <p>Economic growth</p>
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<p>screw to make your mark in town. And I really got tired of that and also Portland was a little larger than I'd like, I'm really a small town kind of person. So we moved back to Bangor, and at that point, what were we doing at that point, I can't remember, I think I was still doing electrical work. Oh I remember, Lonnie, Lonnie from the telephone went out and started his own business, another telephone company, only a telephone company that did like business systems, so he hired me. So I was there with him for a couple of years. And then when I got tired of that I said okay, time to do something else, so essentially I decided I was going to be self-employed, so I sort of hung up my shingle and went to work as a self-employed electrician, and that was like 1993 I think. And that's what I've been doing ever since. So that was the long answer to that question of how that came about.</p> <p>(laughter)</p> <p>O: So maybe if we want to back-track a little bit, if you want to share at all if you'd be comfortable any stories about how you were, you came out to your family or friends and that whole, or like how you said you knew at the age of 3...</p> <p>J: I knew by the time I was 3, that there was something different about me. Of course, at the age of 3, I didn't have many words to say what it was, I just knew that I was a girl, that I wanted to be a girl, but you know there were no words to describe it. But at the same time, I knew even then, that for me to express that was not going to be appreciated. And of course, at the age of 3 you're worried about repercussions from your family and will mom and dad not love me and that kind of thing. So essentially, I kept that hidden through all my years. I would cross-dress and cross-express whenever I could, and become as I became older and more experienced in, with life and relationships and things like that I was able to figure out how to do that more frequently in ways that were more fulfilling for me, but it was still always done secretly. There was also I guess a feeling that I mean I knew who I was and I knew by the time I was 13 I had finally</p>	<p>Lost interest in Portland Small-town life Bangor</p> <p>Electrical work</p> <p>Lonnie's business, telephone company</p> <p>Employment Loss of interest</p> <p>Self-employment</p> <p>Electrician, 1993 Current employment</p> <p>Coming out stories, identity</p> <p>Identity</p> <p>From age 3 a sense of difference Wanted to be a girl No words to describe identity</p> <p>Worry</p> <p>Repercussions, family Worry about family reaction Hidden identity Cross-dress, cross-express</p> <p>Over time greater awareness</p> <p>Fulfilling gender identity Secret</p> <p>Identity by age 13</p>
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<p>discovered the word transsexual and trans, well it might not have been transgender then it was cross-dresser at the time. The word transgender wasn't even, didn't even come into play until later, but so I knew that trans sexuality existed, I knew that there were people like me who wanted to change their sex, I knew it could be done, I didn't know how, and I didn't know if I should so there was a certain amount of information there but also a certain amount of hesitation and unsurity I guess you would say. And I had been raised Catholic and even though I knew like who I was and I knew what I wanted to do, the question then become well should I do it, if I do it is something bad going to happen you know. Will there be like spiritual repercussions to this that I don't want to have to deal with. So, essentially what I decided was well, I'm just going to wait and I'll wait until I get an answer from the person or the being up above as to whether I should pursue this or not. Until then I'll just sit on it and do the best I can and see what happens. So part of seeing what happens was getting married, which I which I did. About two years into our marriage, how did this happen, About two years into our marriage I was working one day doing electrical work, I was just minding my own business just doing something and the thought popped into my head, okay you can look at this now. And I was like go away, leave me alone I'm busy. No, you can look at this now. I said well, all right. So I started you know investigating looking if there were support groups or other people around or somebody I could chat with about it or whatever, just to try to figure out how or if or how to proceed. And at that point, I discovered there was a support group in the state of Maine, one. It was in Brunswick, it met once a month. It met in the church in the church basement, a Unitarian church basement in Brunswick. And it consisted of about a dozen people. And what I had to do was drive down to Brunswick once a month, go to the meeting, and then drive back the same night. And meetings consisted</p>	<p>Transsexual Trans Cross-dresser</p> <p>Aware of transsexuality</p> <p>Information, lack of Hesitation, uncertainty</p> <p>Catholic childhood Knew who she was Hesitation</p> <p>Spiritual repercussions</p> <p>Decision to wait Spirituality</p> <p>Optimize situation Marriage</p> <p>2 years into marriage Electrical work</p> <p>Questioning identity</p> <p>Denial Acceptance Investigation Support groups, second opinion</p> <p>Support group Brunswick, Maine Once a month Unitarian church basement</p> <p>Small group</p>
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<p>essentially of people would arrive, most people would arrive as their male or female selves, whichever they were identifying, whichever they were born as. They would change there at the church basement if they wanted to and we would all sit around cross-dressed for an hour or two, noshing on whatever people brought to eat, chips and stuff, and then we would change back and go home. And that was the support meeting because it was, at least you knew there other people like you and you could have a short time expressing who you were and that seemed to be what most people were happy with. There was always sort of some certain amount of back and forth about well, do I, should I get a sex change operation, should I not, or how do we do this blah, blah, blah. Some information exchange and mutual support, but also a certain amount of tension because there were some folks who had no interest in going further than being than cross expressing, and some folks who really wanted and felt the need for actually changing themselves physically. So, and at about that time, this was like 2 years into my marriage, I finally thought to myself, well look, my wife needs to know because she doesn't have any idea. So I went to her and said look, this is who I am, this is how I'm feeling, this is what I need, and I'd like to try to figure out how we can make this work in our relationship so that we don't have to break up. And she sort of was shocked, but she came back to me and basically said, well look, if you feel you need to do this, go ahead, I don't want to see it, so you can't change here at home, I just don't want to see it, and you're going to have to promise me that you won't have a sex change. And I said well that's a step, so I said okay, I said as long as we're together, I won't pursue sex change, I'll just use this time to sort of figure out who I am and we'll try to figure out how to make this work. And soon after that, or maybe concurrently with that, the time frame is a little mashed up here because of the interview process, but one of her sisters was killed in an automobile accident. And she had never been</p>	<p>Identity Ascribed identity Achieved identity Cross-dress, mingle</p> <p>Support group Others like you</p> <p>Gender expressions</p> <p>Sex change, hesitation Sex change operation</p> <p>Information, support Tension</p> <p>Clash of interests Cross-dressing</p> <p>Sex-change Wife needs to know</p> <p>Hidden expressions</p> <p>Confession</p> <p>Repercussions for relationship</p> <p>Shock</p> <p>Support</p> <p>No sex-change, disapproval of partner</p> <p>Promise not to pursue sex-change Finding oneself</p> <p>Car accident, death of sister</p>
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<p>particularly, my wife had never been particularly religious or spiritual or anything, but after her sister died she was all like why do bad things happen to good people, what is the meaning of it all in all this mess. So she went looking for answers with different spiritual groups, and the group that she finally settled on was the Jehovah's Witnesses. Well they're a very conservative group and a very closed group, and they had the answers to everything. They had the answers to why her sister died and they had all the answers about me. And they weren't answers that were very helpful as far as our relationship was concerned. So after a couple years of her sort of struggling with that, she finally just said look, if you want to stop being transgender I will help you with that, but if you want to continue being transgender I cannot help you with and I can't stay because it's too much of a danger to my spiritual being. 00:35:02.16]</p>	<p>Spirituality</p> <p>Questioning Life meaning</p> <p>Spiritual groups Jehovah's Witnesses Conservative</p> <p>Explanation of life</p> <p>Conflict in relationship</p> <p>Identity Demand that she cease trans-identity Lack of support,</p> <p>Spirituality</p>
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Interview Transcript

Narrator: Jean Vermette

Interviewers: Olivia Tryon-Nadeau and Annie Holland

Transcript	Indexing/Coding
<p>[00:29:50.14] Jean: About two years into our marriage I was working one day doing electrical work and I was just minding my own business just doing something and the thought popped into my head.. "Okay you can look at this now" and I was like "go away leave me alone I'm busy" "no no you can look at this now" and I said well alright, so I started investigating looking if there were support groups or other people around or somebody I could chat with about it or whatever just to try to figure out how or if to proceed and at that point I discovered there was a support group in the state of Maine, one, it was in Brunswick it met once a month and it met in the church in the church basement in the Unitarian church basement in Brunswick and it consisted of about a dozen people and what I had to do was drive down to Brunswick once a month, go to the meeting and then drive back same the same night. And the meetings consisted of essentially of people would arrive most people would arrive as their male or female selves whichever they were identify, whichever they were born as they would change at the church basement if they wanted to and we would all sit around cross dressed for an hour or two noshing on whatever people brought to eat, chips and stuff and then we would change back and go home and that was the support meeting because it was at least you knew there were other people like you and you could have a short time expressing who you were and that seemed to be what most people were happy with and there was always a short of some certain amount of back and forth about "well should I get a</p>	<p>Relationship</p> <p>Divorce</p> <p>Transition Process/time</p>

<p>sex change operation or should I not or how do we do this" sort of information exchange and mutual support also a certain amount of tension because there were some folks who had no interest in going further than cross expressing and there were some folks who really wanted, felt the need for changing themselves physically. So at about that time this was like two years into my marriage I thought to myself a lot "ya know my wife needs to know cuz she doesn't have any idea" so I went to her and I said look this is who I am this is how I'm feeling this is what I need and Id like to try to figure out how we can make this work in our relationship so that we don't have to break up and she sort of was shocked but she came back to me basically said well look if you feel you need to do this go ahead I don't want to see it so you cant change here at home I just don't want to see it and you're going to have to promise me you wont have a sex change I said well that's a step so okay I said as long as we're together I wont pursue sex change I'll just use this time to figure out who I am and we'll try to figure out how to make this work and soon after that maybe concurrent to that, the time frame is a little mashed up here because of the interview process but one of her sisters was killed in an automobile accident and she had never been particularly my wife had never been particularly religious or spiritual or anything but after her sister died she was all like why do bad things happen to good people what is the meaning of it all? and all this and that and so she went looking for answers with different spiritual groups and a group that she finally settled on was the Jehovah's witnesses, well their a very conservative group and very closed group and they had the answers to everything they had the answers to why her sister died and they</p>	<p>Relationship Coming Out</p> <p>Religion</p>
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<p>had all the answers about me and they weren't answers that were very helpful as far as our relationship was concerned so after a couple of years of her sort of struggling with that she finally just said look if you want to stop being transgender I will help you with that but if you want to continue being transgender I cannot help you with that and I cant stay because its too much of a danger to my spiritual wellbeing and I said I'm not going to change so essentially she left one day left me a note went to live somewhere else and that was the beginning of our separation and we never did get back together again. so we were like separated for a couple of years maybe closer to one year I'm sorry but we were separated for awhile and finally one day she just called me and we were on speaking terms its not like we were angry at each other and all that because we both understood that we both our perceptions of both of us was that we were each doing as much as we could to try to keep the relationship together and it just we weren't able to go the extra steps both of us to do that so we understood that so after about a year or so of separation she called me up one day she said "jean we've been separated for about a year don't you think its about time we had a divorce" I said yeah probably right and she said well if you don't mind I'd like you to ask for it because my religion I'm not allowed to ask for it I said okay fine so I filed the divorce and she accepted it cuz she could do that you know if her spouse divorced her that was fine but she wasn't allowed to divorce the spouse so that was the end of our marriage once the marriage was over it was like well okay I have no reason not to look at this further anymore because I lived up to my agreement with her so then I began to look at whether I needed to transition fully you know at that time from</p>	<p>Separation</p> <p>Divorce</p> <p>Transition Process: 5 years</p>
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<p>the time I started until the time I actually had surgery I think was like five years so I took longer than most people who transition at that time transition period tended to be two to three years for most people I took five and I was self employed that whole time and I was just slowly making changes in my physical appearance over that time I had an established clientele and at one point I was growing my hair out I had earrings I was taking hormones so my facial ya know angularity was changing a bit I was having electrolysis done so the beard was disappearing. it was sort of a very endogenous I was developing a pretty endogenous appearance but it was slow over time over three, four, five years or whatever and at one point it sort of reached an area or period of time where people were going oh yes sir uh mam uh sir and that kind of thing and so finally I said okay I know where I'm heading I decided at that point that yes I did need to pursue surgery so at one point I just wrote a letter to all of my clients at the time I said "look I'd got to tell you so that you know, this is what's going on and this is direction I'm heading in, I'm letting you know this because this is my choice but you also have a right to chose whether you stay with me or not" I think that went out to like fifty clients that i had at the time these were like repeat clients and a couple of them just never called me or never called me back or anything but a number of them called back and said wow or wow thank you so much for that letter I so appreciate it and it was of course I'm going to keep you as my electrician don't worry about it and all this and that. so that's how that sort of period and that transition happened. is that sufficient?</p> <p>Annie: Yeah. Could you maybe talk about more of like the challenges that you faced</p>	<p>Transition Process</p> <p>Transition Process: Physical appearance</p> <p>Surgery Coming Out to clients</p>
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<p>what while going through this process like support only if you're comfortable if you're not</p> <p>J: Challenges... you mean like personal challenges?</p> <p>A: Anything its up to you</p> <p>J: Well one of the challenges I faced was sort of an organizational challenge because I was with this support group and when I started with this support group in 1993 there was only one support group in the whole state of Maine and we knew amongst everyone who was there at the support group we knew of like two therapists who were working with the transgender community in the whole state of Maine and we knew of one doctor who was handling all for the whole state of Maine. and so the question was always because there's a set of steps [00:40:09.21] everybody had to take to transition its like okay how do we arrange this because there's no doctor in my area, there's no therapist in my area I'm supposed to be seeing a therapist, supposed to be seeing a doctor blah blah blah so I thought well ya know we really sort of need to get more people trained and I was the president of the group at that time and after id been there for a year they elected me president, good for me, and so I thought well we need to have more people trained so lets start a speakers bureau so I and a couple of other folks went down to Massachusetts where they had another support group which had been around for since the mid 70s I think and that was called the Tiffany Club and it was very secretive if you wanted to join or attend a meeting what would happen is you'd call someone up on the phone then they would say okay meet me at such and such at this place at the</p>	<p>Challenges Support group</p> <p>Time: 1993</p> <p>Transition Process: no doctors or therapists Trans community</p> <p>President of support group</p> <p>TransSupport group Out of state: Massachusetts Tiffany Club: started in the mid 1970s</p>
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<p>phone booth there you'd have to drive there and then someone would show up and chat with you for a few minutes to ascertain that you were genuinely someone ya know not just someone who was going to come in with a baseball bat and beat up all the members and then they would lead you to where the meeting was. but they had a speakers bureau that they had established and so we went down there and essentially day long training with them to establish a speakers bureau or just train some people to do some speaking public speaking and then I came back and discovered that none of the people in the group in Brunswick which was called TransSupport wanted a speakers bureau they said no we just want to show up in drag I'm not going to go out like this and dress and expose myself to all kinds of ridicule or lose my job or have my wife leave me or things like that so we're not going to do it and I said well I thought to myself okay if you're not going to do it ill do it so I had I began you know doing public talks at colleges and mostly at that time it was colleges and churches folks who would ask cuz I had sent out some notices to colleges things like that and look this is available if you want and a few professors wrote back yes I'd like you to come speak to my class my psychology class my nursing class my whatever so I was sort of going around the state haphazardly to whoever would call and go and speak to them, it was just a transgender 101 its always been a transgender 101 I've always wanted to do more or more advanced stuff but its always been a transgender 101 and people still need it unfortunately so its like what does it mean? what does it look like? how does it present itself? how do you call them? how do you react? blah blah just answer all of their questions kind of thing just the</p>	<p>TransSupport: Brunswick</p> <p>Transgender 101</p> <p>University of Maine at Farmington</p>
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basic information. I had been doing this for about a year I think and a professor at university of Maine at Farmington who happened to be a friend of mine found out about it and said come speak to come psychology class I said fine I'll come over so we arranged for me to go over and then the night before I got there he called me up and he said Jean there's someone in the area who's female to male who would like to come and listen to the talk but he's not a student or anything and he said do you have a problem with that and I said not at all. so we sort of chatted about the person a little bit and cuz the professor had somehow found out about him I don't know how and so I said okay Brian the professors name was Brian tell you what you tell this person to come and just listen to the talk and whatever I said you watch ill have him on stage before the talk is over and he said ill see that well see if that happens. so I went I just did my talk and usual talk takes about an hour and a half-two hours and during that time I did not get him down on the stage but he did raise his hand and ask questions and make some points and brought up some stuff ya know and then afterwards he and I and his girlfriend who was with him at the time went out to lunch and we sort of chatted and met each other and he eventually joined up with me doing these talks I thought it would be good to have not just a female to male but a male to female person so wed have that perspective and hes intelligent he obviously knows the information his name was PJ I said PJ lets do these talks together he said I cant do these talks so okay I tell ya what I'm doing a talk up in Caribou why don't you just come with me and you can be my faithful assistant, hold up the chart or whatever you don't have to say a thing you don't have to answer any questions just come do

Meeting PJ

Trans training: Caribou

Trans training

<p>that he said uhhh alright so he went up and by the end of that talk he was like he said well this was kind of fun I said okay lets do it so we sat down and we figured out a protocol we worked up a more concise and expanse and at the same time expansive talk which would actually broke down into different modules so that if people called us and said well we want a trans 101 fine here's that module123 if we want to talk to nurses ok module 123 then add the health part module 5 blah blah that kind of thing we figured all of that out we worked out an outline for our talk that would was actually six hour long presentation and I said okay what are we going to do with this and we said well we need more doctors and we need more therapists so lets just go around the state and we'll offer you know day long essentially day long trainings[00:46:46.06] for mental health medical people on transgender issues and we will set it up so they get continuing education credits that they have to have so that's what we did for like the next two or three years every couple three months we had another county, we went to all counties in the state and we sent out notices to every to all the professional people in that county we said this is what its going to be this is where its going to be it costs this much we never made any money we just sort of broke even but we trained about I'm guessing 400 mental health professionals and a smaller number of medical people and it was interesting because the mental health people have essentially a much I cant remember it now what they call but essentially if you go learn about something and its been pre approved by the board whatever board, the social workers board or the psychologists board or whatever then you can count that as credits real life experience credits or something towards your recertification but the doctors the</p>	<p>Trans 101</p> <p>Transgender education Time: 6 hours</p> <p>Training doctors and therapists</p> <p>Mental Health</p> <p>Training</p>
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<p>doctors wanted the knowledge but the doctors didn't want to get the knowledge from us because we weren't doctors they wanted other doctors to tell them so we would give them the basic information and then we would have to put them in touch with other doctors they could go talk with cuz other doctors would tell them the same thing we would tell them but it was coming from a peer and we weren't their peers so they didn't want to hear it from us or they weren't going to accept it from us because we weren't trained doctors blah blah blah. I always found that kind of interesting that dichotomy one group would allow just knowledge to be accepted as knowledge and the other group had to have something more specific so a part of that process we would figure out the whole process we had to do to get these continuing education units you know how to get those approved and it was really a whole mess to cuz if we had five different people we had to get five different certifications go through five different certification processes for every presentation that we had. It was fun we got through all 16 counties and then we said okay I'm tired lets not do this anymore for a little while we just took on college classes mostly and churches and anyone who wanted to have this kind of chat.</p> <p>Annie: So you're active in the group now? or is it kind of dissipated?</p> <p>Jean: [00:49:27.11] I had started an organization called Maine gender resource and support service or MEGRASS to sort of be the official letter head for this group so that it would look official it wasn't just me writing and saying I want to come talk to your class it was like an official group that is now essentially defunked I closed that down probably five years ago now and</p>	<p>Doctor resistance</p> <p>Maine Gender Resource and Support Services (MEGRASS)</p> <p>closing down MEGRASS</p> <p>younger generation -new teachers to spread the word</p> <p>Feeling: exhausted of the work/ time to relax</p>
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<p>the reason I was able to do that or that i felt comfortable doing that was because there were more people coming up who wanted to do the educational work a lot of younger trans people who felt that they knew more than I did so why I cant I go out and talk or train? You can go right ahead! now I can relax ya know and a lot of the therapists at that time had gotten on board and they were training each other and the doctors were figuring there were other doctors who knew stuff and so they were talking with each other so I felt that I could step back from that and I was happy to do it at that point ya know I had been doing it for 15 years or so 15 16 years whatever it was</p> <p>A: [00:50:52.06] You were also active in the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance too right?</p> <p>J: I was... active in, I don't know if that would be the right way to put it I was a member.</p> <p>A: a member? okay</p> <p>J: I wasn't always active in whatever they wanted to do and there were something they wanted to do that I sort of disagreed with but it was my self I started out there was a group called Outright here in Portland which is one of the first groups for out LGBT youth in the area and the lady who was sort of the founded, runner of that at the time Cathy who's last name escapes me I'm afraid had heard about me and asked me to come do presentation for them because they weren't at that point they didn't have the T in the GLBT it was GLB youth so I went down and I did the presentation with her and the board members first and then later went did it another presentation with her and a group of the youth were there and essentially</p>	<p>Time: 15 to 16 years</p> <p>Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA)</p> <p>Outright LGBT youth group</p> <p>Adding the T to LGBT</p>
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<p>argued that the T should be included and she agreed and the youth agreed so they started to include the T and then from there she was also a member of the MLGPA and so it sort of spread from there to the MLGPA they had not me but PJ went down and did a presentation for them about including the T in MLGPA and they essentially eventually yes so we sort of introduced trans part to MLGPA in that way and then I think it was it must have been PJ it must have been PJ who suggested I think it was 2000 the MLGPA gave me The Great Pioneer Award which they don't hand out every year for my work training folks. [00:53:15.17] So I got to stand up in front of everybody and do this my acceptance speech which I guess went over okay everybody kind of liked it but that sort of brought in the T and after that we were included and that was sort of really I was never really like an active enough member that I would attend all the meetings or that I would become a board member or anything like that [00:53:51.14] I've given them money, I've worked on a number of projects with them over time and I've certainly not hesitated to write to the board and tell them when I think they're not moving in the right direction. So I guess that the extent of my participation. of course then the MLGPA became Maine Equality or Equality Maine later on.</p> <p>Olivia: You also mentioned in your list, Transcendental Meditation? we were kind of curious about that</p> <p>J: Transcendental Meditation is a meditative technique that was brought out by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and it became he came to the united states to introduce that in 1959 I didn't hear about it until 1971 when I started it, It really sort of took</p>	<p>Time: 200 Being awarded The Great Pioneer Award</p> <p>MLGPA ---> Equality Maine</p> <p>Transcendental Meditation</p> <p>TM</p> <p>Maharishi Mahesh Yogi 1959</p> <p>Time: discovered in 1971 took off in the late 60s with the Beatles</p> <p>Age when discovered TM : 17 Fitting because transgender into everyday life</p>
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off in the late 60s when the Beatles sort of became interested in it and went to India to study with Maharishi. I think as my personal opinion that TM is the greatest thing since sliced bread. It held me together for all of the years that I was ya know cuz I started when I was 17 for all the years that I was trying to figure out how I was going to make my transgender nature fit into my life it kind of gave me the centerness and the spiritual core and the peace of mind to hold myself together while all of that was going on and its not at all common for trans people especially back then when just being trans was enough to lose your job, your home your everything else let alone including getting beat up or killed or whatever there's a lot less of that now then there was then but it still exists now but because of that people who were transgender if they didn't have some way to center themselves and provide a certain amount of inner peace it was not it was quite likely that most trans people you would've met would have been alcoholics or drug addicts or seeing a therapist five times a week because they would be having such a hard time dealing with the issue and figuring out how to make it fit into their lives so sorry I didn't mean to kick you so I credit that with holding me together for twenty years or whatever it was until I could figure out what to do and how to move forward and I still practice it, I've been doing it for almost fifty years now Its the greatest thing I encourage everybody to do it! but I also realize that not everybody is going to so whatever it is it is. It was it a good practice for me and Did I answer that question or is there something else you'd like to know about it or what?

A: So other then the transcendental meditation what else what other advice

Time : 50 years practicing TM

Advice: You are not alone, don't try and do it alone

<p>would you give to individuals who must be going through a similar process what you went through or just kind of struggling with being transgender</p> <p>J: Advice... I guess the only advice I could really offer that I think would be meaningful is you're not alone and don't try to do it alone. A lot of people that I knew especially when I was starting to deal with issue myself there were very much loners because part of being transgender you had to sort of hold back and not let people know about yourself most anyway so they became very inner focused and loners. and they would not seek help if they needed it now more help is available and more people are around and more people are out so I think my advice would be you know don't try to do it alone, get some help or advice or friendship or support or whatever and know that it can be done that would be one the second thing I would and I still suggest this is just move slowly don't feel that believe you've decided your transgender or transsexual that today [00:58:51.22] that you need to have surgery tomorrow cuz there's a lot of adjustment not only within yourself but within the community around you as you're transitioning I think the biggest mistakes I ever saw people do was just trying to move too fast so that their support system whether it be their family or friends or whoever would not have anytime to clematises as changes were going on and so they try to do too much too fast and it just pushed everybody away ultimately made transition difficult or unsuccessful but there's not but beyond ya know having support and moving slowly there isn't much that I would suggest I mean I used to when I was first sort of starting to deal with this first five or eight years or whatever I did think there was a</p>	<p>Advice</p> <p>Transition process: surgery</p> <p>Support System</p> <p>successful vs. unsuccessful</p>
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certain way you had to do it you know you had to do this this this and this in this order and that order and if you didn't you were going to lose everything and I came to realize that this order this way that was my way and that worked for me and it worked for me sufficiently so that I didn't lose everything I kept quite a lot, I lost a few friends I lost some stuff a few clients but pretty much my family was supportive my friends were supportive I have never really had any problems with because I planned it out, thought it out moved slowly I never really had any problems with discrimination or physical attacks but I've known people who've lost everything and at one point I used to think well there's this way to do it this is how you have to do it and one day I was chatting with another transsexual person and I was going "blah blah you know this person she's doing this, she's doing that she's not doing blah blah" and this person looked at me and said "well that's how I did it" and as soon as she said that I was like wow oh jeez there isn't just one way and she has seen it and the person that I was complaining about was clearly not succeeding and realizing her transition and she still hasn't but its like oh there are different temperaments and different personalities and different people are going to have to handle it differently but that doesn't mean they cant be successful or reach their goals so i stopped trying to convince people that there was a way to do it, everybody is going to have to find their own way but I still say get help with it and move slowly so that you don't overshoot and go too fast that you cause your health, self or other people harm.

A: We also wanted to ask you about the Trump Presidency and how you think that might impact the LGBT community in the

Discrimination

Trump and the LGBT community

<p>future or any comments you have about that</p> <p>J: Someday people will listen to this and go "oh they had no idea that was a silly idea why would they think that" I will be the first to admit that I was very disappointed with the way things turned out and that Donald Trump was elected president. I did not and so not and remember folks you're hearing this only a few days after the election so we don't know what the future is going to bring but at this point I did not and do not care for the man. I don't think he's qualified for the position that being said I wasn't really excited about Hillary either she didn't turn me on she didn't inspire me she didn't do squat I voted for her because the lesser of two evils but she didn't inspire me and I was not impressed with her. So this whole particular election has disappointed me very greatly but I thought about this over the last few days and in fact I sent a letter out to all of my friends probably 150-200 of my friends after thinking about it and I said "look as near as i can figure out this is the situation and its that there are a lot of differences of opinion and the country right now we should expect that there are going to be there's nothing that you can do to get rid of differences of opinion history shows us that they've always been there and there always going to be there. we can either learn to rise above those differences of opinion and figure out how to work with each other or we can continue fighting and scrabbling and get into a downward spiral of hate repercussions and war and whatever else and if we do that we know what the consequences of that are because we've seen that before. Nobody has the right to force me to believe or behave in a way I don't feel comfortable and by the same token I don't have the right to force</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton</p> <p>2016 Presidential Election</p> <p>communication: writing a letter of support to friends</p>
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someone else to believe or behave in a way they don't feel comfortable. One of the things that are growth as humans requires is that we learn to live comfortably and peaceably with differences. and doing that is going to inevitably be a process of trial and error because that's how anybody learns you try something and it doesn't work you try something else that work great if it doesn't work you try something else blah blah blah and I have the right to use trial and error for my personal growth and for achieving my happiness and everyone else has the same right so not only do they not have the right to force ideas on me I don't have the right to force ideas on them but I have the right to trial and error and so do they whether I like their trial and error or not [01:06:04.21] they have the right to do it So my conclusion from all of that was and the reason I was writing to everybody was look I need your support, you don't have to believe what I've just told you you don't have to change you don't have to do anything what I'm asking is that you just contact me every now and then and encourage me to follow my path and my path at this time is to work on myself to be a better person and as a good a person as i can be and to learn how to work with the differences that exist and take it from there rather than trying to just butting heads because a lot of the last 10 years whatever of political back and forth in this country has been just butting heads its like fight fight fight we win fight fight fight oh they won fight fight fight yay they win fight fight fight aw they won and it just goes back and forth people spend a lot of time a lot of money a lot of energy a lot money again trying to basically shove whatever their views happen to be down everybody else's throats whether its conservative or liberal or doesn't matter so if we can just

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Ronald Reagan

figure out where we agree and work from there then we're going to have more progress and less negative repercussion so that's what I'm trying to do and that's what I asked my friends to help me just sort of stay on that path. You don't think you want to be peaceable with the republicans? fine you go fight with them but encourage me to do it because that's what I'm asking you as my friend and the response has been pretty good so that's sort of how I'm feeling about it. Like I say I don't think trump was the best choice and I don't think folks are going to be happy with what they get but time will tell. DO either of you remember Ronald Reagan?

A&O: not really, no

J: Okay, when Ronald Reagan became president I thought the world was going to end I thought it was just the worst choice he was the worst guy I still think that I don't like the guy he was not a nice man he turned American against American he turned American against their country by implying the government was no good and all that and I won't go beyond that let's just say I thought the world was going to end well the world didn't end, I'm still here the country's still here Ronald Reagan is dead thank god and everything went on that's probably what's going to happen with Trump. we might not like what happens but I think we're eventually going to get past it so I just have to wait and see along with everybody else. That's how I feel about it. from this perspective in 19...2016 November you guys in the future can tell us what you think about that

A: So I think we're kind of coming to the end of our time but is there anything else that we didn't get to talk about that you want to mention or any topics?

J: Nothing that I have any particular driving interest to speak about if you know about anything I'm happy to answer questions still.

A: I think we've gotten through all of our questions so thank you very much for the interview

J: You're welcome I hope you got all of that, I hope the machine was working

A: I hope so too and if you want to schedule an interview in the future you can definitely let us know or totally fine but thank you

J: Thank you