

**Interviewee: Sharon Beasley**

**Interviewer: Bronwyn Lee**

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The following interview was conducted as part of the Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors' Archive's Lesbian Oral Histories Project.

*BL: So, I'm just audio recording by phone. That's why you see that popping around. Ok, so start with little about demographic stuff. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, so like when and where you were born to start?*

SB: Sure, okay, so I was born in London, Ontario in 1962. Spent a couple of years there, moved to Ottawa, and then moved back to London when I think I was about 12. And then I, actually, spent a couple years at Dalhousie before, when I first went off to university, but I ended up finishing my degree at U of T in Toronto.

*BL: I was actually born, like 30 minutes away from London.*

SB: Yeah, okay.

*BL: Okay, you went to U of T. When did you move back to Nova Scotia? Was this after that degree?*

SB: Ah, no. So, I did a business degree and I started working in the banking industry and when I was there I got my professional accounting designation, but I used to spend all my summers on the South Shore of Nova Scotia – well my teenage years – summers on the south shores of Nova Scotia and fell in love with Nova Scotia, so I wanted to run my own business and I wanted to do that in Nova Scotia. So, I think it was 1996 that I quit my job and moved to Halifax and started my business. I've been in Nova Scotia since then, so, I know it's hard to believe it's been 25 years, but, yeah, so lived in Halifax for 10 years with the whole business thing didn't really go well financially for me, so I closed the business down and got a job in the valley, so I've been here for the last 15.

*BL: Very cool. Do you mind me asking what your business was?*

SB: So, it was a company called Mrs. Beasley's Cookies. So, we did cookies, actually for a lot of coffee shops on the campuses, for the IWK and the QEII and the Dartmouth General I think, and then I started doing cookies for retail, so at that time there were Dominion stores, IGA stores, but also like Sobeys and Costco and that sort of thing.

*BL: Wow, seems like, I mean you said it didn't go well, but seems like a pretty good success to me.*

SB: Yeah, like I mean it did have lots of successes. Financially though, it wasn't so great, so, yeah.

*BL: Food is a very tough industry to be in from what I've heard.*

SB: It is, it is.

*BL: Oh, so, do you mind disclosing your sexual orientation and gender identity to me?*

SB: So, I consider myself to be a lesbian and female.

*BL: Awesome. And, so we kind of went over places of residence, so you were kind of born in London, went to school in Ottawa, did a little stint at U of T and Dal and then stayed at, in Toronto to do business until you went to–*

SB: Yeah, so when I graduated from university, I actually did a student exchange, so I lived in Denmark for a year, and I spent 2 years at Dal and before I went to U of T, I spent a year in Calgary. So, a little cross-country tour. But then when I finished, when I decided I wanted to run my own business, I left Toronto and never looked back.

*BL: Yeah, I never want to go back [laughing]. And what did you do – you said you got a job in the valley. What were you doing out there?*

SB: So, I first off was the vice president for Corporate Services for a co-operative that processed chickens and turkeys, had a feed company, an oil company, oh egg layers, so table eggs. After that, so then I worked with a group of people and we closed down the poultry processing side and we opened a new company, so I was the Chief Financial Officer for Eden Valley Poultry, which is up and running and, you know. I'm not there anymore. Now I'm actually working for a company called CFO Canada and they place me into companies that need a part time Chief Financial Officer, so I can work from home, I don't work 60 hours a week anymore, I can hang out with my kid and my partner more, so. . .

*BL: Your kid is a teenager now? In school still?*

SB: Yeah. I have 2, so I was the birth mother to my daughter [redacted] who is 28, and she lives in New Zealand, actually just started her PhD there, and then my partner and I have a teenage daughter. She's 15. Fun fact, both girls have the same donor dad.

*BL: Oh wow. That's ... yeah, neat.*

SB: It is. I mean we know him; we're connected with him and all that kind of stuff, but he lives in Toronto and when my partner [redacted] and I decided that we would like to have a child together, you know getting pregnant as a lesbian, and having to go to Toronto to get the sperm was challenging.

*BL: I can imagine, yeah. Quite the trip that you don't normally have to make when you're trying to get pregnant. A lot of stress involved; I imagine. It's nice that you knew him though. I imagine that that eased a little bit of the transition, the awkwardness of meeting.*

SB: Well, I didn't know him before I got pregnant.

*BL: Oh, okay.*

SB: It was— so this is kind of a fun story too. So I started, when I lived in Toronto, I started a group of women who were all lesbians who wanted to have kids, and, so one of the women wanted to have an unknown donor, so I was actually a sperm runner, you know, I would go and pick up the sperm from him and then, you know, take the TTC and take it to her house. Anyway, she— it took her a long time and she wasn't getting pregnant, so she said she needed a break, so I just said are you ok if I asked him? And, of course, I had already met him by then, we had chatted and gotten to know each other, so— lucky for me I got pregnant on the second try, so there you go.

*BL: Kind of like a very sweet meet-cute; "How'd you meet your sperm donor – well I was running for somebody else, and we just connected" [laughing].*

SB: Well, you know not a typical story of pregnancy that's for sure.

*BL: Yeah, it's better than just rifling through papers and being like, "Well you look normal, I guess".*

SB: Yeah, yeah, well yeah. Well, I mean it's interesting because, you know I... more and more queer women are having kids, choosing to have kids, well so are, you know, queer people generally. But boy I tell you, when you are looking for sperm, and we

wanted a known donor because we've done our research and a lot of kids want to know where their roots are, where they come from. Suddenly that stuff was, just like gold, like you just couldn't find it, you couldn't get it, you— it was like this is ridiculous, you know. How many unwanted pregnancies are there and then ... anyway, we got some, we got some good stuff and 2 beautiful daughters.

*BL: That's awesome. So, the other one is still with you in the valley, I'm assuming. She's 15?*

SB: Yeah, yeah.

*BL: Okay. Very cool. That gets through like all of the boring demographics then. Other than that, so the next question is What were your experiences like interacting with the LGBTQ community in Nova Scotia? So, in past interviews we talked about things like activism things you've done, community groups, like the group that you were talking about – that was in Toronto though, so if there was anything like that in Nova Scotia that you've been a part of, I'd love to hear about it.*

SB: So, when I first got here, because I was starting and running my business, I really wasn't connected. My partner at the time, I mean you know, obviously she and I, we were both working in the business, and it was just ridiculous. I mean at Christmas time it wasn't unusual for me to work 80 or 90 hours a week.

*BL: My goodness!*

SB: And my daughter at the time was only 3, so thankfully my mom spent a lot of time with us too. So, she helped me with all of that. But once that was a little bit more under control I would say, I had met a woman by the name of [redacted] – I don't know if you know [redacted]. She works at the IW– well she did work at the IWK, I connected with her in quite a long time, anyway. And I connected with her because she knew through the grapevine that my partner at that time and I had this daughter, and so there were people who interested in finding out about how we got pregnant, and what our experience was like, and so we connected with a few people that way and then through that I found out about the youth project, so I actually worked as a, just a group facilitator for the youth project for a few years. And, so then I got to know Leighann Wichman [co-founder of the Youth Project], and her partner at that time was [redacted], and [redacted] and I have remained good friends ever since then, ever since, yeah. [My oldest daughter] was just 6 when I met [redacted]. So, yeah, that's how I got connected into the lesbian community, and then because, so my partner and I split up, and so as a single woman, I mean I wanted to go out and attempt to meet some people and so we

started going to, like with [redacted] and other friends, we started going to – they used to have these dances at, I think they were at the curling club, or something, down on the north end of Halifax [*BL: I think the Mayflower?*]. Anyway, oh they were so good. And, you know, so we would go and dance, or we would go out to the bars and dance all night long, but, you know, in terms of activism, I haven't necessarily been overtly involved, you know, outside of being part of the Youth Project. Only because between my business and the job that I do, you know it's not unusual for me to be working 60 hours a week, and you know, I met my partner, my partner [redacted], and, you know, raising kids – it doesn't give a lot of time.

*BL: Oh my gosh, I can't even imagine. I think, is the curling club The Mayflower by chance?*

SB: It might be.

*BL: Okay. I live right in the area, so now it's a COVID testing station which is a new life for it. But that's very cute. And, where did you, like– at the time, were you going to like, queer bars, and were they like queer dance spaces, or was it like let's go out and dance somewhere?*

SB: Well, so, you know, having had what I guess what I would call the good fortune of living in Toronto where, you know, there was enough of a community that there were queer spaces that you could go to, so the dances were for women only, or for people who would identify as female, and we would go to, yeah we would go to queer bars, I mean Reflections was a big place to go to, but there were a couple of other places at the time too you could go and dance and yeah, yeah, so you know when I was a student here, yeah, that was like back in the early 80s there was a bar downtown called the Turret. First gay bar I'd ever gone to, and I went with a boy, although we went with the premise of finding me a girl, but yeah, that place doesn't exist anymore. It was right on Barrington St. I mean unfortunately it's hard for queer places to, you know, make a go of it really.

*BL: Yeah, we just lost Reflections and Menz and Mollyz which were like kind of the big ones, for my time at least.*

SB: Yeah.

*BL: What was it like, so you said that there were all-women dances.*

SB: Yeah.

*BL: I'm assuming that they were like mostly straight women, but I imagine that would be like a weird thing– [SB: No, no no–] oh they were like ...*

SB: No, they were queer women, yeah, I don't think there were too many straight women there to be honest.

*BL: Yeah, I was going to say that would be like a weird thing to negotiate, like being a lesbian, like we're dancing, I don't know what this is [laughing].*

SB: Yeah, no, no, it was definitely– they were definitely dykes, and they were generally around Pride, so, yeah, yeah.

*BL: That makes sense, for sure. Oh, that sounds like fun! Oh, and I know a little bit about the Youth Project. I'm using it as one of the resources for my thesis right now because I'm working with queer femmes eventually, but can you explain a little bit of what the Youth Project looked like when you were a part of it?*

SB: Yeah, so it was, I think it was relatively new at the time, and my involvement really was as a facilitator for, ah, I think it was once a week we would meet, and so it was a drop-in and really was intended for primarily the 13- to-26 year old crowd to be able to come and have a safe space and be with others, and that sort of thing. I know that since then, and shortly after that I believe, they put in like a board of advisors and a board of directors and it became much more structured, but I actually met my partner – my current partner – through my friend [redacted] and, she's quite a bit younger than I am, and so she was actually going to a drop-in at the Youth Project. She'd never been to mine. It's not creepy in that way. She'd never been to my drop-in, but I met her and so, of course when I realized I could be serious about this person, I had to leave the youth project, because, you know, it needed to be a safe space for her, so if she wanted to go to a drop-in I couldn't be here. So ...

*BL: Oh, that's very kind of you –*

SB: Yeah.

*BL: Ok, so this was [your current partner] that you met [SB: Yeah] at the drop-in. Amazing. And did you guys start dating right away? What did that look like?*

SB: Yeah, so we did a couple of, well, we did a couple of I call group dates, like just going out with friends but it was very clear that I was communicating to her that I really

liked her. And she wasn't afraid of the fact of, you know, the fact of at that time that [my oldest daughter] was six. And you know, I met [my current partner], I was introduced to [my current partner] through my friend [redacted], and you know, we did a pride March together that year, and you know, so I introduced her quite frequently to my daughter [redacted] and, yeah so, you know in typical, well I say typical, maybe my generation lesbian style, like within 3 months she had moved into my house, and we've now been together 22 and a half years, so [BL: Congratulations!] a typical married couple.

*BL: That's so sweet!*

SB: Which we did do, we did get married, but that took a long time.

*BL: When did you guys end up getting married?*

SB: So, ah, it was 2008, yeah, 2008.

*BL: Still like, I have not been dating age for that long, so still significant enough.*

SB: Right, yeah, yeah. Twenty-two and a half years probably sounds like a long time, but [BL: that's as old as I am] we were talking about that with some friends the other day, we were talking about you know, because some of them were saying that their parents have been together for 50 years, you know, that kind of thing, and we just talk about the fact that like 22 and a half years man, it just goes by, like it just goes by really quickly. You look back and you're like "Wow," hard to imagine, but anyway, hopefully we have another 22 ahead of us.

*BL: Yeah, that's so nice. Wow. Yeah, that's as old as I, as long as I've been alive, so that's hard to conceptualize for me, but [SB: yeah] [inaudible]. . . Okay, so that sounds like a good one for that. The next one is, oh this is just like a quick, also kind of demographic one. Some of the people in the study were donating materials to the Seniors Archive. If you are one of those people, we can talk about that, if not, we can move on from it.*

SB: No.

*BL: Okay. Oh, this is a fun one. Do you have a coming out story, and if so, can you tell me what it was like?*

SB: Well, I mean, and maybe again for the younger generation it's a different experience, but you know, coming out was a process, right, it's never just one story.

*BL: Okay.*

SB: You know I had two sisters and 2 brothers. And one sister in particular would talk and was doing this, you know, “well if you have something you want to share with me, you know I love you and” [*BL: She knew*] and when I was in Calgary, that’s where I met my first long term partner and my mom lived there at the time, and we, she stayed over one night and it was, you know, we just pretended it didn’t happen, but my mom walked into the room at one point. ‘Course we’re both lying under a sheet, but completely naked together, all spooning, right, so I just pretended that didn’t happen. It wasn’t until I moved to Toronto, and I had told all my siblings by then and they’d all been very supportive, that I told my mom. And she had come for my graduation from U of T, my undergrad. She was not happy. She was, you know, not happy at all. Yeah, she brought up God because I was raised Catholic, and I’m like, you know, God’s not in my life anymore mom cause really he doesn’t really like the homos, so [*laughing*] that’s not where I’m at, so anyway.

So that was really hard, but you know I have to say from a fairly young age, like for me, probably 18, like I was just, I mean I was raised in a family where ~~what~~, one, we’re all very confident and assertive, so it’s like if you don’t like who I am, I don’t really care. So it was just like very immediate family that it mattered to me. What they thought. But, yeah, so that was really, that was coming out to her. And then I have to say, like I just, it’s not that I would necessarily say in meeting people, like at work and stuff, that I’m a lesbian, but I would just talk about my family. Like everybody else talks about their family, so whether people, whether it mattered to people or not, I didn’t really give a shit, so...

*BL: Yeah.*

SB: A kind of funny coming out story was for [my partner]. So we had not been out to her family, and I think after we’d been together about 3 years, we went to her family, families for Christmas, and we went to, her parents are divorced, so we went to her dads’ on the 26<sup>th</sup>, because that’s actually her birthday, so there was all kinds of family there and [our oldest daughter] was with us, so she was like, whatever, 8 at the time, and all the kids were playing together and we were in another room and all of a sudden we can hear “well [my partner]’s my mom’s girlfriend,” and that was it. Like [my partner] was just outed by my 8-year-old to her entire family. Anyway, they are very nice people, so it wasn’t a horrible thing, but you know in some ways [my partner] was like “oh, now I don’t have to tell them,” [*laughing*].



*BL: It kind of does cushion the blow coming from an 8-year-old. Like you can't get mad at her.*

SB: Well, yeah, but anyway, we still laugh about that one. So, yeah, I'd say that was about it. I mean another, I guess a little bit funny story was when I started working for this chicken company, I hadn't eaten chicken in 20 years. Like I haven't eaten any meat in about 20 years, but I thought well I can't be a hypocrite, so if I'm going to work for this company, I'm going to eat chicken and turkey. Well, my very first day there, we had a lunch meeting and they brought in all these products for us to try, and I was like, oh shit. But nobody knew I hadn't eaten chicken for 20 years. They all knew I was a lesbian, so I was always joking about the fact that I was out of the lesbian closet, but I hadn't quite come out of the not-eating-meat closet when I started working there. So, yeah, there you go.

*BL: That's very funny. Yeah, so there seems to be like a little bit of a process, like you have to do it, you know, multiple times. Did you find, so you told your mom at the end of your undergrad, were you like, out to your colleagues, and your friends or was it kind of like you did it all together when you told your mom?*

SB: Well, yeah, no I came out to my siblings over time, before I told my mom, and then, we lived right downtown, well round Yonge and Wellesley, and so we were going to the gay bars. Like all of friends were gay or lesbian and, so, I didn't have a lot of coming out to do at that time.

*BL: Right, so "I'm dating a woman, so hi."*

SB: Yeah, exactly.

*BL: Ok, awesome. Do you think you knew before that point, or was it kind of like I've fallen for this person which means I'm a lesbian or did you like have a sense about when you were younger?*

SB: Oh yeah, I mean that was a joke. So, I was a cheerleader, and I'm not a very big person so I was often on the top of the pyramid, blah blah blah blah. But I wasn't the head cheerleader, but I had the biggest crush on the head cheerleader, and so you know, we'd make out once in a while. Now she was dating the quarterback of the football team, like this so stereotypical— *[BL: Yeah, like a perfect movie]* — *[inaudible]* and I had such a big crush on her. Now having said all that, I didn't necessarily identify as being lesbian at the time, I just know that I liked her, and I wasn't interested in dating any boys. So, it was probably about 18 when I was hanging out with this gay boy and

we were out dancing one night and he came out to me, and I said, you know I think I'm queer too. Like I think I'm a lesbian, and that was sort of the revelation where I kind of labeled it and decided that, yeah, this is how I feel, so this is who I am.

*BL: That's so sweet [laughing]. Awesome. Okay, so what kind of experiences have you had as a result of your gender and sexual orientation. I know we've touched on this a little bit, but yeah, what was it like being, like gay and out in Nova Scotia?*

SB: So, when I was running my own business, the people who worked for me knew, but my customers would not necessarily have known. Now I was part of this food service organization, and I would just, like I said, I would just talk about my partner. Her name at the time was [redacted]. I would just talk about [redacted] like they would talk about their partners, you know, their male partners or their female partners, so for me it was ok. I found it interesting that the community was so small, I mean having come from Toronto, and we'd go to Pride every year, and even though Pride in Toronto at that time was small, like maybe 20,000 people, you know, that was not happening here at all. And, yeah, so, so when I was running my business, my customers would not necessarily would know and anybody who was in a position where they might know, you know, this is who I am kind of thing. You know I've never had really had any overtly negative experiences. I have certainly experienced people saying ridiculous things that were homophobic. I mean you just can't get through life without it, but never experienced where my safety felt, like I was worried about my safety or anybody being sort of overtly homophobic.

You know, more recently I worked for this guy, and he was an outstanding leader, but came from a fairly conservative background out of Manitoba, and he and his wife were church, and you know, so on and so forth, so, you know, not sort of holy roller bible thumpers, but God played an important part. Anyway, we had to go to Barbados for a meeting and I was going to bring [my partner], because everybody brings their spouses. And this was, this wasn't that long, this is probably less than 10 years ago, but I was going to bring [my partner]. She'd be coming to dinners with me, you know, that kind of thing. Anyway, and I said to them this is the first time that [my partner] and I have gone to a work function like this together, and he said to me, he said, "Well, you know, you don't have to walk around holding hands or wear it on your sleeve," and I thought, "You fucking asshole," Like, he didn't know, have any idea what he said, because of course he and his wife walk down the beach holding hands and you know, so I didn't say anything to him. I know he had a lot of respect for me, and you know, always was lovely to Nancy. Both he and his wife, like we became friends with them. But that was one time where somebody said something to me and I thought you have no idea what you've just

said, and how ridiculous what you just said is, but, you know, I've a little forgiveness in my heart because I really like the guy and respected him.

*BL: Yeah, that's very hard. Do you like have any good experiences of being queer in the city, like, talk about the good stuff too.*

SB: Yeah, I mean, you know, I don't know that I have a specific good experience, and I should apologize. I mean I have a terrible memory. I don't remember last week let alone years ago. What I've always loved, and still love about Nova Scotia, but in particular about Halifax, is the volume of young people because of the university. And it's just got such a great vibe to it. And I think that that, you know, that was something that made a difference to me. Now whether I was queer or not, it might have been important to me, but, you know, being the person I am, I just, it's just the city has a really nice vibe with a lot of young energy to it, and so I think that it's not a bad place to be queer.

*BL: That's good. That's good to hear. So, being from Toronto, I imagine there was like a bit of an adjustment period? Because there is such a, like such a large queer community there.*

SB: Yeah, yeah

*BL: Good to know that Nova Scotia kind of holds up a little bit for you.*

SB: Oh yeah [inaudible].

*BL: Good, okay.*

SB: I should, I should talk about though, when [my partner] and I decided to have a child, again, we were trying to find some sperm because we weren't sure we could work out the logistics of going to Toronto, so this happened. Because, you know, I mean people who are straight and have regular, traditional heterosexual sex can take a long time to get pregnant, so there was this concern about how about how often, so we did investigate getting pregnant at the IWK, and, you know, this was always what I would say is that, you know, lesbians or, yeah lesbians who want to get pregnant, you know, sperm is, it's not a fertility issue, it's an availability issue. We just needed it to be available, but of course, so we go to the IWK and we meet with this doctor. The assumption is that there's a fertility issue, so you have to go through, you're supposed to go through a battery of tests, and then you need to pay \$600 dollars every time they inseminate you.

*BL: Oh my god.*

SB: And it was just like this is ridiculous, I mean, the joke when I lived in Toronto and I got pregnant, was that our donor would come to our house and then he'd cum and then he'd leave.

*BL: Yeah.*

SB: And, you know, in the bathroom, in the jar, and the way he wanted it, it cost me a TTC token. And so, for me those experiences don't necessarily hurt my heart. They make me angry to be honest with you. Anyway, thankfully we worked it out, we figured out how we could get back and forth to Toronto. She got pregnant [inaudible].

*BL: With this donor, that was the first time he was your donor and the second time he was your partner's donor?*

SB: Yes.

*BL: That's so cool.*

SB: It is, cause I mean, the girls are genetically related, and we got to know his mom really well, and so both girls got to know his mom. Unfortunately, she's since passed away. But, yeah.

*BL: Gives, I mean, like you're saying people really do appreciate knowing where their roots came from and now, they have the same ones and that— I mean I can't imagine being like adopted or something, or not knowing one of your parents, but I imagine it's nice to know that your sibling is genetically also similar to you [SB: Right] probably.*

SB: You know that prompted a talk for me, so, I don't believe they have changed this yet, but in order for me to legally be, [redacted] is our teenager, to legally be her parent, I had to adopt her.

*BL: Right.*

SB: So, we did that through the courts in Nova Scotia here. And this is another one of those, 'okay you're just an idiot, but you don't even know it'. So, you know, we go in for the adoption hearing and the judge is like, "Oh it's so nice when people like yourselves take on this responsibility of adopting a child," and I'm thinking you don't even know what you're talking about, like, I'm like, I was there when we got pregnant, I was there

when she was born. I have been her mother, I think she was 2 and a half when the adoption went through, so, yeah, so we had to go through that process and it was just this “Oh, you guys are fantastic for adopting this child” and I’m thinking, you’re an idiot, because honestly, you should know, and we shouldn’t have to do this, because she’s already my child.” Right?

*BL: Starting at two and a half years, you’re like, Now I’ll take responsibility. Like, you’ve been through the rest of it [laughing] Yeah, I imagine that’s happened like, I imagine there’s a cost associated with that, and like a bunch of things [SB: Oh yeah] straight parents just don’t have to go through [SB: Yeah, oh yeah]. Yeah, very foolish. It seems like mothering has been a big part of your sense of queer self, and like being a queer mother and in a partnership in that sense.*

SB: Yeah.

*BL: I guess I really don’t have any questions about that.*

SB: Well, interestingly enough, so our donor is gay, and I was always curious about his genetics, I mean, you know, he lives in Toronto with his partner. We don’t see him often, and the girls absolutely, absolutely have traits and ways of doing things and ways of thinking that are a reflection of him. It’s very cool. Like a bit of an experiment. The other thing is that, you know, I just don’t know how the biology or the genetics work. My daughter [redacted] identifies as lesbian. [My other daughter], she’s not identifying as anything. She’s just having fun with her friends, but anyway it will just be interesting to see. So, you know, I don’t think with [my oldest daughter] it’s nurture, I think its nature. And we talked the other day and she just talked about the fact that, you know, it seems easier now for kids to come out, but then it was relatively easy for her, and she thinks it’s in part because she was raised by two queer moms, you know that there was just any issue about whether or not she could come out and we would reject her. ‘Cause that just wasn’t any question. On the radar.

*BL: Imagine that was probably a little bit of a weight off, like just knowing that...even I know in my own life, for me it would be having those role models my whole life. Like you can live in a marriage and have kids, and like do all the things that regular people do. That’s what I was so afraid of when I was, you know, 15, 16 thinking I was queer, [SB: Right] was that I wasn’t going [SB: Yeah] to get to have a normal life, so just like seeing that must have been like [SB: Yeah] so reassuring to her.*

SB: Yeah, I think so. I mean for me I’m obsessively independent, so I remember very distinctly at about the age of 13 I wanted to be a mother but that I didn’t want to marry a

man [*laughing*]. Again, not identifying; that that was just how I felt, right. Ok I'll have kids, but I won't need a man for that.

*BL: Yeah, it's my kid [laughing]. You'll just get in the way. That's very good. Well, are there any other things that we haven't covered that you want to talk about. Those are all of the questions that they've laid out for me, but if there are any [SB: No. I'm ok] topics.*

SB: No. I don't think so. I mean if I can think of any fun little tidbits or whatever, I'll just send them off to you in an email, and, 'cause I know I'll go up and talk to [my partner], and then she's going to be like, "Well did she talk about this, or did she talk about that" and the answer is no because I didn't remember, but ...

*BL: Yeah, not worries. I can't imagine to having to ask about like 40 years ago when you went to school or something, like it's a very, [SB: Right] sort of just like this is my whole life, this is everything I've ever talked about, everything that's ever happened to me [laughing]. Yeah. It's been very nice chatting. I don't think I've ever talked to like a lesbian whose had kids, so it's like very [SB: Ah, okay] cool to hear about. Yeah, so if you think of anything absolutely let me know, but I'm-*

SB: And if you're ever at a point where you have any questions about that, you, on a personal level, I'm happy to extend my contact information for you to connect with me if you have any questions.

BL: So kind, thank you.