

Interview Transcript - REDACTED

Cathy Gorman & Marge Moskol / RIWA & ORIOLES

Details

- Name of Interviewee(s): Catherine Gorman and Marjorie Moskol
- Date & How Recorded: February 8, 2025 via Digital Recorder
- Interviewer: Martha Young
- Transcript edited by: Otter.ai edited by Mev Miller
- Last date edited: June 8, 2025

... Interview begins with random comments while looking at photos – not in Wanderground Collection

NOTE – for privacy reasons, this version is redacted of names of individuals mentioned by Marge & Cathy. At this time, we do not have permission to use those names. Full transcript in Wanderground Archives available in the year 2040.

01:28 - Martha Young [MY]

All right, now we want to hit the rewind button, and we'll go back to September of 1978 when RIWA, organized, right. So there's an amazing history that Priscilla [Skerry] put together that just documents everything. So we don't really need a lot of the [background]. She talks about six founding members, and it looks like maybe Marge, you were not part of the original six. So I'm just wondering if you can talk about how you came to know about RIWA. Was it word of mouth? So like 1978 they organized.

02:15 Cathy Gorman [CG]

So there was a lot of the feminist movement arrived in Rhode Island from our perspective, sort of in the in the mid 70s, and there was a tremendous explosion of interest and connection among women, and it was really kind of exciting, and groups like Gay Women of Providence had been meeting for a while. A number of women, myself included, had gone up to consciousness raising group at the Cambridge Women's Center, and had met a number of women, some professors from or students from Framingham State College. And that was really quite an eye opening experience. The first time sitting in a room of women, most of whom were Lesbians, and that was like a very new experience. So for women who are just coming out in a way, maybe having known that they were Lesbians for a number of years through, you know, maybe from late in high school and college, but who really had no idea of how to establish a community beyond a few friends, you know, similar inclination. But so then, of course, we had International Women's Year in 77 and 78 and that involved a lot of organizing and and that was done, of course, mostly, I mean, almost entirely by women, not entirely but, but large part feminists and Lesbians and Lesbian feminists. So the earliest group that we belong to here was that I belong to here was Gay Women in Providence, and we also participated in the bicentennial. And the Bicentennial event was held at Salve Regina College, opposite Ochre Court, opposite Macaulay

House, I think, or Ochre Court. But you know that lawn overlooking the Cliff Walk right? And I think I've told this story before about, evidently, the president of the college, who had followed Sister Christopher.

Well see the Women's Political Caucus and [REDACTED]. Jean Whipple, of course, she I'm not sure whether she was from Rhode Island or not. I think she married a Rhode Islander who was a real Yankee, but she was in public relations, and she was very much involved in women's organization

Marjorie Moskol [MM]

She had an advertising agency. That's right. J. did

[CG] J. was one of the organizers and said that absolutely that Gay Women of Providence would be invited to participate. And the college was somewhat dismayed. And in fact, when they discovered that, you know, our booth was there, wanted the organizers to ask us to leave, at which point J. said, "Well, if they leave, we all leave." Which sounded like it was going to be kind of a splash in terms, you know, publicity. So we got to, we did get to stay. That was one of the first sort of political activities that resulted from a very kind of supportive group.

The other really political activity was International Women's Year, where toward the end of the lead up to what was going to be a conference where you proposals, amendments would be voted on to be brought to Houston for the National Conference. And I guess was it, is it a slate, whatever they call, you know, these recommendations. And it was, of course, theoretically expected to be from a national level, an inclusive gathering of women with, you know, presenting their issues and concerns. But as that event approached, it began to be a more visible event, and that led to organizing on the part of very conservative churches in Rhode Island, or church in Apponaug, the evangelical church churches. And you know, sort of what we call nowadays, sort of the far right began their counter organizing and so that put some pressure on the workshops that Gay Women of Providence had planned to present. [It] was threatening actually the ability of the conference to bring to approve recommendations in support of free choice and equal pay, and the agenda that was the feminist agenda at that time.

And I've told this story, you know, before, but it was really a critical moment, as people felt that there was some risk involved in being there. And one of the strategies, actually, that had been developed when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] consulted with women from Goddard College in Boston, was to hold Lesbian workshops at the same time as workshops were being held on the ERA and on women's right to choose and on a number of feminist proposals, and that would draw people in opposition to the Lesbian workshops and their protest against there being Lesbians there, would make it possible for these proposals to be approved and simultaneous other work workshop so that was held at the, what is the name of the auditorium at Brown, you know, on Hope Street. But you hope you know what I mean, the arena.

But it was amazing. It was really quite scary. They were people with Bibles and children in tow and and chanting and speaking in tongues and and we found wonderful allies. There was

something about someone said something from the Bible, and that was countered by a Jewish woman who young woman who was a biblical scholar and the Sisters of Mercy joined in and support. And so we had really discovered that we had some allies, but and in the auditorium, when they voted on free choice amendment, standing in favor because you voted by standing were a group of leather jacketed young men who, and we thought, Who are they?

And because we had the what's, what's the group of Catholic men who were in opposition. Well, I'll think of it, but, um, but, but this, this group of leather jacketed young man stood that was the Phoenix Motorcycle Group from Burreville. So it was, it was thrilling, but it was hard.

[MY]

So, yeah, so it sounds like it was just everything was kind of bubbling up, yeah. And then, do you remember how, like, the Gay Women of Providence did? That was rival, like, an offshoot of, well,

[CG]

what happened was [REDACTED], who is grew up in Central Falls, had been in Boston. She'd been in college in Boston, and news was that she had been hired to be Director of the Central Falls as the, or Pawtucket, the YWCA, and she was coming in as director, and she was a Lesbian. And as it turns out, our personal connection was that I worked with [REDACTED]. We were both social workers working for the Department of Human Services, or what was called Public Welfare or SRS at the time, but this was just the very tail end of the war on poverty, and there, before you know, the hiring and position filling sort of came to an end.

(12:25)

But so I'm not sure exactly how it came about, but we invited Jean to go sailing, because we had us. We had, maybe was a sailor. [REDACTED] was a sailor. So either we invited [REDACTED], and I think [REDACTED] said, I think it was [REDACTED] who said, you have a friend [REDACTED], you know. So we've invited both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and then and they became a couple, and they stayed together until [REDACTED] a passed away, just quite recently. But the energy then shifted to the Y, and there were monthly dances. And oh, 70 women would attend, at least,

[MM]...usually at the what the YWCA in Central Falls.

[CG]

So out of that, a group of women decided to establish the Rhode Island Women's Association. I'm fairly certain that was the case, but I wasn't, as you see, among the original we weren't organizers, but we knew those folks. And that was [REDACTED], and her partner at the time was name I don't recall. And

[MY]

yeah, she was Marie M., Barbara R., Marge K., Ellen K., Dorothy N., and Karen M., oh,

[CG]

yeah, yeah, [REDACTED], yeah. And who? And [her] partner, then, [REDACTED].

[MM]

Oh, was it [REDACTED]? Yeah, so what ever happened to [REDACTED],

[CG] She moved from a while to Florida, but I think she's moved back, and I don't know, I haven't seen her recently, but um,

[MM]

so these young people, (giggles – looking at pictures)
my goodness, okay, I'm sorry to interrupt.

[CG]

But we weren't yet the first few meetings, but we were at fairly early meetings because we did join. [REDACTED] was at graduate school at Rhode Island College and social work, and I was on the verge of going to grad to an MSW program at Rhode Island College. And I remember we were at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s. We've been in touch with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] recently. They had a lovely house in Portsmouth, and they had it was at two level. So we were in a room in the bottom floor. And I remember [REDACTED] was there in a group of maybe more than six women there six, half a dozen or so. This is just one of the few memories I have because C., S., C. who got up. I mean, [REDACTED] got up very early in the morning. She went on to be Director of Personnel at Annapolis. But she they arrived in their pajamas downstairs and said that it was they were going to bed, and that was a clue that we should, we should just disband the conversation.

[MY]

So, so you were already a couple. When, yeah, when, right, okay, because I was wondering if maybe you guys met through why? But no, that's amazing.

(15:56) [CG]

So then what happened was I recall a meeting, RIWA meeting. I think you may have documentation on this where there was quite a bit of controversy about the fact that originally it was the term professional, yeah, there's a lot

[MY]

of documentation about the sensitivities around it being inclusive and not not excluding people that did not have professional

[CG]

And one of the concerns, of course, was that there were a number of women who were teachers and who could absolutely not afford to be identified with a Lesbian organization, who felt they couldn't possibly and so they were nervous about the fact that they might encounter one of their students, a high school teacher, might you know, at one of these events, and then you know, how would that be? So the final analysis, the final determination was, however, and

██████████ was instrumental- who was a teacher in navigating that divide - that we would drop the term professional, but that we would but that right would retain an age limit.

[MY]

And it started 30 and then eventually went down. It looks like to 25 and then maybe even 23 yeah, that was in 1983 when the first bylaws were established. So they had already said, had already lowered the entrance age from 30 to 25 and then they further lowered it to 23 so that was to kind of get around any potential conflicts for students or students, yes, not be joining, okay.

[CG]

But I remember, and this is just my personal opinion, that it was that I was very impressed with the way C. navigated that. She had been in the Marines and had been on the staff of the the unit that is involved with judicial matters.

[MY] – like JAG?

[CG]

exactly, exactly so, because a number of women arrived for their meeting who were not regular members, and I couldn't help but feel as though, you know, this was sort of a political, you know, kind of a political agenda that on the part of folks who really didn't have a commitment to the group and who really didn't know what some of the women there were dealing with, but it was sort of a theoretical for them. It was theoretical or so, that's how it seemed. So it's not as though there weren't any tensions. In fact, when we met, and we met at different homes, mostly apartments, because people didn't own homes, they rented apartments. We'd had a very exciting discussion on race. When some women, who are now members of OLOC arrived, they were Brown students, talking about, you know, the racism within the women's movement. And that was really very interesting. And it was interesting that we were meeting as a group of women whose social class backgrounds were different. A number of women were here because, like me, had been to college in the area. But you know, some of the women were, even though they and even though they may have graduated from college, were working as garage mechanics. Mm. And in, you know, Parks departments and

[MY]

and other workers that would not be considered professional, right, right?

[CG]

Yeah, right and who, often, in at least a couple of cases I know went on later to go to graduate school and to move into professional jobs. But who are at the time working in non-traditional jobs for women, it's done, yeah, from the Boston so then, after a while, rival was focused on dances, and they moved to the Post Office the letter carriers Hall, right? But Marjorie and I were really not into dancing, and really couldn't dance very well, and

[MM]

I'm not a bad dancer, but Cathy - oooo

[CG]

and the crowd was younger, and the music was not the folk music that we liked. And so I'm not sure who got who came up with the idea of establishing the ORIOLES, but I know that Madrid and I and [REDACTED], and

[MY]

it is credited to Marjorie says in October 14 of 1983 Marge Moskol, a continuing member of RIWA, said some of the older decided to establish a subgroup of RIWA called ORIOLES, which stands for Organization of Rhode Island Older Les energy, yeah, that's right, awesome. So you didn't want the young kids around

[MM]

yeah, I don't know what it was. We seem to

[MY]

Yeah, looking for different types.

[CG]

And we wanted pot luck, right? Okay, I mean, we had become acclimated to the Rhode Island culture focuses a lot of attention on food. So and we held luncheons on a monthly basis, yeah, at each other's homes, and we brought the usual potluck there. And I know Marjorie held a number at her she she owned a house a two family on Waterman Street with a second floor apartment that was very spacious and really nicely laid out for having parties and having events so and and Well, when I finished graduate school, I bought a house on Marbury Ave and an old kill and renovated, and because it needed some work to do, yeah, and we held potlucks there too, because Marjorie and I didn't live together for quite a long while after we had been together since '78 but we didn't move in together until we bought the house on Roberta Ave. in '96.

(23:24)

[CG]

and we had had as a RIWA group, also some potlucks. I know so [REDACTED] at her apartment, you know, so

[MY]

did you continue to participate, both with the rival group and well, gradually,

[CG]

I don't really think it took too long for the ORIOLES to begin to develop a large group separate apart from RIWA. Yeah. Now I've maintained my RIWA membership off and on, but really haven't participated in a rival event for a long time, right? And as much as I might like to, because I understand a number of RIWA women are older. Are older, yeah, and it would be

lovely, but of late, we've not really well. And then, of course, the pandemic interrupted a couple of years ago in terms of being able to maintain those you

[MY]

primarily, then just kind of did more stuff with the ORIOLES group, right? And do you remember how long that group? It

[CG]

started in the 80s.

[MY]

So it was '83 it looks like, right? And continued until 2020, - so it was 40 years. Wow, right? It survived the sort of survived the pandemic, and fell apart a little thereafter, which is what happened to a lot of groups.

[CG]

you know, that's a long time, and it's hard to, you know, I have clear memories of only a few. Of the potlucks.

[MY]

And so RIWA focused on dances. And then there was kind of that group that was interested in doing that, and then the ORIOLES did the the more potlucks.

25:15 - [CG]

And not a, not a political group at all. People were busy working this. This was the time when you had a lot of energy. I know I did. I'm sure Marjorie did, and and and others were, were really invested in the work that they were doing, or families, and so just being able to spend time with in a group of Lesbian an affiliation group, a group of Lesbian women, was a nice antidote to the work day world. And although that, but that world absorbs so much energy that it's somehow, at least for me, I feel it's sort of hard to recall some of those years from the standpoint of, you know, a social group, except that it was sort of grounding. It was the place where you could, oh yeah, where you could talk about relationships and what you were doing. And at that point in time, you could not do that at work. And even, you know, working in social services, it was possible to be out for the you know, to a certain extent, also during the [Edward] DiPrete administration had taken a stance, an executive order to protect LGBT people within the workforce, and we were unionized, and we, we, I, you know, kind of conveyed to the union that we expected that they would be supportive, and that carried, you know, throughout like the Carter administration, and, you know, up until and and to a certain extent, because people were established that held through the backlash of the Reagan era. But it it was still a time when you really had to. You really felt as though you had to, I should say I really felt kind of compartmentalize your identity. People would say, where'd you go on vacation? Oh, I went to Ogunquit, really. Yes, that was nice. Yeah. Do you have a good time? Absolutely, it was a little bit like, you know, reporting to Sister Eloise that I'd had a nice weekend when I was being thrown out. Yeah. Look...

[During the interview, Marjorie was looking at photos and would interject some comments about items in the pictures – for the next few minutes Marjorie & Cathy were naming names of women in the photos....those comments are eliminated from transcript]

30:32

... So let me get to the story of Ogunquit. This is a good story, all right. It's a good so I will say, though that, you know, when always experienced or risked, yeah, that's a good friend of ours. Subtle discrimination in the workplace. There is no question about that. There's, it was hard to tell sometimes whether people were just in a group disagreement with you, because there were tensions around policy, particularly when the state budget was in trouble and there were threatened cutbacks, people were sometimes conquered to be

....

31:34 [CG]

one of the things that I remember most about what happened with the ORIOLES was that Marjorie and I went to Ogunquit. Marjorie had a friend who had been going to Ogunquit for quite a while, and it was kind of a little saner place than Provincetown, less crowded and very, still very pretty with the Marginal Way. And there was an inn there, The Beachmere there,

And Beachmere was on face, the Marginal Way, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and it was an old and a very large building, Victorian kind of building, but very well maintained. And they had a lot of different rooms. And we stayed there one time and realized that there were large rooms and small rooms and two and three, both second and third story and decks and porches. And I said, this would be a place, good place to come with a group, because there'd be a room for somebody who was on their own. And, you know, a number of people wanted to room together, they could rent one of the larger rooms. And we must mention this to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], sorry, sorry. I don't know where they came from. [REDACTED], we must mention this. And C. was on her own at the time, and so she came up with this. Then next year, and we spoke, must have spoken about it, and Marge and B. decided to join us the next year. And then they invited, I don't know, maybe [REDACTED] and her partner at the time. And pretty soon we had a group of about 20 people renting Beachmere for Memorial Day weekend.

[MY]

Not specifically RIWA or was this RIWA connected?

[CG]

No - ORIOLES and number of and make a reservation for the next year, you know, right at that time before leaving. So pretty soon we had a very large group of women, and that lasted for decades, well at least a decade, if not more, into the throughout the 80s - maybe late 80s to late 90s. I wish I could remember exactly, but I mean, for and [REDACTED] was still going there, until [REDACTED] developed some heart issues and couldn't actually, I think they they almost every

year, they would go up and they would go up with friends that they had other friends that they knew from their personal circle. But so

[MY]

Always at the Beachmere?

[CG]and and Beachmere was very successful, and an architect son-in-law was building new buildings and built some sort of more traditional motel rooms, also facing, you know, the ocean and perpendicular to the to our building in the view. And some women who hadn't made reservations early enough to get in the main building would rent those rooms. And after a while, though, we realized that because people invite invited friends and friends of friends, that pretty soon we weren't really close friends, people we were spending our precious vacation time with, and broke away and we decided to go to the Berkshires.

[MM]

Now, what got us to the Berkshires?

[CG]

I don't know it was like when, I think was when I realized that half the people there, I didn't know, but I actually, you know, interests change over time too. So yeah, we were really interested in...

[MM]

Well, the Berkshires had at that a lot of theater and the Boston Symphony, yeah, so we would go to and dance. Jacobs Pillow. Jacobs Pillow. Oh, gosh, Jacobs Pillow. ..., it was really wonderful. We had a motel we'd like to stay at, didn't we? Well, we had two that were, yeah, okay, yeah. And then we would go to performances at Jacob's Pillow, which was dance, it was wonderful. And Boston Symphony played at Tanglewood, wow. And and then there was theater. There were also more than,

[CG]

Oh, there was the Williamstown theater. Oh, yeah, Williamstown, the director, whose name I'm not going to recall, was like a personal friend of Tennessee Williams. He was absolutely wonderful. And we saw the most incredible plays. It was just, it was just an extraordinary experience.

[MM]

Also, Williamstown had a wonderful art museum. They had two wonderful art Yeah,

[MY]

So you broke off after, you know, a good decade or two, ... And that's interesting, because Memorial Day weekend on in P'town was always like, women's weekend, right, yeah, so you kind of did a counter. Yeah, so you were talking about, like, the the times, some of the potential tensions, and, you know, women feeling, obviously, animated discussions, because some people

were a little bit fearful, if they were concerned about their jobs. Was the general tenor of the social functions that you had, primarily with ORIOLES. Would you say it was really more social and not ...

37:40 [CG]

Absolutely, and not nearly as issue oriented as some of the early meetings. It's hard to capture sort of how much excitement there was early on and how much enthusiasm, energy, but also a lot of tension.

[MY]

And that's the RIWA group, because, yeah, they were tangling with professional and all that, yeah, and,

[CG]

Well, and, but that was just like one tiny example. This was throughout the community. There were very strong feminists and Lesbian feminists, you know, this is the, you know, when Alix Dobkin and you know, the radical Lesbian feminist separatists. There was, I actually we sadly had to clear out a lot of stuff, and we had housing emergency, a failed radiator valve, it was a mini disaster, for sure, and a lot of stuff had to kind of get thrown away because it had been damaged. And as I was looking through some of the old newsletters, it was almost shocking in a way, the intensity, the anger that people had, that had built up over years of, you know, oppression, yeah, and so that was, you know, that was, that was also a part of, you know, what mobilized the, you know, the effort to change, you know, social norms. But it wasn't without a cost to the people who were involved because of the dynamics of oppression, right? You know, when people are oppressed, that you know what you have inter group conflict and that would, yeah, surface.

[MY]

And so you didn't feel that at all with the ORIOLES. They're just completely different temperature. Okay, that's so interesting.

39:59 [CG]

However, I think one of the reasons why the ORIOLES really during the pandemic, it was really important that people had established friendships, because particularly women who were single, were faced with being really isolated. And so what happened was a number of women kind of got together and established, you know, like their alternate family. You know, they the, you know, five pods of, yeah, would stay together, and they would meet at the beach during the summer, or go for rides or walks or hikes, and get together to eat outside, you know, in restaurants.

[more chatter about pictures]

41:25

[CG] I mean, this is some of our closest friends, or people that participated in the ORIOLES...

[MM]

...this is an old camp buddy of mine, ah, [REDACTED], oh, that's a story. And that's, that's her partner, That's [REDACTED]. Look how young
...[REDACTED] had moved out to San Francisco. Marjorie knew [REDACTED] from camp, whose name was [REDACTED]. And so there came a time in the 80s when Marjorie got calls from her old college or camp friends, and they would say things like, Well, I think somehow you were in touch with Salty. We were going out to a conference at San Francisco State, you know, Lesbian feminist event, and we were going to come out and visit. But somehow before then, or around that time, she said that that was really wonderful, because she would love us to meet her friend [REDACTED]. Now [REDACTED] had married an architect out of college and had two boys, and she and her husband played tennis with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s husband, Oh, wow. But then [laughter] what do you know? So that was awesome, yeah. So then we met, them.

[MM] Her name was [REDACTED], but she was always called [REDACTED], salty. And then her last name was [REDACTED]. So I think that's where the saltiness could come from. And there's Cathy looking very young and beautiful.

[MY]

So you went out to San Francisco, yeah?

[more chatter about pictures]

[CG] So then what happened was we got a call from [REDACTED], and you know, [REDACTED] was interested in getting together. Now, this is an elementary school friend of Marjorie's, and she said that she wanted us, and she had gone to nursing school and she'd married a professor and had moved to Ohio, I think, where she was a professor of nursing, and her husband was a professor of psychology, and her husband had a graduate student, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] called and said that she was coming to visit, and she was coming to visit with [REDACTED]. Laughter]

[MY]

So, wow, like totally sought out new relationships. Yeah,

[more chatter about pictures] "Weren't we young and lovely !"

[CG]

Oh, we haven't talked about Camp Hoffman. Now there are going to be people who know more about...

45:36 [MY]

So, yeah, that was a question. There's some the pictures that Mev took out of binders that were donated from but they're referencing OLE, which is the Massachusetts group, and that's, is that like an equip, Massachusetts equivalent of OLE? Okay, I think there was something in here about camp. It?

[CG]

Well, we went to Camp Hoffman. [REDACTED] was quite a call. It's quite a Girl Scout, and I knew on a show from camp, right? I was in graduate school. I just started. I was that my second year has got some stuff from Camp Hoffman.

[more chatter about pictures]

47:04 [MM]

Camp Hoffman is the Girl Scout camp that Cathy and [REDACTED], who was friend at that time, attended. But after the regular camping season, they would rent it out. They would rent it okay. They would let us come early in September, you know, with the camp was over, before it got cold right now. Yeah, and

[MY]

that's in Massachusetts?

[CG]

No, no, no, Kingston. No kidding. Oh, yeah, is it still? Oh, absolutely. Let me see if I

... [MY]

So the ORIOLES camp,

[MM]

The regular camp, yeah, they would let us, go on weekends until they finally closed everything after the Season.

Yeah,

[more chatter about pictures]

50:25 [CG]

Yeah. So why am I not finding I thought for sure it was a few more pictures. I can't pause, but there is a picture of there is a picture of me. I know that we, that we have that was taken, that picture of the two of us. One of the pictures of the two of us was taken, and that was taken in '83 so that was really fun. And, of course, [REDACTED] and there were [REDACTED], and I don't, don't recall her last name now, but she was a Lesbian. There were a number of Lesbians in leadership positions and the Girl Scouts, although that wasn't, you

.... you know, because I had gone to Camp Hoffman, and there were a number of Lesbians among the counselors. But of course, you weren't really, you didn't identify yourself as such. Then, I mean, I mean not publicly anyway. But so [REDACTED] had been very active as a Girl Scout. My first partner, too, [REDACTED], had been a camp counselor and was very active, and she and her mother had been very active in the Girl Scouts here, so there was a connection. And [REDACTED] made arrangements that we could rent Camp Hoffman, and that's what we did.

[MM]

Yeah, that was fun. We did that a couple of years, didn't we at least two? I don't know, one more, maybe just two

[MY]

So for being a non political group ORIOLES, the what was the impetus to go to Washington for the march down there?

[CG]

Well, you see, even though we didn't just, even though it was a group that really didn't, was really focused on social support and social engagement, you know, social activities. And even though no one spoke about political issues, there was a certain sense of support that you obtained for the positions that you did want to take. And it was sufficient to overcome some of the obstacles that you might encounter in the rest of your life, so that you would have the energy and you know to go and to know that there would be at least some people there, likely that you might know, or people that you would be comfortable with, based on, you know, the number of people that you knew from.

[MY]

So what was that experience like? The first time going you said the second one was even better than the first?

[CG]

Well, I wasn't, I think I had already almost succeeded, including smoking then, I'm quite sure, that was '87 between '87 and what, 1993 Yeah, yeah.

So I think it was in '87 that we arrived. And no, in Washington. Oh, in Washington, yeah, and we were walking, we were working, walking from our hotel, which I think was in Dupont Circle, but I'm not sure, yeah, and we had taken the Metro down, and I think we got off at what would it have been, Farragut, or Government Center, or something like that. We've got off. But you know how the streets in Washington sort of come in to the mall on a V you know, like you have Vermont, you have all these states. We all spoke, right, right, right. So we were walking down from one of or McPherson, we were walking down from one of the metro stops. And as we got to the corners where other streets would intersect, you know, at a diagonal, there would be groups of other people walking down and and the in the number of groups, and the size of the groups got larger and larger as you walked, you got to the mall, and it was the most extraordinary experience with all of the signs and and you would then you would identify, you know, these people were from Wyoming, and these people were from Vermont. And. You know, all of the different states that were represented. It was absolutely thrilling. And it was a big splash. I mean, my mother noticed !! and said, Wow, they're a lot people went to Washington, yeah.

[MY]

Did she know you went?

[CG]

Yeah, she did. And I think you know it something sort of shifted consciousness about about the whole issue at that point.

55:41 [MY]

And then 1993

[CG]

By then, I was sitting in supervisory and administrative meetings. You know you're going to Washington, going to Washington for the weekend. Really Washington for the weekend. We're going to do some museums, music thing. People watching. No we're going to march...

56:28 [CG]

well, at any rate. But that was after AIDS. And actually, I am the art the department had stepped up during the AIDS epidemic, and they were and quite honestly, there were a few of us who were involved in that effort to make sure that people got training early on, when everybody was really very concerned and fearful. And it was that during the '80s was really sort of an exciting and exhausting time when people in different organizations, the Episcopal church, St. Michael's Church, Hospice Care Rhode Island, my unit at The Department of Human Service, long term care unit... iname) from Miriam social worker, Merriam hospital, Dr Carpenter, same as I said, St Michael's and the doctor who was in charge of the pediatric clinic at Rhode Island, these were the people who supported the Sunrise House and the social work staff I worked with provided in home services funding and care plans develop care plans for people who were going to reside at Sunrise House, which began on Pine Street. [REDACTED] was very involved in that effort. That was eventually but she was a social group Miriam, and so Dr. Carpenter was instrumental in arranging for one of Merriam hospital's properties on the East Side to to be for, for the Sunrise House to be moved there, closer to the hospital and with more finance, more reliable financial support. But it was really very interesting. I remember meeting with [REDACTED] from St Michael's and Peter again, Peter, I think it was [REDACTED] again at Rhode Island, and they were talking. These were early days that adoption of babies whose mothers had been drug users might be problematic, and how were they going to handle caring for babies whose mothers had died from AIDS and infants and infants that were positive, and the creation of AIDS Care Ocean State, and my

and I was there. How did I get there? I was there because, you know, there were Medicaid applications to be taken and services to be arranged. And because we sat in, you know, you know, the hall at basement of St Michael's or something, I remember thinking, wow, these are people who are really going to get something done. Yeah, and so it was so '93 was sort of an opportunity to kind of recollect what had been done and again, kind of the energy and enthusiasm of responding to that crisis. But also, you know, having seen that, you know, politically, there were still, there was still considerable, considerable barriers, you know, to providing the kinds of services that were needed. And so the quilt, I think, was the most memorable scene. The quilt was the most memorable part of that March.

1:00:52 – [MM] But, yeah, that quilt was so big by then.

[CG]

Oh, it was so moving. It was absolutely amazing. And there were people that you maybe didn't know too well, but you knew of I mean, they were names that you recognized, from RI -yeah. And of course, Temple Beth El was very much involved too. But it was so interesting to see that, to see who stepped up, you know, and you know, despite, you know, a lot of apprehension and resistance, that there were people you wouldn't have expected to respond to that epidemic who somehow identified. Years later, I learned that one of the motivating factors, one of the one of the correlations, was people who had, as children been hospitalized, could identify closely, you know, the kind of abandonment, no hospital trays being left in the hallway and that sort of thing, wow.

[MY]

So I feel like we have a lot of great information about ORIOLES, which seems to be the focus of what you you guys were more heavily involved in, and then RIWA would just kind of continued on its own path, had its ups and downs right and reorganized itself. And seems like right now they have a good,

[MM]

yeah, well, I think, I think we found we didn't have as much in common with because they were your RIWA people were getting younger, yeah, and that's why we started ORIOLES.

[MY]

So as the age, kind of the age and the bylaws went down, you guys were like,

1:02:41

saying, with the Yeah, that's great. Well,

1:02:46

okay, so yeah, perhaps we'll be going along soon.

1:02:50

Yeah, I've taken more than enough of your time. But yeah, no, there's, there's a lot of great history here, but this was so helpful.