

## Montauk Library Oral History Program

Interview with John Keeshan

August 30, 2022

Interviewed by Aimee Lusty of the Montauk Library

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:02] Today is August 30th, 2022. My name is Aimee Lusty. I'm the archivist at the Montauk Library, and I'm conducting an oral history interview with John Keeshan. This interview is part of the Montauk Library Oral History Program. We're conducting this interview from the Sound Studio at the Montauk Library in Montauk, New York. And we're joined by education. So, John, would you mind pronouncing and spelling your first and last name?

**John Keeshan** [00:00:29] My name is John Keeshan, J-O-H-N K-E-E-S-H-A-N.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:37] And where were you born and what year were you born?

**John Keeshan** [00:00:40] I was born on January 4th, 1939, in Queens, New York.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:46] Did you spend your childhood in Queens?

**John Keeshan** [00:00:48] Yes, I did. Till I was 12 years old.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:00:53] And what were your parents' names and occupations?

**John Keeshan** [00:00:56] My father was a grocery store manager. His name was Michael. And my mother—My mother's name was Isabel. They called her Elsie.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:01:08] Can you tell me a little bit about your family heritage and where your parents and ancestors came from?

**John Keeshan** [00:01:13] My parents were from Ireland. From Tipperary. My father died when I was five years old. My mother did not remarry till I was in my twenties, so she was a single mom, a working mom. And I, I have no brothers or sisters.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:01:38] Where did you attend elementary and high school?

**John Keeshan** [00:01:41] I went to Catholic school. Holy Child Jesus in Richmond Hill, New York. I went to high school in California. We moved to California when I was 12. My mother had a job offer and we were living in Lancaster, in the Mojave Desert. And I for three years until I moved to Southgate, which is down in East L.A., where I graduated from high school.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:02:06] Did you attend college after that?

**John Keeshan** [00:02:08] No. As a matter of fact, I joined the Navy out of high school, and I spent three years in the Navy. I was stationed on Midway Island in the Pacific. You know that movie Good Morning, Vietnam?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:02:22] Yes.

**John Keeshan** [00:02:23] That's what I did. It was a lot of fun. I had a great time. And for my last year, I was stationed in Coronado, California, in San Diego.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:02:33] Did you stay in California after that?

**John Keeshan** [00:02:35] No, when I got out of the service, I was about 20 years old, believe it or not. And I came back to New York, which I always considered my home, where I met my wife, Eileen Gallagher. And we were married in 1960. She recently passed away. We just, we were going to celebrate our 64th wedding anniversary in October.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:03:01] And where did you meet?

**John Keeshan** [00:03:03] We met in New York City. I was selling advertising time for a radio station for CBS, and she was an executive secretary for the president of Saab Motor Company, who was a client of mine.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:03:21] And when did your family come to Montauk?

**John Keeshan** [00:03:25] My mother-in-law came out in the 1940s when you could buy a lot for \$100 with \$10 down. And Eileen brought me here in 1959 and to her home was then in Hither Hills.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:03:41] What brought you and your family to move permanently?

**John Keeshan** [00:03:44] Permanently. Well, we were married in 1960, and in 1973 I decided to discontinue working for Colgate. I did not want to continue with a corporate way of life, and I wanted to go into my own business. So we came out here in 1973 and we had bought I purchased a piece of property overlooking the ocean in Hither Hills. And within a couple of years, I bought a building downtown, which I still own, where Deborah Thompson's day spa is and where my real estate office was located for 42 years. Keeshan Real Estate. And it was a wonderful experience. I consider being a resident of Montauk a privilege and a blessing. Montauk has been wonderful to me and my family.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:04:35] What are some of your earliest recollections of Montauk at the time when you moved?

**John Keeshan** [00:04:42] Well, it was beautiful to begin with. What God gave us out here is spectacular. But more than that was the people, I think, when I first came here full-time, well in 1959, certainly when we came here as a second home. I think the population was about 1800 people. I believe it's over 5000 today.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:05:05] Yeah. Is there anything that you miss from that time that doesn't exist today?

**John Keeshan** [00:05:14] Yes. A simpler way of life. Montauk was very laid back. It was, in fact, more a small fishing village with year-round people. Of course, things were very affordable. Now it's become a very high-end resort for the very privileged and it's very expensive. So it's excluding a lot of our, unfortunately, young people are moving to Maine and other places that are more that's more affordable and more laid back. But Montauk, thank God, the Concerned Citizens of Montauk and other environmentally sensitive people, protected Montauk to the point where 60% of our geography has been protected

from development. So although the personality of Montauk has changed dramatically as far as who's coming, the geography out here remains the same.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:06:16] Can you describe the area in Montauk where you started to build your family? You said you started in Hither Hills. Can you describe the area around where you first settled in Montauk?

**John Keeshan** [00:06:26] Oh, sure. Well, you'll be curious enough. Hither Hills was known as The Mirror Development. It was sold by, I think Frank Tuma may have had something to do with it, but it was called the Mirror Development because the Daily Mirror Newspaper in New York advertised plots for sale. They would bring you out on the Long Island Rail Road, give you a lunch, show the property and the property was for sale at \$100 a lot. Each lot was 25 by 100. You had to buy a minimum of two for \$200 with \$10 down. The majority of people bought four. So they had a quarter of an acre, 100 by 100, which is why today most of the lots in Hither Hills, a quarter acre lots people bought them then for \$400 with \$40 down. You could buy a home for \$3,700. When I first bought my first piece of property next to—that was next to my mother-in-law's house. I bought it in 1963. It was two-thirds of an acre overlooking the ocean with a spectacular 180-degree of ocean view. And you know what I paid for it?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:07:42] No.

**John Keeshan** [00:07:43] \$2,800.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:07:44] Wow.

**John Keeshan** [00:07:45] And I had to borrow the money. Because I think when I was working for Colgate at the time, my salary was like \$8,500 a year.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:07:54] And how long did you live there?

**John Keeshan** [00:07:56] We lived there 13 years. That lot today—and I can speak to coming from real estate—if that lot were put on the market today without a house on it, there would be about \$1.7 million. Unfortunately.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:08:10] I believe that.

**John Keeshan** [00:08:12] Yeah. That's why we can't keep our young people here.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:08:15] Mhm.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:08:20] So you were there for 13 years. And how many children did you have?

**John Keeshan** [00:08:25] I have two. I have my son, Edwin, who is a graduate of Annapolis and is now a medical doctor. And I have my daughter, Nancy, who is in real estate with me, who graduated from Boston College and also is a commercial airline pilot. Did very well, very fortunate to have two wonderful young people.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:08:48] And do your children and any other relatives still live in Montauk?

**John Keeshan** [00:08:53] Yes. Both my son and my daughter live in Montauk, but my son is here part-time. He also lives in Port Washington.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:09:03] And I'd like to talk a little bit more about your residence, your first home. You were there for 13 years. And then where did you move after that?

**John Keeshan** [00:09:10] No, no. I moved over to Upland Road. So that Upland Road is just behind just before the school. And we, our family was growing, they were in high school. Eddie was in college at the Naval Academy. But I had an opportunity to buy a five-bedroom house with four baths, a huge living room, about 3500 square feet that was only two years old, and I bought that for \$290,000. I'm still living there today.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:09:44] When did you start your career in real estate?

**John Keeshan** [00:09:48] I started my career as far as Montauk is concerned in 19—when I came out here in 1973, I went to work as the manager of Sea Realty for a gentleman named Fred Kollhopp who was a wonderful man. I had sold my house in Staten Island where we lived. I didn't have a job. So when he offered me \$125 a week, I thought I died and went to heaven. We were very successful the first year. And after two years, I decided to go into my own business because I had bought the building just next door where a gentleman by the name of Joseph Steinlauf an accountant, and his son, operated an accounting business. I still own that building today. And now I have— Thank God for Mr. Steinlauf. He was very gracious and helped me out a great deal. When I bought it, he held the mortgage. But it came with the Steinlauf curse. He said as long as he lived, he had to have a desk in the office. But after two weeks, he said he was so bored, he left.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:10:55] And what's the address on that building?

**John Keeshan** [00:10:57] 37, the Plaza. It's just by the bakery. It's got a rose garden that I'm very proud of.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:06] Yes. Did you plant the rose garden?

**John Keeshan** [00:11:08] Yes.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:13] Were there any challenges to starting your own business?

**John Keeshan** [00:11:16] There were many challenges, but they were all very doable. You know that expression if you do something you love, you'll never work for a living. Yes, that's what I did. I never worked for a living. I had several people working with me, not for me. We all worked with each other. Nick DeVincentis. Ada Steven's a wonderful woman. Jean DePasquale, who is well known in the community. That grandpapa. And we will work together for over 30 years. I was there on business for 42 years. That's a pretty long haul.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:11:54] That's a long haul.

**John Keeshan** [00:11:56] We started out we were selling lots for like \$4,000 or \$5,000 when we finished up those same lots for \$1.1 or 2 million. We were selling houses for \$13,000. Those same houses today were \$1.8 million. I liked it better then. I did business then, not on the computer. I did it on a handshake and I liked it better. People were less intimidated by a handshake than they were if they had to sign a paper. We sold a lot of property, but more than that, we made a lot of friends. I was very lucky because I was

always a natural born salesman and I love people. And I can honestly say that I was in the right place at the right time doing what I really love doing.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:12:45] Were there any properties that you worked with that really stood out to you?

**John Keeshan** [00:12:49] Probably one that everybody would recognize is The Tower on Montauk. After I'd been in business just a short, just four or five years. That building was bought by Dale Hemmerdinger of Atco Properties, from Frank Tuma for \$300,000. And a friend of mine who was an attorney said, 'John, you have to get the exclusive sale of that building whether you do it for nothing, because whoever, whatever broker has a sign on it is the broker in this town to be dealt with.' I said, how am I going to do that? All these other brokers have been here so long before me. He said 'you gotta do it.' I took my daughter to a graduation. She graduated from Stony Brook School and Norman Vincent Peale was speaking. It was incredible. He told a story about—he said to the graduating class, 'You're all very privileged. Many of you are going to Ivy League schools. Some of you are getting a new car for your graduation and spending, spending the summer on the beach. I couldn't feel more sorry for you. If that's what you've got when you get home tonight, you ought to get on your knees and say, say to God, don't you trust me enough to give me a problem to solve and make a difference?' Johnny Jones, a kid looking for a job during the Depression. Told his father, there was an ad in the Post for a job. His father said, you'll never get it. It's too many people are going to be there. He said, I'm going to get it. He put on his suit, polished the shoes, went to New York. Crestfallen. He came out of the subway because his, sure enough, the line was around the block. But then he got an idea. He ran up to the woman at the door who was letting people in. And she said, whoa you can't push your way in. He said, I don't want to push my way in. Would you give this note to whoever's doing the interview? And the note said, my name is Johnny Jones I'm the 60th person in line. Don't do anything until you speak to me first. So I came home and I sent a telegram to Dale Hemmerdinger, whom I didn't know. I said, don't do anything about the sale of that building till you talk to me first. And as history would prove he invited me into New York. Six months later, he gave me the job. And to this day, he still I'm the only person outside of his company who he invites to his Christmas party. And I sold the building out 21 luxury apartments.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:21] That advice worked.

**John Keeshan** [00:15:22] Yeah. It was a—Montauk, I've made many good sales. I sold the Lake Club. It belongs to the Kalimnios family. A wonderful family. I've met nothing but spectacular people.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:15:40] Yes. It's wonderful to be able to help people find a home and a place here.

**John Keeshan** [00:15:44] I think it's such a such an fortunate thing. Wherever you may move or live or go on vacation to be able to refer to your home as your hometown, you have a place that you can call Montauk. Including Fort Hill. That was going to be a housing development.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:04] I didn't know that.

**John Keeshan** [00:16:05] But the Concerned Citizens of Montauk stopped it, and Montauk finally got its own Memorial Park, a beautiful spot. Not that anybody's in a hurry to get there.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:15] That is a great spot. Can you talk about when your daughter, Nancy, joined the team and what it was like to work so closely together?

**John Keeshan** [00:16:24] She joined the team about 25 years ago. And she's done very well. But her real love is flying. She's a great pilot.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:34] Does she fly out of the Montauk Airport?

**John Keeshan** [00:16:37] Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, she's in charge of the Montauk Airport now that it's been sold. She's there as we speak.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:16:47] So I'm going to move into some of your volunteer work and your civic engagement work. In 1974, you became involved with the Montauk Fire Department and ambulance company. How did you become involved and what were your duties?

**John Keeshan** [00:17:03] Well, when I moved here. Being part of the community was important to enjoy living here. So Larry [Lawrence] Franzone, who was the chief at the time, invited me to be on, to join the fire department. So I joined. I was the secretary. And I joined the fire department. I was also on the ambulance squad where I delivered a baby. I came home from that day and I was ashen because in those days fathers didn't go to the delivery room. I said to my wife, 'Oh my God. So that's how it's done.'

**Aimee Lusty** [00:17:41] Was that in an ambulance or at someone's home?

**John Keeshan** [00:17:44] There was a young lady there, was expecting to have a homebirth, but her doctor was on Shelter island there was a terrible storm. So they call us out the ambulance squad and John Craft, myself, and Frank Flotteron. God delivered the baby we just caught it before we go into the living room.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:18:05] That must have been an incredible experience.

**John Keeshan** [00:18:08] It was quite the experience. But the ambulance squad people are terrific. And after I finished it, I was ten years on the fire department. Then Bill [William] DePouli, asked me to be on the original board of the library. So I spent the next ten years as one of the original members of the library. And when I was finished with doing that, I joined the Chamber of Commerce for another ten years. But in the meantime, I was doing other things.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:18:39] I'd love to talk more about the founding of the library. Can you talk about how that group came together and what initiated the need and the founding of a library?

**John Keeshan** [00:18:49] Well, Bill [William] DePouli, who lived over on Soundview Drive, was passionate about getting Montauk a library. He worked exceedingly hard with the politicians and the banks, and there was quite a lot of red tape to do it, and it took a couple of years to put it together. Minnie Proctor and he always used to argue who is most responsible. When we finally got it done, as you know, the Community Church rented us the building next door for a dollar a year. As a matter of fact, the flagpole that's there

belongs to Edwin. It came from our house. So we were there for about two or three years. Lynn Holmes, who was the pastor's wife, was our first librarian, and then Diane Dinkel after that, whose husband owned the IGA, Phil Dinkel. It was, of course, probably not bigger than 800 square feet, if it was that. But we worked very hard putting it together. And then when we had an opportunity to buy the land across the street where we're sitting today, we bought it from Frank Tuma for \$50,000 and then we built a new library, which was very exciting.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:20:01] And what were some of your roles and responsibilities on the library board over the years?

**John Keeshan** [00:20:07] Well. I was—well, at one time I was the president for one year. But then when the girls all got together and decided that I would be better at building and grounds, they moved me, which is where I wanted to be in the first place. So for the next ten years, I was in charge of building the grounds. I also did a lot of professional photography that I think you have in the historical section. A lot of black and white pictures of the construction.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:20:37] Yes.

**John Keeshan** [00:20:42] When I first came here. Besides being involved in these various organizations, I decided I should have to give something back and leave it a little better than you found it. So the first thing I did, I used to do a lot of running. I ran the New York Marathon. So when I came out here, on Staten Island, we used to have a turkey trot a run for fun on Thanksgiving. So I brought it out here. I said I had about eight guys because I used to come down to the plaza on Thanksgiving morning and run five miles out to the ranch and back. And little by little I got eight people, eight other guys that wanted to run that liked running to join me. Over the years, it grew and Gordon Carberry, who was a one time—after a while, we ended up with a couple of hundred people—and Gordon Carberry, who was the Director of Recreation for the Town, said, 'How would you like the town to take this over and do a professional timing and so forth?' And I said 'That'd be great.' It was great. As a matter of fact, the year of the race that I started, the Turkey Trot, which is for families, it's a fun run. It's not, I mean, there are kids that are professionals from high school that take it very that are trying to set the record. But you can bring your bicycle, your grandchild, your dog. It's a run for fun on Thanksgiving morning. Last year, we had 1100. After I did the run for fun, I decided we need a restroom. Montauk had no restroom. We have one today. It's behind the police station. Then I decided it would be really nice if we had street lights. So I put together an organization with Claudia Dickinson and Brad Dickinson, who own Claudia's Carriage House. And we had so we started an organization, the Montauk Downtown Association. And we got the town to sponsor the installation of the lights. There was 85 streetlights that were installed over the next two years. People contributed to the lights, \$2,000 for a single, \$3,000 for a double. And it gave us the street lights that exist today, which is beautiful because it's like a string of pearls all the way down the street and around the circle. But it also provides light and safety at night. Also in between each light is a receptacle for the Christmas tree. So you can just plug it in so you don't have to hang wires.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:23:22] That's great.

**John Keeshan** [00:23:24] Currently I'm in the process and I'm halfway there is taking the poles and wires down at the Old Montauk Highway. I don't know if you've noticed. But we're also taking it down at the entrance to town. So when you drive into town, you're

going to be received by the spectacular view of the ocean without the telephone poles and wires. They're going to be starting that into November, and all those poles and wires will be gone. And the poles and wires on the Montauk Highway will be gone as well. They're not only ugly and interfere with the beauty of the ocean to view, but they also are dangerous. Because if, God forbid, somebody pulls off the road trying to avoid a deer and hits a pole, it's curtains. But if you land up in the bushes, you got a better chance. So all those poles and wires will be gone.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:24:25] And in 2008, the Montauk Chamber of Commerce named you as the man of the year for all these community contributions. Can you talk about that experience and how that made you feel?

**John Keeshan** [00:24:37] Well, it was an honor, of course, and it was spectacular. And I don't know what to say, other than it was greatly appreciated. And it was a wonderful tribute, and I appreciate it very much. Like I said, Montauk is very near and dear to me, so anything I can do for Montauk is its own reward.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:25:04] And you were involved with other community organizations like the Montauk Lions Club and St. Therese's Catholic Church. Were there any other groups that you were involved with?

**John Keeshan** [00:25:14] No. Just. Well, the fire department, Chamber of Commerce, the library, the Downtown Association, which we formed. We gave the Downtown Association to the Chamber. And they picked up on it. And that's well, that's when they started the concerts on the green.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:25:37] That they still do today.

**John Keeshan** [00:25:45] I think one other thing I did. I don't know if anybody's ever read The Life of Carl Fisher. But Carl Fisher, as you know, had a lot to do with the original development of Montauk.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:25:58] Yeah.

**John Keeshan** [00:25:59] He also built a highway going from New York City to Miami. And from Chicago to Miami. And as his friends said, why don't you call, why don't you put your name, you call it the Carl Fisher Highway. He said no. And then he came to Montauk and he developed so many things that the Manor. The Playhouse. The whole almost all of downtown by Herb's Market. They put the polo field, the golf club, the Yacht Club. But his name wasn't on anything. So I called Larry Cantwell, who was then a supervisor, and I said, Larry, what are you got to do to get your name on the street? He said, 'Forget it. It's not going to be John Keeshan street.' I said, 'No, no, Carl Fisher. It's about time we pay—honored him.' So if you notice, the plaza around the circle is no longer just the plaza. It's called the Carl Fisher Plaza. That was very gratifying.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:02] Is that a recent update?

**John Keeshan** [00:27:04] It's about four years old.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:06] That is recent, yeah.



**John Keeshan** [00:27:13] All of these various things that we did—we started out by getting the blessing of the historical society, the chamber, the fire department, people that—but most of what we did was apple pie and Mother's Day. It was all pretty much and I grew very easy to agree to because it was all very simply a good idea. It just takes doing.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:27:39] And you were very active in the community, so you knew a lot of people and business owners and local government.

**John Keeshan** [00:27:46] Well, that's the beauty of living here and being involved in the community. You have two families. You have your family at home. Your family in the community. It's a real blessing.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:28:01] And your son mentioned you were also an avid surf caster. Can you talk about where you fish and what are some of your favorite memories of surf casting?

**John Keeshan** [00:28:09] A surf caster. Well, I used to do a lot of surf casting, and then I started doing more photography. But all over, Ditch Plains, Shagwong Point all surf casting. I had six other fellows that used to go with me all the time, but unfortunately, many of them are no longer here.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:28:34] And you are an active photographer. You were an active photographer. Can you talk about when and where did you learn photography?

**John Keeshan** [00:28:42] Well, I started learning by trial and error, but then I did go to the Maine Photographic Workshop in Rockport, Maine. And I studied with a guy in Sam Abell who was a photographer with National Geographic. And a lot of my pictures were throughout, well are still in Montauk—doctors offices and what have you. But since I developed glaucoma, I can't take pictures anymore because I can't see well enough. But. I did go to Africa. Eddie went with me to Africa. Together with Tom Milne, who owns the Surfside Inn. And when I was 58, and Eddie got out of school, we all climbed Kilimanjaro in Africa. And while I was there, I shot 35 rolls of film of all of the animals. It was spectacular.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:29:37] It sounds amazing. And did you see photography as an art form or documentary form?

**John Keeshan** [00:29:47] It's definitely an expression of the photographer because everybody has their own style. But. The one good thing about, you know, if you catch a fish, in three days you got to eat it or throw it out. But if you take a spectacular picture, it's good for it only gets better with age. Montauk— Sam Abel, who I took a photography course from in Maine, asked me where I lived, and I told him, Montauk. He said, 'Bloom, where you grow. You don't have to go outside of Montauk to take pictures because the lighting there is perfect.'

**Aimee Lusty** [00:30:33] Yeah. That brings me to my next question, which is what are some of your favorite subjects and locations in Montauk to photograph?

**John Keeshan** [00:30:42] Well, I do a lot of landscape photography, but I also very much enjoy taking portraits of people. Because I feel I have a talent to capture the personality of the essence of people. And like I said when I said that, one of the pleasures I have is pictures of people that I've taken that families really enjoyed because they were so special, uh— are still around even after these people have passed, the family has a picture of this

is displayed in the home. People are still there. But Montauk has so many spectacular locations. It's all about the lighting early in the morning and late at night, different times of the year, during or after storms. Eddie and I took a terrific picture together down at the library, as a matter of fact, Suzanne Gosman had a contest about the best picture for a library in winter. Have you been in the Montauk Medical Center?

**Aimee Lusty** [00:31:53] No.

**John Keeshan** [00:31:54] I hope you don't have to go. But if you did, you'd find a picture hanging, unless it's here, of the railroad station the day after Christmas in the snow. There's no train, no light, just that last station on the Long Island Rail Road. And it's hanging in the medical center.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:32:15] I'll have to check that out.

**John Keeshan** [00:32:17] And it won the contest.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:32:20] Many of your photos were also reproduced in the East Hampton Star?

**John Keeshan** [00:32:24] They used to run them on the editorial page for several years. But they don't do that anymore. About ten years ago, they changed their—one of my pictures did win first place in the New York newspaper contest, a black and white picture. I'm sure if you look in your archives here in the library, you'll find pictures.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:32:51] Yeah. Look, I'll look this afternoon. I'm curious to see what you've donated.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:32:55] Well, you're actually to the end of my questions, but what I wanted to—I'm not ready to end, but I wanted to ask, is there anything else that you'd like to add or clarify that we didn't cover? Because I only know so much and you can only make so many questions, but if there is anything you wanted to go into further or anything you Ed had in mind.

**John Keeshan** [00:33:19] Only to say thank you to the librarian, to you, and to remind you that when we talk about Montauk, what really is most special about Montauk are the people. I'm referring to the people that have been here for some time. The families that grew up, for example. And I think Eddie will back me up on this, the Montauk Public School—the teachers were there before Mrs. Winski, Tagliavia. It was like a private education. Both of my children did exceedingly well. And Eddie continues to do well, largely, I think, because of the foundation that he had at the Montauk Public School. But also just the people in Montauk in general. There's a lot of funny characters in Montauk. There's a lot of wonderful people. And I think that's what makes Montauk special.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:34:17] I agree. Thank you. We can end. If you're comfortable ending there.

**John Keeshan** [00:34:24] That's a good place to end.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:34:25] That's great.

**Aimee Lusty** [00:34:27] This is the end of the August 30th 2022 interview with John Keesh, J-O-S-H K-E-E-S-H-A-N and the interviewer was Aimee Lusty. A-I-M-E-E L-U-S-T-Y. This recording can be found in the archive collection of the Montauk Library.