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Interviewee: Benjamin Dunlap

Interviewer: Marj Forster and Barbara (?)

Date: November 23, 2015

Place: LGBT Center

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Abstract:

Benjamin Dunlap was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania on December 23, 1957. He was born to a family with a mother, father, and sister ten years older than him. Throughout his life he was highly involved with LGBT community life and in Lancaster County was one of the originators of the community center and Common Roads LGBT community awareness. He remained on the board for many years, but recently retired. He, however, is still highly involved. In this interview he talks about his childhood and how being gay influenced his life throughout school and beyond. He discusses his job atmosphere as an attorney and his marriage and life partnership to his husband, David. He also talks about different mentors he had growing up, especially Paul Kendall, a professor at Kutztown University. At the end he briefly discusses the changes he has witnessed towards gay life and the changes he would like to see regarding that and the community center.

MF: As far as I know. Here we go. Okay today is November 23 and we are interviewing Benjamin Dunlap, and I take it you go by Ben?

BD: I do.

MF: Alright, and I'm Marj Forster.

BM: And I'm Barbara Beancome.

MF: And we're going to talk to you today about your life and what you'd like to share with us about yourself and specifically when we get going we really want to take this opportunity to talk about yourself as part of the LGBTQ community. But first of all, where did you grow up? Tell us about your start in life.

BD: Sure. I was born in Lancaster County in 1957 December 23. My birthday's coming up. Yay! And the family I was born into had a mom and dad, and one sister who was ten years older. My mom had a couple miscarriages in between me and my sister. And my grandmother, my mother's mother, lived with us. And my sister and I didn't have a whole lot in common because she was so much older, and so forth, so in some ways I was kind of an only child. That's the way it kind of felt. I mean she was around, but we weren't really close. And a lot of that is the age difference, but we were pretty different people too. And she, you know to be frank, had some, some emotional issues. And lived with—lived her whole life with my mom and dad until she died about ten years ago of cancer. And anyway, but I had a really good childhood, I had a lot of fun with kids in the neighborhood and so forth. Nothing too extraordinary, except I did always

kind of think that I was different, you know growing up. I can remember being very young and thinking, and not in a negative bad way, but that I was different from mom and dad, you know somehow. And I couldn't, at that time, put a—any kind of characterization on that. But I also remember being six years old and really liking Virgil, and I forget the other guy's name, on McHale's Navy [laughs]. That should have been a clue. And I used to have—I remember I would have reoccurring dreams about sailors as a six year old. So, you know, looking back there were some real big signs [motorcycle engine in the background]. But I had, you know, friends and guys and girls. And there was one family up the street who I was very close to, and it was a good childhood.

MF: Were you in the city of Lancaster or out in the country?

BD: Oh no, no. It was a little town called Terre Hill and it's in the north eastern part of the county, directly between Lancaster and Reading. And very much farm. A little town, a little borough, it's near New Holland. And went to an elementary school there where we walked to school. And that was pretty cool. And across the street from us and back a bit, in the back of that house were fields and Mennonite farms and you could smell the manure that they put on them and so forth. It was very Lancaster County. And it was pretty rural. And then I went to high school and had a little bit of an adjustment at junior high because, you know, from a little elementary school with one class from each grade. And let's see, what else? In elementary school I had things I had a lot of fun, would talk a lot. And I remember one thing that my second grade teacher put me up beside her because I was always talking to my classmates. And then when she put me up there I was talking to her [all laugh]. So that's kind of my—

MF So how long—where did she put you next?

BD: I think she just dealt with it. So let's see, then junior high made friends. Then there was you know, one friend in particular and I was very close. And you know, that's when I realized I was gay. You know with puberty and everything, that's when it really hits us.

MF: So what happened? What did you do with that realization? How did you [BD talks over].

BD: It was pretty hard. I remember thinking it was a phase, and you know at the time. And you know that boys would go through at that age, and so forth. And—but in other boys it was a phase, and but for me it wasn't. And you know that was really hard. That was really hard. And I remember thinking, you know, with my friends, my one friend in particular showed interest in girls and I wasn't really interested in the girls in that way. We were friends of course, but not in the way that they were having girlfriends. It really hit me very hard. And that's when I first realized that I was different. I can remember I was very sad for a while and didn't think that then—and you know actually thought about suicide at the time, you know as a way out, thinking how could I ever be like that.

MF: Was there anyone that you could talk to at the time?

BD: No, nobody.

MF: Was there a church involvement as part of your—

BD: No in fact later on the church was actually very unhelpful, but if you want me to go chronologically, we'll get to that.

MF: Okay, we'll get to it later.

BD: Yeah. But I just kind of tried to push it out of my mind, and thinking that—thinking—I guess I still thought I would grow out of it, or change you know? But it seemed like I wouldn't. And I got through high school and had fun too. I mean it wasn't all sad, there were a lot of good times too. I had friends and was in—did plays and so forth and other things, and there were a lot of good times. But I had a group of friends I was close to. But then after high school, went to college and it was a similar thing. I mean I, I did really—went to West Virginia University and did well. First year didn't even have to study real hard. And had a lot of fun with friends, but also, and here again I knew I was different. And you know it was—I went to see a counselor there, you know they had counselling for, for students and saw them pretty much the whole time I was there. And you know, he—he was trying to help me to be straight. But not in a way like conversion therapy, weird way, but just like he thought I was a regular guy and you know I just had these fears or something of you know women and dealing with them and so forth. And talked to him a lot about that and other stuff and it got to the point, like at the end of college, my last summer I had an internship in New York and I was dating a very nice woman who was a couple years older than me and worked in a magazine there. I was journalism, a journalism major and had an internship at a magazine. It was a great summer, fabulous experience. And dated her, and it came time to possibly take it to the next step physically, and I just wasn't interested. And I felt bad because I really liked her as a person. But it just wasn't me. And then I went out and you know, hooked up with somebody, with a guy. And thought I wasn't satisfied with the anonymity with it, if you will, but otherwise I knew it was right. And then I still went back to college and finished up. I had a—I had a hard time with that part. Again, I had—you know there were good times as on the student newspaper, and a writer, and I was fairly well known around the school for things I'd done and was doing, and had friends, but there was this part of me that just—at that point I knew I was gay but I didn't know what to do about it.

MF: Wow so you had a confirmation of who you were, but you didn't know what to do with it.

BD: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I acted in a more adult way, as far as the sexual feelings and sexual you know encounters, but didn't know what to do with it. And then went graduated, went home, lived at home for a whole for—until I found a job that I could go out and get an apartment. And then when I did, I met some people. I was in Lancaster and met some people there. And I remember the first one of the guys who I became friends with, and he was a boyfriend for a short time and then we were just friends, he worked at a hotel in town. And he was out not only to his parents, but at work. And this was in the early 80s. And to me that was like a revelation. How could—I never even thought I could be out to family, or you know. Because whatever I was doing up to that point was very furtive. You know I didn't tell my friends or anybody. And so, that helped. And here again I needed some help. I saw a counselor, you know a straight guy he was just a great guy and he was really good about helping me to become more comfortable with myself and deal with this. And he was very good at, I think he had said it but maybe it was somebody else at the time, you know becoming comfortable with yourself and your sexuality was like peeling away at an onion. And you know it's like a layer at a time. It's not like, you know, oh I'm going to come out to my parents and everything is great. You know? Because I know people now who—it's amazing. They're my age and they're out. The one guy in particular has a very high level job down in Philadelphia, and he's out to his parents and his friends and everybody. He was married and divorced. But he's afraid to be out at work. It goes on, it's funny. So but you know it was a real process of getting comfortable with myself and who I was

and it was really long going for a long, long time. And you know in some ways, up until now. Because we are in a much more open—you know I'm an attorney, I'm much more open with clients. Either I'm very open with them or I never—I haven't done anything to make anybody think I'm anything than who I am. I may not talk about it openly with everyone. You know you don't need to. But you know it's been a process there too. Deciding, in other words, who to be open with and who not and how much. And—

MF: So do your other partners in the law firm know?

BD: Oh yeah. They've been fabulous. They, they—when I first started and was an associate, back in '92 I worked for—going back, I skipped a lot in between there. But, going back in that regard as far as the law firm. When I first started there were two older guys who were, well one was homophobic and was just unaware. And they would say things and I would, and I hid from them who I was. And it eventually got to the point where you know when I was going to become a partner, I said to them, you know I don't want this to be an issue and they were great. I mean the one guy who was homophobic had just retired, he was gone. And the other guy who was just a little bit, I say ignorant I just mean that in a more unaware way.

MF: Mm-hmm.

BD: He was great. He became—he was one of my mentors eventually, and just very supportive. He just became a great guy. He died a couple years ago, just a great guy very supportive. And the other guys too, after I was a partner for a couple years. We had hired this guy who was a fundamentals Christian and they were—there was talk about whether or not he was homophobic and so forth. And one of my partners said, “Well you know we can't have that. We'll just have to go up to him and talk to him and ask him. And say, ‘If you have a problem with this you know we can't put up with that.’” And he said, “And I'll go to him, and talk to him, and I won't tell him which one of us it is.” [All laugh]. So that was really cool. And it's a small law firm, so.

MF: That's cute. So he did do that?

BD: Yeah he talked to him. And the guy you know he wanted to stay there and he was smart enough to say he didn't have a problem. And I think on a lot of levels, on a personal level, he didn't. So I think his religion told him it was wrong, and so forth and still had that, but that was that. But going back and dealing with it, who I am, I remember during the time that I lived at home with my parents, I was struggling that I did go to a pastor. And I was a little vague, I didn't say “I'm gay” but if he was aware at all, you know people don't come to you and ask about being gay unless you know they think that they are. It's just kind of natural. But I did, and he just said “Well, gay people are going to Hell.” And you know, that's what I dealt with. And that certainly didn't help things.

MF: Then did you stop going to the church?

BD: Yeah. Yeah it was the church I was grown up in, and yes I did stop. And—and —

MF: And did your family question why you stopped?

BD: Well it was around the same time—I mean I was post-college and they weren't going to tell me—they weren't telling me what to do anymore or anything. And so I just went—for a while I went to a church in Lancaster and talked to the minister there. It was a Lutheran church and the guy there was very, he was very nice but he was also very “don't tell anybody,” you know?

Cause the church was not open about that. He was very cool and very supportive but, you know it was just the times. It was in the 80s. And coming out too, at the time that I did, when I did when I was in Lancaster, I worked at the newspaper for a couple of years and had some other part-time jobs after college. And you know it was also the time that AIDs was coming, so we have that scary part too.

MF: Right.

BD: You know I finally was starting to accept who I was then there was this big fear on top of it. And so it just added to the challenge, the challenges.

MF: And your family? When did you—are you out to your family?

BD: Yeah. And, and it was a process. And it was funny because I lived in Lancaster for two years and then got a job in Allentown for Rodale Press for six years and doing magazine publicity. And it was a fun job and I had a lot of great experience, and I came out to my bosses there and they were very supportive. They were two women. They were fabulous. I'm still friends with them today. And the—I was out to a lot of people at work, it was a little more of a hippie place at the time and there were a lot of people who were very supportive. But then there were some who were, you know homophobic too. I remember there was one guy in particular, a young guy and I always thought that he was probably gay himself and couldn't deal with it was my thinking. So there was—there were some ongoing challenges there too, but overall was good. Overall it was good. I mean I never had a really terrible experience, I was never—you know there was some name calling that was about the worst. And that's not easy, and a lot of it was, most of my issues was the broad societal you know problems, or looking down upon gays when I was growing up and so forth. And me taking that internally. I didn't have a lot of the stuff directed at me personally, outside of that it was more of the broad things that were more important.

MF: Yeah, you were seeing it in broader society and how it applied to you.

BD: Yeah, yeah. Right. And back then there was nobody that was—you know no role models or anything. You know, the first time I can remember anything, any you know positive portrayal of gays was on, what was it called, *Mary Hartman* with Billy Crystal where he played a, he was a gay son. And that was a first [laughs]. There weren't many. I think it was a long time after that until there was another. And I mean all of the media portrayals were fairly negative. Even movies like *Boys in the Band* you know there were a lot of self-loathing. And so—

MF: So your family then, was that the same time frame?

BD: Oh yeah. So anyway. When I was at Rodale I worked there for five years and then when I was 29 I got cancer. And, but yeah it was hard, but also I say I'm glad I did. Because I was lucky I got through it and it wasn't as far as what some people put up with. I mean I had an operation and radiation and so forth. And you know, that was a very scary time. But it also woke me up. And it got me to think, hey life isn't forever. And it got time to take some chances that I don't—probably would have taken me years to take otherwise. And it was funny because within a year after I had cancer I both found my life partner and went to law school and started that. So it just got me to make some big changes and they were both very positive.

MF: Great.

BD: Yeah. So when I got together with David, who we've been together now since 1989, no '88 we've been together, and when I was going to start law school he said "If you go to Dickinson, we can get a place somewhere in between." He was working in Lancaster and was on the road a lot too. And he said "Somewhere in between Carlisle and Lancaster and you know we can get a place together." And so we did that. And it's—at that point is when it hit my dad. I mean I think he knew that I was gay, but it really hit him. And you know, that was hard for him. And it took a few years you know for him to, to accept it. And it's funny, I never said to them, well I've said to my mom a lot of times recently about being gay and talking using those terms, but for a lot of years I didn't use the terms. But they knew I was together with David, and so forth. And, and it was—we had a very close family and until—it was a certain—in the first couple years they still wanted me to do everything with them on holidays. And it got to the point where I had to say, you know "well I need to do things with David's family too." and I said "just like my cousins and their husbands, you know have to." And that's when it was like they had an ah-ha moment. And—

MF: So you never really said "I want you to know I'm gay."?

BD: Yeah, no.

MF: You just let it gradually dawn on them?

BD: Exactly. Exactly, that's the way I did it [all laugh]. And so, what's very interesting is—and you know we—dad came to really, dad and mom came to really love David. Eventually Dad died about five years ago now, six years ago, and he had Alzheimer's and at the end the last two years weren't good, but he at one time towards the end he said about David, he said, "I think of him as another son." And it was so sweet.

MF: Nice.

BD: Yeah. So that's—it's very interesting how things change. If you've got open hearts, if they aren't hateful or prejudiced, you know people change. And you know, we have to give each other a chance to do that.

MF: Yeah I think my favorite slogan is, "be careful who you hate, it might be someone you love." [All laugh].

BD: That is good.

MF: Now it seems like things are moving right along. So you were in law school, and you got through law school.

BD: Mm-hmm.

MF: And now you're in Elizabethtown now and working in Harrisburg. Where's David working now?

BD: He was with Isaac's for a long time. And about—he left there about six years ago. And he took a sabbatical for a while, and he now has a concrete counter-top business.

MF: Concrete?

BD: Yeah, yeah. Called Sunworks. So that's what he's doing right now.

MF: So have you taken a step with marriage?

BD: Oh yeah, yeah.

MF: Oh okay. Great.

BD: We got married in December, December 7 will be two years. And we went up to New York before Pennsylvania was legal, and a good friend of mine from my Rodale days got one of those online minister's licenses and married us. And we just had a—it was very small. It was at the, she and her husband they have a place in Brooklyn, and we did it at their house, and my cousin who lives in New York came over too, so it was the five of us. And we went out to dinner. We went up for a long weekend, had a great New York weekend, saw a lot of shows. And it was funny, the day that we got married that night, Saturday night December 7, during the day we saw a play at the theater for a new audience, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." And that that was really appropriate to see that that day because that is—has marriage in it and it also has fairies [MF and BM laugh]. So I thought that worked. But that was fun. And so that was really nice. And then we had a big wedding reception when we got back to Lancaster that had 150 people at a—at a hall. A friend of David's who has, [word illegible] Greenfield Inn, who has a place at the Hamilton, the Hamilton Lodge Company, the ballroom. So we rented that, it was really, really nice.

MF: Was your sister who lived with you there?

BD: No, she died ten years ago.

MF: Oh it was ten years ago.

BD: Yea, yeah. So, but mom was there she was great and had a good time. And she's still—she lives in a retirement community. She has independent living, and it's very conservative. And she, you know she's great with us, but she asked that we didn't tell others there. Although everyone would know when David and I come down and so forth, but she just asked that we didn't talk about it openly and so forth. So that's still out there. But yeah. And one of the things, I guess because of the times that I lived in and so forth, and I had one of my—I call my gay mentor, was this guy who was a Professor at Kutztown University, died a few years ago. And he, Paul Kendal, and he and his partner, and they were never able to get married, were together for 58 years. They got together back in the 50s in New York during the McCarthy era and Paul Weider worked at the Friends School in New York and he was a teacher there, and Paul Kendal was a professor at Kutztown. And they had a place in Berk's County and Paul Weider would come down every weekend. I mean they, especially Paul Kendal, were you know really great mentors about how you can have a relationship you know? Cause I didn't know. Well I knew a lot of gay people back then when I was first coming out, but I didn't know any that were in relationships for any period of time. Back then that was not the norm. And you know it was hard, because people, it was that society, that everything was trying to push you apart or and keep you from having relationships. And I a—said, looking back, that it was kind of ironic that one of the things that was thrown at gay people at that time was that, oh we weren't capable of having long-term relationships, it wasn't in our makeup. And if we wanted to get married, they didn't want us to. So it's funny. So he had started a gay organization in Allentown called Le-Hi-Ho, he was one of the founders of it. And it actually started in the 60s, a year before Stonewall, and it was kind of an outgrowth of the Mattachine societies and those early organizations along those lines. And so

I got involved with that when I was there. Because I thought it was a way to meet nice people, and it was and I met them. And you know I got involved, you know I was an editor of the newsletter for a while and then I sold ads for a while and did things like that to be involved in the community. And they actually—it was helped to start a community center there, and it failed for several reasons. One was it was the beginning of the AIDs crisis and it really hit, and when that hit everybody's attention, and rightfully so, went to that. So the support for the center that was there in the beginning just dried up and was diverted elsewhere. But also I learned some lessons too. You really have to have a plan and you also have to have paid staff. Because they were trying to do it with volunteers and it was just too much. I mean even though, Paul Kendall at that point was retired and was doing a lot, it was just too much. He really needed paid staff. And so I took those lessons, and when I came here and we—I was involved in the community and a friend of mine who's a fellow attorney, Tish Frederick who know lives—who's from and went back to back to New Mexico, she and her partner at that time had lived in Harrisburg for about five years while her partner was doing her post-doc work at Hershey. She—Tish was very involved and she started, had the idea to raise money for gay causes and to start FAB. So she did the first couple of them, and she asked me to become involved and I did. And, and then after that was done for a couple of years, Candy Florie, who was then working what was then the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, now TFEC, Foundation for Enhancing Communities, came to me and said that she had this opportunity within this national gay/lesbian funding partnership, a national one, that would link up with community foundations to raise—and we can raise 100,000 dollars that we, if we raise 100,000 dollars it would be matched dollar for dollar by this foundation. And so we kind of took that on. And you know, used that as a vehicle to do that. And one of the ways, one of the conditions for getting the money was that we had to do a needs assessment. And we got the, it's called the Cultural Partnership, I don't think I quite have the name right, but the—anyway, we got them to do the needs assessment. And what really struck me at the time was across the board ages old, young, in-between, male, female, gay, lesbian, transgendered, you know, professional, not, it—the thing that everybody said that this area needed was a community center. So I was—I really took it upon myself to try to get that up and running. And, and to be a force in it. You know to be a force and try to make it happen. And got together with some other people, Marlene Kanuck, Greg King, and Ted Martin. And we were the steering committee for this, and you know got the initial group together for a board and so forth. And it took a while. It was a very slow process. And because I was thinking, myself, it was better to do it right than do it fast, but also it was a—it was hard to get the interest, to get enough people getting the interest to realize that this could happen. And one of the very best things that we did early on is we hired Louie as a, I forget what his title was at that time. It certainly wasn't executive director, but it was like—. It was somebody to do work to help to start this, and to do mailings for fundraising, and you know initial programming and so forth. And you know, it took off from there. It was a very slow process and it was very scary at times because you know it didn't—. We were initially a project of the foundation and then we rented space from them, and Louie had an office and that worked well. And I think we were able to make Louie a full-time employee before we moved him out of there. And then we moved him to Saint Stephen's and you know got more and more people involved. And more people in the community who you know started to believe in this. And it was rough. We had some—at times. And there—one of the executive directors we had just didn't work out at all. We made this national search, and we had gotten a grant from the state. Ed Rendell was governor then and gave us a nice grant through Ted and his connections. And you know we spent the money to bring—for the search and for the seed money

for the executive director, and she just crashed and burned in like six months. And you know we had other people, another employee who was decent but wasn't quite right. And all the time Louie was there and growing and learning new things. And he was involved with Common Roads with, I think initially with just being the, I guess you'd call it monitor or whatever for the evening sessions and so forth, the get-togethers that they had. And you know then Common Roads came to us about merging, because in some ways we were competing for some of the same money. And we thought, it was their suggestion and it was a very good suggestion about merging. And we explored that and did so. And that helped to strengthen the organization. And it just kept growing. And my—I mean the programming part, Louie was always great and there were other people involved who were great, and other projects have grown out of it. Like the History Project, and Barry's, Loveland has been great about getting that going and overseeing it of course. And the elders project. And you know my—I just went off the board just last year after being there from the beginning, one of the founding members. And I felt a little satisfied going off. It was definitely time. Because you know you need new people, and you know the same people shouldn't be there forever. I wanted to do some different things anyway. And, but I felt really good when I left. And the last couple years I was really working to help—to help it to become stronger financially. About—we got an endowment in place, an endowment fund, which is you know for an organization this size, is an okay size. It needs to grow but it helps. And you know some of the fundraising, the membership campaign, I felt very strongly about that. And that's been you know a way of bringing in a more steady income, which is what we need. And so that's where I really put my efforts the last couple of years.

MF: Great thank you for doing that.

BD: Yeah, yeah. It was a labor of love.

BM: Are there any other extra-curricular activities that you enjoy? Other than helping with the center?

BD: What do you mean? In the community?

BM: Yeah.

BD: Well I—

MF: Or hobbies, anything about yourself.

BD: Oh sure. Well right now I'm on the Creative Board on the executive committee. I'm really enjoying that. That's, that's been great fun. And let's see, hobbies. I like to do yoga, I like to ride my bike, I like to read, do things with friends, travel.

MF: You know you've described a lot of change in your own life in terms of coming to terms with who you are, and your family coming to know who you are, and your relationship with David. Where do you think, what more changes do you think we need to see? What challenges are still out there?

BD: Oh boy. In some ways, in some ways you have it easier. Yeah I mean it's never easy to be an adolescent whether you're gay, straight, or whatever. But I think also in some ways it's probably harder too because they have more tension on them. Maybe they can have more role models and so forth, but you know people are more apt to, I don't know, look at them as being gay or think of that. I mean I think that unless you really—. People when I was growing up, it

was, being gay—male gay, was associated with being effeminate. And if you weren't effeminate nobody thought you were gay. And I think so now, if you know, just when people are out that that has a whole new set of challenges and possibilities too. And it's wonderful. I'm really glad that things have changed as much as they have. And at, you know back, that if people like Paul. And you know Paul who were you know my parents age, if they hadn't done what they did to try and change things it wouldn't have been easier for me. And you know if me and other people of my era haven't done what we did things wouldn't be better now. You know that's all of us, in all realms of life not just in this.

MF: Right. Well it just really points out the importance of a history project, because you know so much was hidden and these really important lives can now be acknowledged. And there's still a way to go, but I think it is positive.

BD: Oh absolutely.

BM: Yeah.

BD: Yup. A lot of good stuff. More needs to be done, but lots of good stuff.

BM: Okay so is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

BD: Not that I can think of, no. Any other questions?

MF: I guess I'm wondering what else you think needs to be done? What do you foresee on the horizon that you would like to see?

BD: Oh boy.

MF: Maybe if you can, even with the center. You can share what some of the vision is for this organization down the road, as well as broader societal issues.

BD: Well the center I think it needs to continue to do the good work and to grow. I mean like things like having the Gay-Straight Alliances at the school, I just think that is so important. So important. And because that's—not everyone can come—Common Roads is fabulous but not everyone can make it to Common Roads. And if you live in where I was brought up, for instance. Even though it's the same center service area, I would have had no way to get to even Lancaster for something like that. You know they had sections in Lancaster. And if you're not out and you can't tell somebody, you know if you're lucky enough to have parents that you know you can tell and support, are supportive of you at that age. But not everybody does. So having it in the high schools, where you can just go after school and so forth, I think that's great. And just to continue and be you know, in a broader sense, you know the things we've started to be a part of, to be families and to make our own families, and so forth. I just think that's really great. Because I've been very lucky. My family has been—I'm talking about my extended family, don't have any siblings anymore but my cousins and so forth all have been supportive. I mean they've been great. And it took a while, and a lot of that was because I didn't feel I could tell them. But once I did we talked about it, and they were great. And so—but in some ways we make our own families too. Like I have some friends and females and male that I think of as like siblings. They're great. And—

MF: And is David's family nearby?

BD: Mm-hmm.

MF: Good.

BD: Yeah, yeah. And they're very—David was very open with his family very early. So he had a very different experience in that regard. He was much—he was more independent at an earlier age. You know with what was going on in his life and his family.

BM: Okay well, any last thoughts?

BD: No I really appreciate the opportunity. This has, has been fun. You made it very relaxing and enjoyable.

BM: Alright, thank you very much.

BD: Thank you.

MF: Alright. Let's turn this thing off.