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Interviewee: Kerry Wiessmann

Interviewers: Barry Loveland and Bill Burton

Date of Interview: April 25, 2017

Location: State College, PA

Transcriber: Mak Jones

Abstract:

Kerry Wiessman was born on October 26, 1954 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. She grew up in Wayne, New Jersey in a lake community. Kerry discusses her upbringing in a large family and her relationship with her mother. Kerry also discusses her career in education and in helping children. With her long-term partner, Beth, Kerry adopted two daughters (Hana and Gabrielle) from China. They were one of the last lesbian couples to adopt out of China. Kerry founded or helped found several LGBT organizations, including the Center LGBTQA Support Network and the Gay Affirming Interfaith Network. Kerry also organizes “Drag Bingo” fundraiser event for the State College High School and her identification as a Quaker. Kerry speaks to her experience in a litigation regarding homosexual couples where the ACLU picked up their case and won the suit, eventually changing numerous policies regarding unmarried couples and insurance. Finally, Kerry discusses her fears regarding the current political climate as well as the Trump presidency.

BL: I think we should be alright. Okay, my name is Barry Loveland and I am here with Bill Burton, who is also helping with the recording session today. And we are here on behalf of the LGBT Center of Pennsylvania History Project. Today is April 25th, 2017, and we’re here to conduct an oral history interview with Kerry Wiessmann [pronounced wise-man] and this interview is taking place at her home in State College, Pennsylvania. Kerry, do we have your permission to record the interview today?

KW: Yes, you do.

BL: Great, thank you.

KW: Just so you know, my name is- I pronounce my name Kerry Wiessmann [pronounced wees-man].

BL: Wiesmann, okay. Sorry about that.

KW: No, it’s not a problem.

BB: Gotta make sure.

BL: Well, it’s good for the, yeah, for the tape. We’re not tape, I guess, anymore, but it’s good for the recording to know that. So, what I’d like to do- we- we’ve got a, sort of a list of props or topics that we’re going to cover.

KW: Okay.

BL: And, so I'm going to try to go through those in some kind of general order but basically we're here to hear your story so if we deviate from all that, that's fine, as long as, you know, we are capturing what you want to- what you want to say about your- your life story, so. But I'd like to start at the beginning with where and when you were born and then a little bit about your life growing up.

KW: Okay. I was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. I grew up in Wayne, New Jersey, which is Northern Jer- New Jersey, north of Route 80, about 20 minutes west of the city, which is sort of how people measure where you grew up in New Jersey (BL laughs). In a lovely, small lake community.

BL: And what year, I'm sorry, did you say what year?

KW: 1954.

BL: '54, okay.

KW: October 26, 1954. And—

BB: You're a Libra.

KW: What?

BB: You're a Libra, right?

KW: No, a Scorpio.

BB: Oh! You crossed the—

KW: Crossed the line. Anyway, I was one of seven children, so I was the sixth child of seven, and I was the third girl and have four brothers. So, I have a younger brother, as well. When I was really young we lived on a chicken farm. My father apparently evaded going to war by farming, and apparently, at some point in their- their life before I was born they actually attended Quaker meetings in Montclair, New Jersey, which is where they both grew up. But, once they started farming I'm sure they had no time for that because they were farming and raising seven children. So, that's relevant because I am a Quaker, but I did not grow up as a Quaker. We had a community church that we went to in Packanack Lake, New Jersey. And I would say that after I was about six and a half we moved to a house in the middle of five acres of woods, also in Packanack Lake. My father stopped farming chickens and became a liquor and paper square salesman for restaurants. And so I think that was probably much more lucrative in terms of trying to raise seven children and support them through- my father did support all of us through college, so- or my parents did. My mother was a journalist. Wrote a daily column for a newspaper.

BB: Wow.

KW: Very sort of gregarious and political woman. My father, on the other hand, was very quiet and- but they- my mother always said she married him because he was such a good dancer, for what that's worth. And so we were, you know, we were used to a big family. On the other hand,

we had no cousins, because my father was an only child and my mother's brother never married. So, you know, we were kinda it, but we always had-

BB: A big 'it' with seven children.

KW: Yeah, right, right. And I would say that we all lived through a fair amount of what some people from that- those years call 'benign neglect'. In other words, we raised each other. My- my parents were working all the time and, you know, I spent most of my time that I wasn't at school in the woods around the house where I lived, with my dog. I remember takin pictures, I liked to watercolor, I- and I would also say that my parents- my friends parents did a fair amount for me, you know, in terms of sewing costumes that needed to be sewed and for dance classes and- and that kind of thing. And taking me to dance classes, picking me up from dance classes, and all that kind of thing. But, our family is still pretty close. My oldest brother has- is deceased, but the rest of us get together for holidays still, and I am the furthest west of my family. So, I have two brothers in (____?) New Jersey, and a sister in Long Island, a sister in Bucks County, Pennsylvania across from Trenton, and a brother down in South Carolina. So, do you want more about my childhood?

BL: Did you have any sense early on that you were different, that you were attracted to women, or anything like that or...?

KW: Well, I actually, this- Suzy who was one of my girlfriends and I would dabble in, you know, sexuality, but I don't think we really knew what we were, you know, we were just being little kids exploring. I think we around seven or eight or whatever, you know.

BL: Okay, yeah.

KW: But, it didn't bother me at all that she was a girl at that time. But, when I did tell- come out to my parents, I probably didn't do that until I was like 35 or so. Not that they didn't know, but I didn't actually talk to them about it until much later in life. And my mother said, "Well, I always knew you were a little different." And, you know, I feel like that's sort of a cliché. A lot of parents say that, you know.

BL: Mmhmm.

BB: Yeah.

KW: I- I wasn't a real gregarious kid. I was kind of shy. And I broke up with my seventh grade boyfriend for no reason whatsoever, other than it was boring.

BB: That's a good reason.

KW: Yeah. I felt really, really bad about it, though, because he took it so hard and I couldn't give him any good reason, you know. It was just like, "I don't want to do this anymore," you know? I did- and I didn't really date anybody through high school, but I did go to senior prom with a young man. I didn't- I did sports. I did both basketball and diving, and I liked those, but I can't say that I was especially certain of anything at that point. I did- I came out in college. When I was- probably about my junior year is when I started realizing, "Oh. You know. I'm not sure that," I- I think that's when I started realizing, "Oh, I'm probably bisexual," you know, I

mean, because I was in fact physically attracted to both male and female. It was just, probably after graduation, that I realized that I'm not very fair to guys because I don't really want to engage in anything, you know, with them, other than, you know, so when I- I would feel intimate with them, but then I really didn't want to go any further with them. And so it became very clear to me, "Oh, I think I better find a woman." [All laugh] Because that was- and so I think it was actually more, not that I didn't want to have intercourse, but that I- I was- I just didn't think that a- I would relate as well to a male on a psychological or spiritual way as I could to a woman. And- and to me sex wasn't just about the body, and so- and so it really need- I realized that I kind of dead-ended there. And that it wasn't fair to guys, you know, that I was- that anybody was- might have been interested in me when I was, you know, I'd go so far and then I would, sort of, that would be it, you know, and I realized, "Oh, I don't think this is what this has cracked up to be, and I have a feeling it's- might have something to do with who I am." So.

BL: And what- what year did you enter college and where did you go to college?

KW: I was 17 when I went to college. My birthday is in October, so when I was growing up we were still allowed to go to school before we were age five, so I was fairly young. I went to Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and then I spent my junior year abroad in Germany. And before I go into that junior year abroad, I went to an archaeological dig in Jordan- Amman, Jordan. So that was pretty exciting. So it was really- and I guess the end of my sophomore year the- there was a young German woman who was- I forge- I don't know what it was exactly called. I don't know if she was a guest teacher, I don't know if she was- she wasn't- or if it was like an internship, I don't know what it was, but she wasn't that much older than I was, but obviously she was fluent in German, because she was German, you know, I just fell in love with her. And then I spent a year- I spent a year in Germany, and at that point I thought I was equally interested in male or female. But it wasn't until after college that I realized, as I had more- few more experiences, that I realized, "Oh, I think, you know, that I definitely need a woman." [All laugh]

BL: And what was your field of study in college?

KW: It was ancient civilization and German literature. My father really wanted us to get an education. And back then, they didn't really care that much about what job you were going to get afterwards. It was really all about getting an education. And that was a good thing because I loved speaking German. I had four years of German in high school and took German and Greek in college, and then went to Germany, you know, so the German literature, you know, came from that. But I also did the ancient studies, so by the time I came back and had to declare majors, I said to my- the person who was serving as my advisor, "Okay, what shall I major in to graduate?" [All laugh]. So it was the- they were definitely the degrees of least resistance. I also had a minor in dance, though. I love dance. Specifically modern dance. I had grown up dancing from the time I was three until the time I was- you know, until I left home. So, did a little bit of acrobatics, a little jazz, a little ballet, a little, you know, some tap, some- all those typical girl-girly- girly dance things, you know. So, and then in college I took modern and really, really liked that. I did some folk dance, too, in college.

BL: Were there- were there any like, identifiable gay organizations on campus when you were in college, or?

KW: No.

BL: No, yeah.

KW: The way I really came out was when I was in Germany. At a certain point I would go, every weekend, to the library, and I was gobbling up, practically, *Ms.* magazine. I would read every *Ms.* magazine I could get my hands on. And it was like, “Oh, wow, I really can identify,” you know, I mean I was finding myself through *Ms.* magazine. And it was absolutely vital.

BB: Well, that was the beginning of feminism, so.

KW: Yeah, right, exactly. So, I mean, it was definitely part of what helped me to learn who I was and what I believed and what I- it was very formative, for me, reading *Ms.* magazine. [All laugh]. Gloria Steinem would be happy to hear that. That they had such a big influence in Germany.

BL: Yeah, yeah.

[Telephone rings]

KW: You know, we can ignore that, but it’s going to ring until they, you know-

BL: Yeah, you might have to go get it and we’ll put this on pause

[Ringing, automated phone voice: Call from (inaudible name).]

KW: I’m not going to answer it because it’s something I’m not interested in, but it’ll just take a second until-

BL: Okay.

BB: To cut out.

KW: ‘Til it cuts out. The machine will pick up and they’ll hang up, so. There we go, I think we’re done.

BL: We’re okay. Alright.

KW: So-

BL: So when you came back-

KW: I guess the other thing about my childhood is that from the age of about six on, for six weeks every summer, my two sisters and I all went to a girl’s camp, Camp Naiota (ph.), in northern New Jersey. And those were also extremely formative and really influential. I think that it was through, probably, that camp experience that I started to own who I was and became a much more assertive person and really thought it was okay to be who I am. Which was probably- I mean I was definitely unique in my family. I was the only person in my family who went to church after confirmation and I, you know, I stayed and I continued to help out with the children and preschool and all that kind of thing. And I served on the Board of Trustees as a youth representative and so on. So, and my spiritual life has always been very important to me, so that was kind of unique and different. So...

BL: Yeah. So after you came back from Germany, then you finished school here?

KW: I finished school at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and then I moved to Philadelphia to outside of Philadelphia in Haddonfield, New Jersey, where my sister was living. She was going to law school at Rutgers in Camden and I was- had no idea what I was going to do so I looked for a job and one of the things I had done in- in high school is I had done woodworking. And I had been the first girl in my high school to do woodworking.

BL: Wow.

KW: And in order to do that I had to sit in my counselors office and he said, "Oh, girls can't do that." And I said "Why not? The- the teacher said I could." And so he called up the teacher and he was very disgruntled when he hung up and said- I mean, I was in tears though before he finally called the teacher, and he finally said I could take it. But at any rate I had taken a good bit of woodshop and the instructor really liked having me because I loved doing it, whereas most of the boys that he had were doing it to do nothing, you know. They wanted to do nothing. They weren't really interested in woodshop, you know, so, but at any rate I went then and so I did a fair amount of refinishing furniture and that kind of stuff and so after my first job was refinishing antique furniture and caning chairs after high school. And wasn't really enough money and the person that I was doing it for who was this much older, I would say Eastern European man who was making passes at me all the time and I didn't really want to have anything to do with it. So then I started selling *Time Life* books.

BB: Ah! [laughs]

KW: Okay, you know, I mean, you know in Philadelphia. But the good thing about it was that that was in the same area of town as the American Friend's Service Committee was and so then I would volunteer a little bit for the Women's program of the American Friend's Service Committee. So I did both of those for a while. I continued to work at summer camps. Not the one that I grew up going to, but at two other summer camps. I-

BL: So you were doing, like, counseling? Or counseled, like, little...

KW: Yes. Yeah, I was a counselor for a group of students.

BL: Mmhmm.

KW: And I really- I really do love and believe in summer camps for kids.

BB: Yeah.

KW: But at any rate the- so I did- I did that and I met a woman there at one of the camps and then I moved out to Louisiana with her for two years while she finished her Bachelor's degree. In some sort of environmental sciences because then eventually we came to this area so she could do her Master's degree at Penn State in forestry, but while she was finishing her Bachelor's degree I worked for two years building cabinets in the largest cabinet making shop of the south. So they had all this great equipment and everything. It was, I mean, kind of interest- I mean, I was like 103 pounds then, because I was working 10 hours a day, and they would make the men work 5 hours on Saturday, too, but I was the first female that worked there and made it, because

they really tried to drive you out. And by the first job I had for two weeks was they gave me a pocket knife and I was peeling caulk off of old teak wood from teakwood decking from a ship. So that's what they had me doing for two weeks for 10 hours a day.

BL: Wow.

KW: Taking caulk off of, yeah. I mean, you know, they really- they, you know, they'd walk up and say, "Oh, how are you doing? How do you like this work?" Of course they would-

BL: Knowing full well that...

KW: Right, that they're trying to drive me out. So, of course I said to myself- well, the deal was that you could make- that you stay for two weeks, and at the end of two weeks you could leave with no hard feelings, they can fire with no hard feelings. I felt that was a good deal. So I said, "Well I'm going to leave after two weeks but I'm not to- I am not going to let them drive me out." Right. Well, after two weeks I, you know, I didn't have another job, you know, and I had made it that far, I was sort of like, "Well, it can't get any worse, right?" And in fact they did start to give me other stuff once I proved that I could endure the- the bootcamp that they'd just put me through, you know? So at any rate I stayed there for two years, but I knew that I really wanted to- to get into teaching. Now, I had always thought I wanted to teach from the time I had taught preschoolers in Sunday school, but when we were going to school, and I think you're probably sort of my generation, there was a glut in the teaching market, and the said, "Don't be a teacher, you'll never get a job." Well, so I wasn't a teacher, but I really was a teacher, you know, I mean, so- so then I- I got a job at the- downtown. The school- Friend's Select School. I got a job as an intern teacher at the Friend's Select School in Philadelphia, and my friend had finished her degree so we came up to Philadelphia and lived with my sister for a little while until we could find a place, and so for a year I did that, and then I taught for three more years in Friend's Schools in the Philadelphia area. And did- I coached some diving also. So that was really good. And then when my girlfriend was coming here to do forestry, I also got a job at the local Friend's School, which had just been born at the time, and so I was the first teacher outside of the founding mothers. So I consider myself a birth pang of that school, because I think you probably know that the birthing of organizations is ever really smooth and easy. And the same was true there, too. But at any rate, so that's how we came up to this area. We split up shortly after coming here because she wasn't ready to be with one person yet, so we split up and I met my current partner, and we've been together since 1983.

BB: That's a really long time.

BL: Yeah.

KW: Yeah.

BB: Yeah.

KW: So, we moved into this house in August of '84. I lasted at the Friend's School for about a year and a half. Then I became a counselor for the private industry council of Center County, which was- I had, while I was teaching, I had gone through the volunteer Women's Resource Center volunteer training to be a hotline counselor actually helped and my partner also was

employed by the Women's Resource Center, and then, so I had some counseling experience at that point, not a lot, mind you, but my boss gave me a- a try at it and so I was helping- I was working in youth programs to help run their youth work programs. Which was through- it wasn't- at that point it was Job Training Partnership Act, it would have just changed to from CETA to the Job Training Partnership Act, I'm not sure if you remember those or not.

BL: I remember CETA, yeah.

KW: Yeah, so, Job Training Partnership Act was the next generation of job training programs. So- funded much better than they are today. But, at any rate, I did that for about eight years. During that time I got my Master's Degree at Penn State in Counselor Education in both Rehabilitation and in- and I also interned in Elementary Counseling. That was, once again, my deg- degree of least resistance, you know, I was like, "How can I get a Master's Degree in Education without an undergraduate degree in Education?" So, because I was doing what they considered Rehab services in the employment services, I was able to get that degree and all I needed was another internship to get my Master's in Education to become an Elementary Counselor. And that's good because I wasn't really good at classroom management anyways. What I was really good at was the rapport with kids, helping kids to be happier [all laugh].

BB: Yeah.

KW: You know, helping kids solve problems, that kind of thing. So I've been now with the State College Area school district for the last 15 years. And so that's sort of my- my- my jive through careers, you know. Not-

BB: So you're still working there, right?

KW: Yes, I am still working, which is why I wasn't available until 3 o'clock, which is the earliest I could be free, yeah.

BL: So your position now with the school district is what kind of- is it teaching?

KW: I'm an elementary school counselor, and what that means is I see kids, I do teach some social skills classes- social and emotional intelligence classes, kindergarteners through fifth grade, and some third grade, some fourth grade, just depends on what teachers would like me to come teach for them. I do individual services, I do small group services. Sometimes, I'll run- I'll run like a leadership group or a group for coping strategies for anxiety is really big right now among students because of all the pressure to achieve. All the standardized testing, and so it. It really has tapped the anxiety button.

BB: What age level?

KW: So we're talking kindergarten through fifth grade.

BB: Wow. That anxiety levels at that early age?

KW: Oh, absolutely. Kindergarteners.

BL: Wow. [laughs weakly]

KW: Most people, quite frankly, who have anxiety it's- it's- you see it early in life, I mean. It is possible that when the brain does its transformation in the teenage years for you to have sort of what I would then call a late onset of anxiety, but- because the brain does a new transformation kind of thing, but usually if a kid is going to have anxiety they're going to display it early on. I have two daughters, both of whom are Chinese, I don't know, I didn't- I can show you [moves away while speaking, floors creak in background] let's see. Get this one and... So when I was working for the private- oh! I missed a job in there. I worked for Penn State for 12 years after the- after the private industry council of Center County on a project which was called Fast Track, and it was a prevention project. That's really where I learned to be a good- good counselor and learned how to teach kids friendship skills and all that kind of thing. That was a wonderful job. Anyway, when I was working for them I obviously adopted these two kids. Went to China. I've been there three times now. This is my partner, Beth, and this is them now. This is us. That was our Thanksgiving photo.

BB: Oh, wow. How old are they now?

KW: The older one is about to graduate from college. She's at Edinboro University in State College- excuse me in Edinboro, PA, which is 15, 20 minutes south of Erie, PA. So she will be looking for a Graphic Design position. And the younger one is a junior in col- junior in high school, and she is having a stressful junior year where she is about to take a- she's been taking SAT exams and she's got two AP courses plus Chemistry and- and pre-calculus and, you know, just very heavy academic year. But she's into photography and into writing. So we've been looking at schools for her for, you know, for her to apply to next year, and so, yeah. So she's 17- the younger one is 17 and has gotten her license to drive and all that good stuff, and Gabrielle is now- will be 22 in May.

BB: Wow.

BL: That's great.

BB: Was it difficult getting the adoption? I mean the process of going to China?

KW: I did a lot of research to find an agency that would stand us- behind us as lesbian women because, what you don't want to do it hide the fact that you're lesbians and then have them find that out and then have them abandon you because you didn't tell the truth. Also, I'm a Quaker so I really believe in truth telling, so, at any rate, so I did find- what we wound up needing to do was to have two different agencies. One local one that could do the house- home study, and then one that was internation- that was a- a- good agency for international adoption, and they were out of California. Because it's ideal when you can have one agency do both, but we didn't have anybody local here that did California adoptions that I trusted- excuse me, that did Chinese adoptions whom I trusted. At the time that we adopted, China was the go-to place for lesbian women because you could get an adoption in nine months. And you could have an infant. You could have a girl, you know, and-

BL: Because they wanted boys in China, I think.

KW: Well, they would tell us that they do say that they have just as many boys given up for adoption as they have girls given up for adoption, but that the Chinese always want to adopt a

boy, because it is a boy who is responsible for taking care of the parents in their old age, because there's no social security system over there.

BL: Right.

KW: I mean, your boy is your social security system. And you're only supposed to have one child.

BL: Yeah.

KW: So, at that time, you know, it was pretty clear that, you know, that everybody is going to adopt a boy, not a girl. So, the girls were being adopted internationally, for the most part. There are some special needs boys that are also adopted internationally. I work with one right now in school, and in one of the- well, you go and you go to China. You go in a group. And the whole group gets their babies together and there was- in one of my groups there was a family that got a, what was considered a special needs boy, and that's a child who is over the age of two. And that's what makes them- made him special needs. Because adopting, especially between the ages of two and five is a very difficult period of time of development for a child to be adopted. You know, on the one hand they say the earlier the better, on the other hand, you know, especially when you're going into a new language, the earlier the better, but it is- there are challenges once the children are over two years old. The whole attachment issues are- become very, very strong and you're not only taking them out of their- what they know, you're taking them out of- to a while new culture and so on. And they've already developed language, and they have to learn a new language at two. That's- there are a lot of challenges.

BL: Yeah.

KW: So, at any rate, we were fortunate to get two infants. We were the, probably, some of the last lesbian couples to get to go to China because they changed the laws for adoption in the United States such that the United States agencies became obligated to respect the international law- the international law. And of course, China doesn't believe that they have any gay people, so they're not going to allow any gay people to adopt.

BB: China isn't.

KW: Right, China doesn't have any gay people [all laugh].

BB: Like Iran.

KW: So at any rate, so Hana was one of the last, I mean we were definitely the last family that went to China for our agency that was a lesbian couple, you know, so they would have to go to other- other countries, or domestically, to honor, you know, whatever the laws are- law of the land are, you know. And basically there are some international- there are some countries that just don't have laws about it, you know, that will allow. But, like Korea, for example, will only allow heterosexual couples. So, they will not allow single parents at all. So, it's why there are a number of people Beth's and my age, and younger, who have Chinese daughters. Married lesbians who, you know, but as I said there was this window of- they're three or four and a half years apart- I would say there was a window of about 10 years where it was big.

BB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. And China realized it was big [laughs]. They didn't like hearing it.

BB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah, so. Anyway. But obviously, adopting the girls was really important to me, especially. So Beth and I had talked about it for about 10 years and she finally said, "You're not going to be happy until you do it, so do it." And, of course, all it really- she- it wasn't that she didn't want children, she was just afraid that she wouldn't bond with the child, you know, in the same way that I would. And that the child would come between us and all that kind of thing. The relationship- do you have children?

BB: No.

BL: Nuh-uh.

KW: Okay. Well, your relationship definitely changes when you have children.

BB: Yeah.

KW: But, they don't come between you. Once, all she had to do was have Gabrielle, the older one in her arms for the first bottle and she was gone. You know, she was, you know, it didn't- there was no adjustment period, really, I mean it's just like you suddenly have this baby in your arms and, you know, it's like, "Oh my heavens," you know, it's- it's quite a- kind of indescribably feeling, you know, because when you adopt like that, you know, you go from zero to a hundred, you know, in a few seconds.

BB: Yeah.

KW: You know, it's not like your belly is getting big and you're feeling it kick, you know, and all that kind of thing, you know. Adoption is a really kind of a *crashhh*, you know. So, but it's been a very positive thing for us.

BB: That's good.

BL: Yeah.

KW: And my partner is a social worker. Now, this cat wants to sit on your lap, and you don't have to let her.

BB: No, I think she smells my cat, Hillary. Because Hillary sit sometimes-

KW: I see. On the-

BB: The side she was sniffing and I think that she smells Hillary.

KW: There's a cat, right? So, anyway. Yeah, so we've loved having kids. What was I saying?

BB: You were talking about the immediacy of having adoption and...

KW: Oh, right, right, right. Having- going from...

BB: It's been good for you, it's been good for your relationship. Beth is a social worker, you were saying.

KW: Yeah, oh yeah. So she's a mental health therapist, and so she, you know, we're both counselors, as it were, and my mother, when- the first time that Gabrielle called Beth 'mom', my mother freaked out. And, I mean, at that point, you know, she knew that we were partners and everything, but she thought that it would be very harmful for my daughter to have two mothers. You know, she expected Beth to be 'auntie' or something, you know.

BB: Yeah.

KW: And when- she just- my mother's a kind of dramatic woman and so of course she just went ballistic. She just couldn't believe that we were going to do that to that child and blah, blah, blah she went on and on. You know.

BB: Did she call both of you mom? Mom, mom, mom?

KW: Well, we had decided that I would be Mamma Kerry and that Beth would be Mommy Beth, and both of the girls just call us both 'mom' [laughs]. They don't really- they never really took to the Mamma and Mommy thing at all. They just call us both 'mom'. And they also call us by our first names, so if we're both there they'll say, 'Kerry' or they'll say 'Beth.' And that's fine. That's not a problem. They- well, they actually call us by pet names as well. They call- they call her 'Betty Lou' somewhat- sometimes, and then they also call me 'Kerry-O' or something like that, so, I mean, you know, so just like families have pet names for each other. That happens too, but, it's not a problem for them that they call us both 'mom'.

BB: Yeah. I think that's wonderful. And it's- it's...

KW: You know, they don't know otherwise, I mean, there was a child in Gabrielle's preschool who kept asking her about her father, because obviously this kid didn't see her father ever pick her up.

BL: Right.

KW: And she kept seeing two women. [Door creaks open in background] This is Hana coming home from school. Anyway, she-

BB: [To Hana] Hi.

Hana: Hello, sorry. I'll just sneak off.

KW: No need to apologize, honey. And so the little girl says to Gabrielle, "Where is your father?" very frustrated that he would never show up. And Gabrielle, I just loved what she said, she said "Far, far away." [All laugh] Because, indeed, she knew that her birth father was in China, you know. So she- they've known their stories. And we've got books about their- my trips to get them, and so on.

BB: Yeah.

BL: Wow.

KW: So they've known their stories forever, you know, we talked about them as they were growing up and so on. So there was never any surprise about anything like that. But they have had to deal with things. Hana recently said that her friends had asked her if we were disappointed that she's not a lesbian, and so Hana said, "Mom, are you disappointed that we're not- I'm not a lesbian?" And I said, "No." I said, "Why do you ask?" And she said, you know, "Well my par-my friends thought that since you're lesbians, I should be a lesbian." And I said, "Well, you can tell your friends that your sexual identity is probably set by about the age of two, so we didn't have much time to convert you." [All laugh]

BB: You don't convert.

KW: Well, of course that was the joke, I mean, she knows that, you know. I said, "Honey, I just want you to be happy with whoever you love." [laughs] You know?

BB: Yeah.

KW: So, at any rate, it's, I mean, you know, they've, I think, both done really well growing up with it. There have been occasions when our older one who is the more conservative child, in other words, she just likes things, she- she- Hana is a risk taker, you know. Hana will put herself out there, and she will, you know, she just says, you know, "Well my parents are lesbians," you know "You have a problem with that?" You know, I mean, she's-

BB: Yeah.

KW: Whereas Gabrielle would- there were occasions when she was growing up when she would only want one mom to go someplace so that there wouldn't be questions about why there are two moms there. And we've always honored that with the kids, you know, if that's where they were at, that's where, you know, that's what they wanted. And, you know, there are still times when Hana might- and I don't think it's clear to them why they only want one of us to go. But, and I don't really think it's internalized social homophobia, it's just, I think maybe sometimes they want a one-on-one experience rather than a, you know, a lot of kids, you know, one of the parents is always working, so one parent is the only one who goes. And if you're the only one with two parents there- when Gabrielle was in college her freshman year, she was on the dance team. So we would go up for every football game because she was always performing, you know, for the football games, and they- her friends started calling us Helicopter Moms. And the fact is is that I don't think really that we were Helicopter Moms because, you know, we might talk to her once a week, but, you know, we didn't, we weren't talking everyday on the phone and we weren't, you know, doing the kind of things you might expect a helicopter mom to do. We weren't trying to control her experience or anything like that. But it was just because there were two of us there. Two moms there all the, you know, every time we arrived, you know-

BB: Yeah.

KW: That they- that it seemed like there was a lot more mom there, you know, then [all laugh] for other kids. And plus we did go, we did go to most of her- their games, and they just weren't in dance team or something like that, so they didn't have family coming, you know, But I do think it's because there were two moms there, or there was always one mom who could come do

something for her, you know. So they just saw more mom- more of a mom, you know, then a lot of kids do.

BB: Yeah.

BL: Yeah.

KW: But they don't have any problem telling, you know, kids that they have lesbian parents or anything. They're quite well adjusted.

BB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. They- Gabrielle has occasionally said when she was growing up that she sort of wished she had a dad. When Gabrielle got a boyfriend, whom we love, he's a sweetheart and we think he's wonderful, Hana said, "Oh well, he can be my big brother that I never had." You know [all laugh]. That was nice. So that's sort of our little family.

BB: Nice.

KW: Family.

BL: Yeah, that's very nice.

KW: My mother is very supportive with both the children in the sense that she gave us \$5,000 to help with the adoption process and everything in both cases. When I sent her the letter when I was about 35 saying, and I- she- as I said she was a very dramatic woman and I knew that she would have a dramatic response. I didn't really want to be there for it, so I just wrote her a letter. And three weeks went by and I hadn't received anything, and then I finally get something in the mail and these little pink heart letters, this little note from her basically the extent of which, you know, it was like a pad of notes, you know, with these little pink hearts saying, "I love you dearly, and you know I'll always-" and this is- my mother had said to us when we were young, because she had paren- she had friends who had disowned their daughter because she had married a black man. So my mother made it very clear to everybody in our- all the kids, I will never disown you not matter. I may not approve of what you do, but I will never disown you, you know. So, I mean I always knew that and I appreciated that. But in this- in these little cards it essentially said, "but, you know, please don't publicize it with my friends or- or especially not with my brother." You know, so Beth's response when she read that was "Well, I guess we'll stop the articles in the newspapers that we're planning to send" [all laugh] because obviously, we didn't really have any interest in their friends or, I don't know that my- I would- I did- it had never occurred to me to come out to my uncle because, you know, he was who he was, and we just kind of- that wasn't anything I needed.

BB: Yeah.

KW: So. Then we had dinner and I said, you know, as I said earlier and my mother said to me, "Well, I always knew you were a little different from the others." You know, I- there was a moment my teen years when I was like 12 or 13, when she said, "Well, when are you going to bleach your hair?" because she's a bleach blond.

BB: Yeah.

KW: I mean, bleach blond. And both my older sisters bleached their hair. And I said, "I'm not." And she was like *devastated*. Like, "What do you mean you're not?" It was like, "I don't want bleached hair." You know, it was, and I think there were probably lots of things like that where my sisters just sort of fell in line with the typical female stuff that I didn't.

BB: Yeah.

KW: So did you have other questions for me, or?

BL: Sure, well, I think, in your occupational history you mentioned something about the school district that you have some discrimination issue, or something?

KW: Yeah. So, in the school district, they would allow unmarried, heterosexual couples to both have insurance. But they would not allow heterosexual unmarried couples to both have insurance. So, I'm convinced that the- so at some point I was- actually, let me back out for a minute. Because I was sort of active in my meeting, long before I was active- became sort of more of a social activist. In my meeting, and this would be 1988 or '89.

BL: Is this the Quaker...?

KW: Right.

BL: Yes.

KW: State College Friend's Meeting. I had heard that the Gay Men's Alliance had been kicked out of the frie- Friend's meeting. And the reason it had been kicked out was that one of the conserve- very conservative people Christo-centric people at meeting had arrived at the meetinghouse when they were showing the movie *La Cage aux Folles*, and he was offended and said, "Well, we can't have people in our meetinghouse unless we know what they're doing." Well of course, they- so he told them that we had to have somebody at the meeting house monitoring what they were doing. And they said "The hell with that," right? And I had no idea about any of that. And when I heard that, you know, the buzz in the gay community was the Friend's were not friendly to gays I was very distressed, of course, because there I was, a member of the meeting, and I was, you know, out. I was never closeted, at the meeting. How much people knew at the time, you know, if they had eyes to see with or not was another question, but, so I went into business meeting one Sunday. Business meeting is once a month for Quakers and I said, "I'm sure that our meeting doesn't mean to be unfriendly to gays." And at that point I didn't know anything about them not- well, maybe I actually did. I said, "I heard that, you know, this group was told they weren't allowed to meet there unless they were monitored because of showing this movie." Well, they were enraged. I mean a number of people were very upset about that because they didn't know that this person had done that, you know, and so, but on the other hand, I said, "So I thought what we could do is kind of publicize what we call a 'minute'" which is like a resolution that you have at a meeting, "that we do welcome everyone." You know, and I- I gave a sample of one that had been done at New England's yearly meeting which was an organization, obviously, in New England's Group of Friends. And they went into this whole thing of, "Well, does that mean- does that mean we welcome pedophiles, and does that mean-" you remember these arguments, right?

BB: [clears throat] yeah.

KW: And does that mean, you know, so at any rate, so we finally laid down that minute, or stopped pursuing trying to do that. But instead we started having a lot of different conversation about things like what are civil rights? What is marriage? Who- Quakers believe that God ordains marriage, not any person, and, you know, if two people are led and feel that God has ordained this marriage, who are we to say whether God had or has not ordained this marriage, and so on. We had a lot of discussions. So, eventually in our meeting we came up with a civil rights minute, basically, everybody could unite around everybody deserves the same civil rights. So everybody could unite around that. About three or four years later we also came up with a minute about marriage, and saying that everybody, you know, that we- and then maybe three or four years after that we also then amended our civil rights minute to include trans people, because that hadn't been in our original, I guess it was LGB at that point [laughs] I don't remember the acronyms.

BL: What was the time frame of the original one of who first started that process when they were...?

KW: Well we started the process of the discussion in '89.

[Cell phone rings]

BL: Sorry.

KW: It's alright.

BL: [on phone] Hello? Hi Sandy, how are you doing? It's Sandy Barney (ph.)

KW: Hi Sandy.

BL: No, we're in the middle of Kerry's interview right now, so can I call you back? Okay. Thanks, bye. Sorry. I was expecting her to call me, that's why I wanted to make sure I took that.

KW: Yeah, no that's fine. So at any rate, so then, so that was like '89, you know, 1993, and then I think the marriage one took until, I don't know, '99, or something like that? And then the trans change was 2004 or something like that. So there was, you know, time passed. In 1989 when this thing hap- this sort of thing all exploded at meeting, thanks to me, some very unkind things were said. You know how that happened?

BB: Yeah.

KW: Unkind things were said so a group of people gathered around Beth and me and we had this group called Friends for Lesbian/Gay Concerns. And there were also- that group was actually a national group. Now, I forget what the name is now, because it's gone from Friends for LGBTQA Sup- Friends of LGBTQA Concerns, I think they've actually taken a whole 'nother name at this point. And you know it gets to a point where the letters are too many [all laugh]. At any rate, I haven't been to those meetings since, but I did go in like 1989 and found this whole group of welcoming Quakers and it was really wonderful to be among them and- and you know, and also it was just really nice to be with a larger group of Quakers, so. At any rate, so after Friends of the Lesbian and Gay- LGBT concerns kind of laid ourselves down at the

meeting, because we didn't feel we had a need for it, you know. Then I started with, about a year later, I started this group called the Gay Affirming Interfaith Network, and what we did was we were a group of people, pastors and other people from other churches locally who were welcoming and affirming people, and we were trying to create workshops for all the churches that were going through the process of deciding whether they were going to become a welcoming and affirming church. And so we did for probably about four or five years, we did these workshops and I think they were very useful for the churches in terms of-

BB: Right here State College?

KW: Yeah, in the State College area. And we did draw in from some of our workshops, we did draw in from Altoona and Milesburg, and you know, a fair area. And we brought in speakers from Baltimore and other places and so on. And that groups passed out of energy, I would say, just because of changes in people's lives and so on, so that sort of laid itself down and we made with whatever was in our coffers we made a contribution to some LGBT organization. And then in the last three years, this was when we started, I- I drew some people together and I said, "You know, this is a really welcoming community, but you shouldn't have to live in it for 32 years to know that," you know what I mean? In other words, there- you know, I feel very respected in this community and- and- and it is welcoming and affirming in many ways, but there was nothing going on. When I first came to town there was the gay hotline. There was somebody to call to say, "Hey, how do I get connected?" You know? Of course, that went out of existence because that went out of existence because there was like a general hotline that people could call and get that information from. So we didn't- there wasn't really a need to have one, you know, devoted to... On the other hand, there was no way to know what was going on in town, and how to get connected with people and so on. So a group of us started the Center LGBTQA Support Network.

BB: The what?

KW: Center LGBTQA Support Network. And what we do is we sponsor lots and lots of social functions to help people get connected and to provide fun opportunities and to educate people and, so, that was why I was telling you that this weekend-

BL: Right.

KW: Friday- so the first- one of the first things that we did was the we have Friday Night Live which is the last Friday of every months, and that's at Webster's Bookstore and Café and we always have featured musician or artist of some kind, and then we have an open mic afterwards.

BB: So when did this start? This is...

KW: That started, that actually started in... this is 17... January of 2015.

BB: Wow.

KW: But in August of 2014 is when we actually formed this group and we were deciding what are we gonna do? Okay. The other thing that we have- did- we were planning was we did a, in February, already, we did a LGBT community fair, and we held it on Penn State's campus. And we had business and organizations and everything, basically to help all the people who are here

to get to know who each other were, as well as to bring people here to find everybody, you know, in one place.

BB: Wow.

KW: And that was really exciting, and- and very popular, and a lot of work.

BB: So what's the age spectrum of the group that's meeting?

KW: The age spectrum of the group is, I would say, from high school through...

BB: So it's all ages?

KW: Yeah.

BB: How big? How big- how big do you think the community is here in State College?

KW: Well, the question- that's a different question than how many people do we have at any given event, okay?

BB: Okay, two questions, two questions.

KW: Yeah, two questions. It's really hard for me to know how big the- the community is in State College because, you know, we've got this whole Penn State piece, okay.

BB: The University.

KW: Right. And there's, you know, obviously that's a fairly large segment.

BL: Yeah.

KW: But then we also have, you know, community people. And like there's a whole gay Bellefonte community, but I don't know them, okay. I don't know how big it is. I don't know if we're talking about 12 people or 55, you know what I mean?

STOPPED AT 1:01:15.3

BL: Right. But there's definitely- I have met women through the years who are part of the Bellefonte community. But, like, I couldn't tell you right now. You know, how- how- how big it is. I would say at any one of our events, we just help our annual prom: The Prom You Should Have Had, which was a whole bunch of fun and it's our annual fundraiser. We have it out at Tussey Mountain Resort and, you know, we cater it and we have a best known DJ in the community out there doing the music, and there's a bar that people can buy their drinks, and so on. And I think we had about 110 people at that event.

BL: That's pretty good.

BB: Sounds like fun.

KW: Yeah, yeah. And it was, you know, it was \$35 a person, \$20 for students. You had to be over 21 for that event, but these- we also have quarterly we have drag bingo, and that's a fundraiser for the State College High School graduating senior who is active in LGBT concerns and seeks to build equality for all in their lives. So Luke got a \$1000 scholarship to a student graduating from the high school and I would say we average right now about \$500 per bingo and maybe anywhere from 40 to 60 people at a bingo night.

BL: Great!

BB: Wow.

KW: And we have a drag queen call the numbers and every five games we stop for a minute so they can go get some food and and she does a little drag show and you know we do 15 games for the evening everything we do is family-friendly so as far as I'm concerned and some people thought oh well we really need to tone it—it's—teenage and above or 12 and above for the drag bingo. And I said, you know what, parents the name is there it's "Drag Bingo!" If parents want to bring their eight year old to drag bingo what's the problem here, you know? And they were concerned that the drag queen would feel inhibited and I said, drag queen can come help with that you know what I mean? So, what?

BB: I know kids that are behaved I mean.

KW: I mean the kids have seen much more on YouTube, believe me. So at any rate, you know we're currently in the process of getting ourselves liability insurance we're now starting to pay rent for storage 'cuz we got so much stuff. You know, we don't have our brochure yet but the brochure is coming but we always have handouts and we have Chachkies to give away and we have—I can just show you [noises as she moves] So it's pretty exciting because you know we always have about \$5000 in our bank account and we're doing stuff all the time this is our little logo and you can have that if you like. [inaudible] website on it [inaudible] more active is our Facebook page because that's where...so we've actually done an awful lot in the 1—in a few years. And we have—to our Friday Night Lives the highschoolers always come out but the thing that's really funny about it is I don't think they really want to be there for the coffee house office of it anymore they all go to the backroom I think what they like about it is that they can tell their parents they're going to the Friday Night Live and they can do their thing, you know what I mean? But that's what we're trying to do is just you know give them supportive places to be.

BB: Sure, that's great it's 21ST century it's great (____?)

BL: (____?)

KW: Okay yeah they come to drag bingo they come to almost everything we do. And we're really glad about—one of the board members her son is gay and so you know he's part of you know he's part of the group but other kids come even when he can't be there it's not like he's dragging them out or anything. We have some very sweet young—those two boys who are twins and I don't really know how they identify I think one of them may be identifying as trans, I mean every time he comes he comes in his boy clothing and he always changes into his girl clothing there and then he changes back before he goes home, you know. You know, so, you know, I don't know if he's exploring or if he's really feels trans but his parents won't accept it., you

know who knows and it doesn't matter. But they're really obviously, a whole bunch of really sweet kids and so one of our goals is definitely—although we don't really have beyond our mission statement which says that we're trying to provide an education and so on in the community—we don't really have a lot of written goals but certainly the heart of me and this mom she's a bisexual woman who has a gay son and then the other the head of the counseling department who is in the high school was also a lesbian woman and she mentors the what was a GSA group the gay-straight alliance it's now called LGBTA...I don't know what it is but they changed their name to be more reflective of what they think they are. You know our goals really is to really help decrease gay suicides to create help people have normal lives which is what I feel really blessed to have a pretty normal life, you know? And I mean I knew from very early on hmmm how am I gonna find women 'cuz...I did try the bar scene but I wasn't gonna fit in there very well, you know, that wasn't me. I don't smoke I don't drink I don't you know it's like, I don't think this is gonna work [laughs] You know, so. Anyway, so...so getting back to my career you asked about that. So, there were a group of us in the district LGBT people who got together and said "How are we gonna move this, the district, forward?" They had tried to do an anti-harassment policy the board had tried to do an anti-harassment policy and the board has been sued several times by religious right people for doing things that were considered that they considered against their rights. And the harassment policy did get knocked down at the state level so you know, but that been that had been a number of years ago, I mean. And so it's like, okay we've got to start doing something again here, you know. Now that the board has turned over, you know, and we don't have a lot of people invested so much and got burned kinda thing. And but then I just...just I don't know if it was film—if it was a film I saw once and it was like, after that I'm not taking this anymore. And it was a film about a kid I think oh...I think it was something about him being gay and not being allowed to go to school or you know whatever. It was definitely it had something to do with the school. But at any rate, so I just said, you know, I'm not doing this anymore. And so I said, Beth, 'cuz Beth's pretty private, I'm much more I don't care what you think of me kind of person. What I do care about and what I did care about was that whether it would affect parents letting me work with their children. You know I did care about that to some extent. But I also knew that if I sued them they couldn't fire me and it turned out that there was a fair amount of support in the community for what I did. So at any rate what had happened was Beth and I went to the local civil rights lawyer and said you know, outlined it for him and everything and he told us what to do. We had to go back again and get it in writing that they would not provide us with insurance it had created a new hardship for us because Beth had been an independent practitioner but so as insurance started getting more and more expensive you know, it was getting to the point where she was having to pay outrageous amounts of money for insurance and who knew what kind of insurance she was gonna get and all that so she eventually wound up taking a job at the organization where she otherwise had rented space. You know. Because they were a mental health service and she wound up so she—it took a huge cut in pay in order to be able to get health—the health insurance policy thing. So there were real losses, you know, in terms of her not being able to be on my policy. So ACLU took the case, they paid for the whole case, and you know we—there were articles in the paper about it and all that kinda thing and.

BB: What state was this? State College paper? Or is there?

KW: Well, it was down in—I know it was in Louistown it was actually picked up nationally ‘cuz some people from Florida contacted me and said “Oh good for you!” You know I mean so it was y’know, it wasn’t the biggest case, obviously because basically what we were saying is—and what my brother—my sister and brother and law were both lawyers well what my brother in law said was “that’s really weird.” Most employers if they’re going to offer unmarried couples insurance, it’s the gay parent—gay people that they’re going to be allowed to be unmarried because straight people can get married, gay people can’t at the time. So, so we it was great because they did it both on sex discrimination and there were actually three different basis for—and the lawyer—we knew this prior to this. The lawyer for the school district was just a total jerk, really didn’t understand civil rights law at all. I mean it was pretty clear that the ACLU would win this case from the beginning but the school district said “no”, you know I mean because obviously we gave them an opportunity to reverse their decision and they said no and so we wound up not having to go to court because they agreed to—so what happened of course was school district turned it over to their insurance, liability insurance, and their liability insurance said well “this is a no-brained let’s sit down and talk” and we went to Pittsburg—and where the presiding mediating judge mediated—you know where we have our mediation and so we settled for \$42,000. Now if I had realized how much we were gonna be taxed on that \$42,000 I might have held out for more, but, we weren’t really trying to stick the school districts, we really wanted policies changed and we want.

BB: Did they change the policy, though?

KW: Oh yeah there were three different policies—there were actually six different policies changed. Three different policies for staff and all the people who are employed and three different policies for the students. One was harassment, one was equal opportunity, and one was I don’t remember what the other one was at this point to be honest, but fortunately this other woman who’s the head counselor, she had already been working with them and done the research to know what policies we should have in place so they had already plied the school district with the policies that that we wanted so it was very easy for them—to just take it to the board and get approved very quickly.

BL: What year was all this taking place?

KW: That’s a good question. [laughter] It’s over five years ago, now.

BL: Okay.

KW: Let me think. How long ago? Marriage was three years ago, right?

BL: Yeah.

KW: It was at least six year ago now. 2010, probably.

BL: Hmm, okay. Hmm.

KW: 2000...so that happened over summer, yeah.

BB: Oh that’s interesting.

KW: So yeah, that was a good thing. The other thing—

BB: [inaudible] Newspaper article that said the articles here online in the paper here at State College [inaudible]

KW: Yeah...

BB: (____?) County Times, is that?

KW: Sunner Daily Times.

BL: Sunner Daily Times.

KW: Sunner Daily Times, right, yeah they definitely carried it USA today had a piece, too. They picked it up. But the reason...

BB: Not as easy to get stuff online from the local papers, is it.

KW: Right.

BB: (____?)

KW: (____?) Interest was because we were the second case in Pennsylvania there was one in Philadelphia very much like this and Pittsburg, also, Pittsburg University had a similar case and the thing that made it so interesting was that Pittsburg university lost their case and it was the same insurance carrier, okay. So it clearly wasn't—what had happened was that insurance carrier had just automatically put in—in all their policies because of the litigation that happened in Pittsburg that they would allow you know, same-gender couples to be insured so that was automatic in there. So school district had to change the wording in it in order for—

BL: Wow.

KW:—In order for that policy to be—so the school district really was in a really bad place I mean.

BB: They changed the policy.

BL: Oh, yeah.

KW: I mean—

BB: The insurance has always been allowed...

KW: Right, it wasn't that the insurance wouldn't allow it was that the district wouldn't allow it. Yeah the other problem that they had was that the burrow in the school district is in the burrow, also had a policy that you weren't allowed to discriminate against gay people so I mean we had a lot of levels of that we could have gone down but didn't need to because clearly the liability insurance company people said, you know, this is stupid, you know. For you to spend—for them to waste money litigating this when the total cost to them was gonna be so relatively low. You know, it's not like it was gonna be opening a—I mean a number of people did get insurance, but, it's not like it was costing the school district as much money as the litigation was.

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BL: And this is the State College school district, correct, right?

KW: State College School District, yeah. So yeah so we did that too.

BL: Mhm.

KW: And we're prepared at this point knowing that there's gonna be more state stuff that we have to do obviously with our friends in Washington, D.C. We may have more problems than we we'd like to have and alright so here's the question do you think that Trump's gonna try to overturn marriage?

BB: No.

KW: I don't either.

BL: I don't think he's gonna try to overturn it but there's a lot of republicans who would love to.

KW: Right.

BL: And that's what worries me more than Trump. Trump doesn't worry me a bit but it's...

BB: What worries me, what really worries me, is that I'm definitely not [inaudible] but I think he'll be impeached

KW: What?

BB: I think the man will get impeached.

KW: Right.

BB: But what worries me be careful what you wish for.

BL: Because we'll get Pence.

BB: Because we'll get Pence.

KW: Right.

BB: Now there's the threat. There enlies the threat...

KW: There enlies the threat...

BB: Lies the threat to the LGBT community. Donald Trump for all you can all the bad things about the man I do not think is a threat to the LGBT community at all...democratic...

KW: Well, first of all he doesn't have any code of belief.

BL: Yeah well (____?)

KW: Whereas Pence, you know, is so entrenched...

BB: Pence is the threat. So all the problems we have in the presidency with Donald Trump, we have real problems in all that kind of stuff but the problem is not the gay community. If we lose Donald Trump as president we can applaud over here but we need to be fearful over here. So I

think we need to be careful what we wish for and I should watch my own mouth you know because—

KW: Well, what I said to my sister though is that even though I think we're gonna have to be very very careful for LGBT people and it might be more protective of me to have Trump in there than it is to have Pence in there, I just I am very very concerned about the impact that Trump will have on the world.

BL: Yes.

KW: And that it isn't fair to the rest of the world that we are stupid Americans, you know what I mean? To bring in somebody like him, so. And so I actually would much prefer to see him impeached and bring in Pence who at least, has a modicum of propriety and

BL: It's not (____?)—

KW: Believes in something—

BL: Who's not an unpredictable wacko.

??: (____?)

BB: Maybe we should stop this recording. I think that...

[They begin to replay beginning of taped interview]