

**QMUNITY's Stories of Older Queers**  
Oral History Interview with Judith Radovan  
Conducted January 20, 2011 in Vancouver, Canada  
Interviewed by QMUNITY  
Transcribed by Carolina R Radovan in February 2016  
Length of interview: Tape 1 – 1:05:26; Tape 2 – 58:40

**Judith Radovan – Tape 1**

Interviewer: Hello Judith.

Judith: Hi

Interviewer: It is so exciting. Finally I have you in front of a camera. We start with some information. Can you give us your name, your age, when and where you born, please.

Judith: My name is Judith Radovan. I am 66 years old and... what was the other part?

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Judith: I was born in Chile, in a small agricultural town in 1944 of course, I am 66.

Interviewer: How do you identify yourself with gender?

Judith: A lesbian.

Interviewer: And, are there any other ways you identify, culturally, ethnic, racial.

Judith: Culturally I consider myself Latin-American, of mixed race like most mutt of the mutt dogs. Eh, my father, my grandma was I believe of Spaniard stock, but her husband – my grandfather – was from Monte Negro, part of the old Yugoslavia. I don't remember... now it's Monte Negro again. And, my mother's side, I don't know well. They may have little bit of native, but remote. I think my mother was also coming more or less from mixed Spaniard blood.

Interviewer: Can you tell us something about your childhood. Who was in your household? Your mother died very early, do you want to talk about the years before she died and then what happened after?

Judith: Well, my household was made by my father and my mother: my father was Alfonso, my mother was Carmen. Umm... We were poor people. My mother was raised by her sister, who was [too] older to have children of her own because, as an anecdote, my grandfather married five times. My mother was the last child and she was an orphan also when she was ten. So her sister raised her. So, I have the weird thing that I have an aunt married to a cousin. And, in that time, it was not common, but my mother was about three or four years older than my father. My... what can I say... we lived like, being helped by that cousin that I told you was married to my aunt Elva and we lived the first four years in [Asomio?], in Lastarria at twenty kilometers away from the village, inside. We were the last landowners kind of thing. They were a bit more alert, astute farmers than the majority of the people in the neighbourhood. They didn't destroy their land, they could pass it on to my uncle and his sister. But when all the shingles were ready to be taken out, the mill burnt down and everything ...

Interviewer: The shingles?

Judith: Yeah, because they were making shingles, they were making those things for the roof shingles... how they are called? They have another name in Chile: tejuelas

Interviewer: Tiles?

Judith: No, it was not tiles. It's wood. All it was lost and the only thing that I remember seeing when I went to visit the farm later it was the irons that were twisted and the wheels and things. But, it was devastating because my uncle lost all the production and of course my father didn't get a penny. My uncle did that part of not giving my dad a penny two or three times in his lifetime. He's a mean person. But I love him dearly.

Interviewer: Your uncle?

Judith. My uncle.

Interviewer: OK.

Judith: I have just kind of reviewed a few things when you asked me for this participation and I thought that most of... my uncle was tricky in his ways to dealing with people in business and the idea that I have that my father was, on top of being quite handsome and a womanizer, he was very loyal to his family, to us. He never abandoned us and I, later in my life, I squandered three years of university and he kept on paying for me to go to school...

Interview: Can you tell us a little bit about your mother?

Judith: My mother? My mother was a peasant. She was the kind of peasant that never went sidesaddle horseback riding. She just put on my dad's pants, or my uncle's pants, and went on like she owned the horse. And, she was a strong woman. Very positive as I recall. She was always looking for how to make our day, our house, our place better. She'd show us, how could I say, how you could have to live, how do you organize things and what to see in the world.

I remember, well after the mill burnt down, my father took us all to my grandmother's. My grandmother had retired from the post office with a small pension and she bought a small house in Santiago. I remember my mother giving a woman, a beggar, a cup of tea on the ... there was a small garden, and there was this fence that was this wide. My mum just thought that the woman was too bad and she made a cup of tea and got tea and bread for her to eat there. On another occasion she said to me "you know, there is nuts across [the street]. You get this bag and go and buy some because it's time that you taste those things." So I remember the taste of walnuts and walnuts are my favourite because my mother told me to and I went across and I bought them for her. I remember my mother making carrot juice for my sister who wouldn't eat for the life of my mother. And she just ground it and made it... it has to be put in the night time up on a place where she could get the dew, according to her. And that is what my sister had first thing in the morning. Yeah.

Interviewer: She died when you were six or seven?

Judith: Yeah, she died after my sister got polio. I think about a year, or a year and a half after my sister got polio. And my mother was incredibly tenacious with my sister getting better.

My sister was in an iron lung for a few days because my youngest aunt was a nursing student and she took her to the hospital because my father didn't want to think of having a crippled child. So my aunt Irene took my sister to the hospital, and when she came back my sister couldn't walk.

Interviewer: Could not?

Judith: Not at all. The thing was that with the polio, I don't know if you know, here polio attacks adult people - in Chile it was children. My sister was as I say, a terrible eater, so the two of us got the same cold like thing and the third day I got up like nothing and my sister couldn't move.

Interviewer: Actually, we had a polio scare probably at the same time.

Judith: Well, yeah, it was pandemic. It was pandemic. Because I have known Indian people, people from India, who had polio too. But to be a cripple in Chile is dreadful, still. My mother walked, carrying my sister, who was about three and a half, I understand, about four or five kilometers back and forth every day for physio. And after that, she did her treatment as the peasant she was... she bought nettle and she nettle her leg so they got some nerve activity and she put her in hot bath, and she put her in cold bath – he was devoted to her tremendously. And I remember even, we moved after Santiago to Curico, when my grandmother forced my uncle to find a job for my father – and he came through and he worked for the radio station in Curico for, I don't know, a year, a year and a half. But, I remember my mother still getting nettle and my sister started walking with a bunch of irons in her legs and she had specially made shoes for many years.

Interviewer: The idea of moving to Santiago would have brought your sister closer to the hospital.

Judith: Yeah, and closer to polio too because in the countryside there was not much polio because we were up in the boonies. We got, all of us got pneumonia one winter because the water was running there – that mill was run by water and we were in the moisture all the time and we were kids. My mother was very strong, but she also got it.

Interviewer: What did she die of?

Judith: My mother? We were in Curico, my father was working. I remember the places where we lived. We first got to kind of a boarding house and all of us had two beds together – the four of us. One time I was with a cold or something, and my father taught me how to put, start... knitting. He showed me how to start the knitting. We couldn't cook, but then we moved to a small house: one bedroom, one kitchen and a bathroom. I remember my mother cooking: she did something that is very Chilean, very peasant, very poor – it's kind of a dough cooked in water with a little bit of meat scraps. But it was so tasty in my books. It was very good. My father was quite into the family life and I remember also that when we moved to a bigger house and the kitchen was outside and has a big patio, he made a brick, he found the pieces somewhere in the area where we were, and he made a little path for my mother to go to the kitchen and come back.

I remember my mother putting hot water in bottles for us to take to our bed because it was cold. It must have been winter. I remember living in another big house, where my mother died actually – in the outskirts of Curico. The house was on the street, but in the back there was, like, an orchard, and it was abandoned, it was old, but we could go and

room. And my mum, always looking for something, went and scavenged around and she found kind of a bathtub. I remember carrying it with her because she knew where she was going to put it because it wasn't too deep, so it was perfect for washing the laundry. And we had it for washing the laundry, and playing and making bubbles on the board.

Interviewer: What happened to you when your mother died?

Judith: My mother died in the most stupid way. She died of electric shock. There was a woman who was helping her because my brother had been born six months earlier and the person who was helping my mum said "oh, this thing hit me, or hurt me" and my mum said "oh, you are just hopeless" and she went herself and took the cord and tried to get up there and she got an electric shock and she died. I remember carrying my mother with the person that was helping us, to the bed, but my mother was dead. My father came from work, he usually came back for breakfast at about seven o'clock in the morning and my mum was dead. The doctor came and did the mirror and that was it. Then I remember sitting with my sister on a ... my mum was a wonderful gardener, as a good peasant, and she had a vegetable garden in the back and I remember sitting with my sister in the sun, in our nightgowns, waiting what was going to happen.

Interviewer: What did happen?

Judith: What did happen ...

Interviewer: How did your life change?

Judith: My life changed dramatically. It was never the same. I need time. Because when my mother died, she was buried ... she was Seventh Day Adventist by the way, and some of my memories is reciting poetry for the congregation when I was six or so when my mother was alive. I remember the verses too. But the family came of course, except my aunt Irene, the youngest sister of my father, and my aunt Margarita because she was eight months pregnant or something. So those families didn't come. I did have two people I loved dearly: my aunt Beatrice, which was actually a cousin of mine by blood and my uncle Arnoldo. I have wonderful memories of them. The thing that surprised me is that ... well, my life changed dramatically as I say when my mother died... what they decided was that we were going to the farm with my uncle. My aunt Elva, who didn't have children, kept my brother who was six months and she stayed in Santiago for a little longer. I don't know how the house was disposed of and, after that, we were brought...

[22:08]

Interviewer: Your father married early?

Judith: My father got married the second time? The first time? The first time my father was twenty four.

Interviewer: No, your father got remarried very quickly ...

Judith: No, but that thing didn't play immediately because we went to Santiago to live with my aunt, then we went again to the south and I was in a Seventh Day Adventist school for year one. Then my father remarried in December of the same year. And the year after, about the middle of the year it must have been, I went to live with my step mother at her home town in Los Andes. She lived with her parents, she lived with her nephew and then

it was me. Her father was a wonderful person, he was very nice. Her mother was an alcoholic. She drank about two liters of wine before lunch. I think that was all she drank, but she was drunk the rest of the day. And nobody knew, but the thing was that we were dispersed: I was living with my stepmother at that time; my sister was living with my aunt Margarita; and my brother was being taken care of by my aunt Elba who didn't have children. As soon as my father was in Santiago and had a little apartment, his new wife and myself, my aunt Margarita shipped my sister to live with us. I have to tell you that my stepmother was the youngest, ten years younger than her older sister, daughter of an old couple. She was eighteen years old when she married my father: a widower with three children. She never accepted my brother. He never lived with her or in my father's house, until he was eighteen and then it was just for a year. But, that's what I think in my head when those things happened. My father was twenty nine, I know he was young, he was devastated when my mother died and he looked for a place where he could work and not see people. He was working for the same radio stations for the airlines, but in the middle of the Andes, in the divide with Argentina. So he would work three weeks there and then came to Santiago for a week at his sister's house.

Interviewer: So he wasn't living with his new wife?

Judith: Well, when my mother just died, he went there, and then, on the radio, my stepmother worked for the telegraph and by radio and telegraph they met. So, my mother died in January, my father made the commitment to marry her in September, and the wedding was in December. My stepbrother [actually half-brother] was born the year after, in December too.

Interviewer: Oh, so you have two other siblings and a stepbrother?

Judith: Yeah. I have one sister, one brother and now my stepbrother. I love my stepbrother: it was our pet.

Interviewer: So you've gone to a lot of schools and then you talked about the year the pope died you went back to Santiago.

Judith: Well, the thing is that, living in so many houses, I moved from school... I can tell: the first one was Montessori school; the second one was Seventh Day Adventist for a few months the next year; the third one was in Los Andes where my stepmother lived; the fourth one was in Santiago, near my grandmother's house, I don't know why it was so far; then, when I was in the first year of secondary, I was in the High School #6 and it was a renovated school... I recognize now the American way of doing things: electives and all of that. For me it was fascinating. The only problem was that they let you explore, but then sometimes they push you down. Well, because they have to, because when I was in year one, I went to chemistry. Of course I was full of questions and no answers and I was slowing down everybody because that was something for year four in high school. So then I took gardening. We planned a garden for a year and didn't do nothing. But it was ... in the Montessori school, I guess I was about three months and I learned the four operations in math: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing and I learned to read and write in about three months. Woah! And then it seems that I didn't learn anything.

Interviewer: Then you say here that at the end of your fourth year in high school you took off from your father's house. Can you describe how you ran away?

Judith: Oh, I have to tell you something before. At that point, when I finished the grade one [first year secondary] I went to my grandma's house, her old house – she was living with my aunt Irene, her youngest daughter, and her husband, my uncle Fernando, and I told them how mean my stepmother was, because I haven't told you [interviewer] about that. She was eighteen years old and she was up to her eyebrows with three kids. Now that I am an adult I can understand that, but at that time, she was just a mean bitch in my book. The thing was that she had a mean streak. See, my sister was operated her legs every October or November she got her surgery to improve her walking. And she couldn't go to the bathroom on her own because she couldn't put weight on the cast and she could cry and cry and my stepmother was having her nap and she wouldn't take the kid to the bathroom. I guess I was in school or something because I wasn't there. And when we did something wrong or we did something stupid, she waited until we were putting on our pyjamas, our nightgowns, to go and hit us. So, I remember a time coming home and seeing a splash of white on the street just under our bathroom and I went upstairs running, crying, thinking that my stepmother had thrown my sister out the window from the second floor. But it was my fear: nothing happened. But I told these things to my grandma and to my aunt. So, they called Alicia, my stepmother, and they confronted her, and then as a solution, we left her house – we didn't go to my grandma's and my aunt's house, which was our dream – but we were shipped back to the south: to my aunt Elba and my uncle Arnaldo. I haven't told you that my uncle Arnaldo started molesting me since my mother died practically, but I couldn't stop loving him.

But, then, it was a year that we spent in the South, and then, my father said we couldn't be all spread to Kingdom Come and he wanted me, at least me, to go again to live closer to him and I went to live with my aunt Irene. My sister, even though my aunt Elba was very mean, didn't go. She said, "no, nobody throws me away more than once" and she stayed with them. And my aunt Elba was mean with my sister too. But, then, the question was how did I go to year four in high school and what did I do – well, when I went back to Santiago, I went to High School #7, which was in the high end neighbourhood – rich people. A long ride from where I was living in Cerrillos to Providencia. I was failing, I was a poor student and I was having problems. One of the problems was that I was tall for my age, around Chilean people I was tall, so I was always seated at the back. It never occurred to me to tell the teachers that I didn't see the blackboard. So, I got distracted absolutely and I didn't learn anything. But then, when the exams came, I usually did seven in the written exam [seven is equivalent of A+], which was the maximum, and did seven in the oral exam and I passed! Even if I had a one or a two [for the rest of the grade]. But it was because I had studied at home a little bit before getting to the exams. In year four of high school I thought I wasn't going to pass, and I was afraid and I was [unintelligible] and I left the house with, as I say, with a satchel that I had for school, a cowboy novel and underwear and a blouse – a baby blue blouse.

Interviewer: And you met some peasants on the road.

Judith: I walked that day about thirty kilometers. I finally got too tired and started hitchhiking and at a kind of a so-so truck stop two farmers from Curico stopped. They said to me "this is our lucky day. We found a sack of things for cooking, pastas and canned goods and things on the road, and now we find a lady". They stopped at their parents' house in the south of Santiago and they invited me to be with them: to go into their house, to meet

his parents, to meet their sisters. Then the sisters worked with me to see if I could find a job in the town. We went to a factory and we didn't find anything, so I said I'll keep going to the South cause I'm going to my aunt's. I made up a story.

Interviewer: Were you nervous about your safety?

Judith: These men were so... they were so relaxed and they were so friendly and up front. They didn't go to far from where they picked me up to their parents. It was a family house: older people, young people, kids, dogs... it was a farm. That night, I slept with one of their sisters. They woke me up in the morning and said "well if you want to get anywhere in the South, we are going to Curico now and we are going to make sure that you get where you're going because it's dangerous. That was the first time I heard the word dangerous.

Interviewer: So who picked you up next?

Judith: We stopped in Curico in the gas station and they talked to a fellow that worked for [Hoky?] they make cookies in Chile. He was going to Concepcion. The name of the man was Eduardo Pulgar. I still remember. He was also a poor person: he worked for the company, but he was a poor person and he had also run away from home when he was a kid – about six years old – six years old! And he told me all his life story and he talked to me and he engrained in me that I shouldn't be doing this on the road and that he will make sure that I'll get safe to my uncle and my aunt's where I was going. We slept in the truck that night in Concepcion on the railroad station and he, in the morning, for the first train that was going South, put me on the train. Because they didn't have tickets for the village I was going, he gave me some money, so the last station that they had tickets for, when I got there, I could pay the other fee to get to Lastarrias village. I got there, of course, my aunt didn't know anything. I had been going for two nights in a row – I was gone from my father's house for two days, two nights and my aunt didn't know that I was missing or anything. That was the worse summer of my life.

My aunt just took all the anger in her life against me. That was the time when I say "nobody was going to hit me never ever again". Because I gave the wrong grain to the chickens she got a twig and marked my legs blue like a zebra in the back. I stood always kind of defiant after that and for sure, never ever nobody has touched me... nobody dared.

Interviewer: Can we take a break? [40:29]

[BREAK]

Interviewer: ... here that you didn't have any queer role models in your life. When did you have any idea that, things might be different for you?

Judith: After I left my father's house, my father was furious and he asked my aunt Beatrice, my cousin actually, to keep me in the farm to raise pigs or something – earn my living. But my aunt was adamant that I needed to have schooling and she worked tirelessly all summer trying to get me into a dorm in Temuco, the big city in the area, because that was the only way I could finish high school – because there was no high school closer to Lastarrias where we lived. I entered through the window in the high school because it was an election year, and it was so bad that I had to get undressed and dressed in the

night in the study room because that's where they put something for me to have my clothes. Because the high school had capacity for 200 and there was 236 students.

Interviewer: So why were you changing your clothes... ?

Judith: Because the school was so full that there were no closets for me and there was barely a place for me to sleep. Where I put my bed was a twelve bed row and then, I decided that I wanted my sister to come to the high school as I was because I thought it was wonderful. So I found a little room and they allowed us to put our two beds there and we stayed for a while together. At that time, I started going to the school and the vice principal was in charge of the dorm. She was an English teacher – English was not my favorite subject, but she thought that because I was coming from Santiago, I was the smartest cookie. She took pay attention to me: she looked at me, she asked me questions and she kept me in her eye for some reason. I felt free, and I started studying, I started making friends. I was friend of people that I still remember their names – study together! We learned the chemistry, the valences and the symbols in one afternoon walking back and forth in a little space. It was so wonderful! And I was sent to the Vice Principal in the evening with the marks of the first chemistry test because I aced it! It was a seven – there was no faults. And Migelina, the woman I studied with, got a 5 and then it was just twos and threes. So they say “you have to go to the Vice Principal because she's gonna have our hide if we go with this twos or threes” – that was true. But the main thing was that the Vice Principal was looking at me when she was passing the notes in the book, and she saw me squinting. She said “tomorrow we are going to the doctor's because you need glasses”. She personally took me to the ophthalmologist.

Then I wrote to my father, and my father again came through. He sent money, he provided for me to have the things I needed for high school and he sent me the glasses. From being a failing student all my life, I was six and seven, which is the highest marks. My final average for the three years in high school was a 6.3 and no problem.

Interviewer: So, were you living with a whole group of women in the dormitory?

Judith: Of course! There was 236 women from, I think from grade six in primary school, to grade twelve of high school. [unintelligible]

Interviewer: After this point, you had no queer role models?

Judith: I wouldn't say I had queer role models in high school, but I remember once helping one of the inspectors, or supervisors, who went turning off the lights in the night. She told me to go and turn the lights on the first floor, and one of the young girls just ran at the foot of her bed and gave me a hug and I was just terrified. The kid loved me! The kids liked me because I was funny and I was always creating things in high school at that point. Doing usually comic spoofs and whatever occasion was for high school – and I was also participating in serious things: the celebration of the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, the celebration of the anniversary of the school... serious things.

[46:57]

Interviewer: So what terrified you about this love?

Judith: I don't know. But I turned the light... the kid ran, she was very young... something clicked in my head... something did something and I knew that it was a no-no. The year after, or the same year, I really liked a woman that was left behind from our class. When we went to the last grade in high school, we were in a six bed room. She used to come and jump into my bed, because the twelve that had been together for two years didn't want to be apart, so we went into each other's bed, or sat around and spent time in the evening particularly together. But this woman went into my bed and I was stiff like a board all the time, but happy like you couldn't believe it. But I was terrified.

Interviewer: You didn't have a name for what you were feeling.

Judith: I didn't have a name, and also, my Vice Principal which I liked very much, was always telling us not to go arm in arm when we were doing our study, not to tie our ... we have a white apron sometimes on – and we tied it in front, we exchanged the buttons and the button hole and you get tied...

Interviewer: To another person?

Judith: To another person, and she was always no-noing that. So I heard the message and I was [grimace]. Then, I have to say something, it's very short. I finished high school with high grades, I applied to study agricultural engineering in the first year and, I have to say with pride, that I was the second chosen in the whole country.

Interviewer: This is university now?

Judith: University now – admitted to agricultural engineering as the second highest mark. But, I went to the wrong university. I went to the University of Valdivia, which is a private university – beautiful, by the river... just gorgeous, but it's for rich people. I was in the same class when the students were failing, their father would send their private avionette, a small plane, to take the teachers and the assistants to their vineyard in the middle of the wine land in Chile. So, I was nobody, I had nothing... I was really, really feeling bad and by the end of the year I couldn't take it anymore and I just...

Interviewer: Did you feel discriminated against because you were... [Unintelligible]?

Judith: First of all, agricultural engineering was a class of about sixty people and there was three women. And we were together with forestry engineering, and there there were twenty five men and one woman. So...

Interviewer: You were the only women.

Judith: We were practically four in one hundred. And the guys were so much into dating and living the life... There was a guy living in the most expensive hotel for three months because he couldn't find a boarding house! It was a world that I never knew! And the other thing that they used to do was, at the end of the classroom, they play their girlfriends to the dice – who was going to sleep with whom. They were the piggist pigs.

Interviewer: So, did that have anything to do with you getting politically active at 23 and joining the communist party?

Judith: Well, I thought... well, my father never gave up on me when I was in university, so I squandered the first three years. I was in agricultural engineering for two years, I was in

Spanish for another year... and not accomplishing anything. In Spanish I didn't do badly, but my sister wanted to be a midwife and said "you have been wasting too much time, too much money. You are going to be with me in midwifery". And she made me apply for the new national test for going to university and again I did radiant – I was in the two percent highest score in the country. I went to midwifery, but my sister didn't get accepted because she had polio, but she was accepted in nursing... and she was kind of comfortable with that. But then they said in nursing too that she couldn't be a nurse because she had polio.

Interviewer: Can we get onto the communist party?

Judith: [53:36] - I don't know why would she get fascinated with the community party. The thing was after I left my idea of becoming religious in some way, I always had this interest for politics. Since I was a child, I remember coming back home from buying bread or something and telling all the front pages of the papers with the news and I follow the elections – and I was always interested in that and in the social aspect of things. I thought it was immoral to have to give your life for your children to have a little bit more than you did have. I thought that it was unethical that my father had to work so hard for me to get somewhere – not to starve to death or die writing God knows what thing in an office somewhere.

Camera Op: Who's the head of the government at that time?

Judith: Now? At that time it was Alessandri, and then it was Frey, who was a Christian Democrat, who practically took the attempt of Allende's down.

Interviewer: So was he the predecessor for Allende?

Judith: Yeah.

Interviewer: OK. Do you want to talk about your ... ?

Judith: The thing is that I started participating more when I went into midwifery. In the university there were the Communists and the Christian Democrats and the Socialists were a small force and in the three years that I squandered in Valdivia I had made friends that studied Spanish and they were much into politics and they were mostly Communist. So when I went to university for midwifery, I joined the Community Party as a student.

Interviewer: How did you become involved with Allende?

Judith: Well, that's the way! As a student, the student movement was very ... that was the year, the whole thing in the world! Do you remember the French?

Interviewer: Which year are we talking about?

Judith: That we are talking about the year '67-'68. Yeah, it was all over the world, the renewal of universities, the massacres in the States, the massacres in Mexico... the students were out on the streets all over the world.

Interviewer: Was that the year of Kent State [University] in the US?

Judith: Yeah.

## **Judith Radovan – Tape 2**

Interviewer: I think it's all part and parcel of the same story isn't it?

Judith: uh-huh.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Judith: It happened in the same time.

Interviewer: Yeah. And then of course, you became pregnant, you had Carolina, the jail, Argentina. That was an eventful 5-6 years, maybe even longer.

Judith: You know, the last eight years have been very relaxed for me.

Interviewer: Oh, that's clear!

Judith: The only relaxed time I have in my life and I couldn't be...

Interviewer: When were you diagnosed with cancer?

Judith: In 2005 – at the end of 2005.

Interviewer: So it's a little bit more than five years.

Judith: uh-huh.

Interviewer: So you are counting three years before that as the last stage of your... OK...  
[unintelligible]

Judith: Let's go.

Interviewer: So Judith you are in midwifery now and you are actively involved politically to get Allende elected – can you talk about that please? Your radio show, etc

Judith: Going to midwifery was very exciting. I really embraced the profession as soon as I cleaned up my first baby and it was wonderful. And also they were very, very active days in university. I was General Secretary of my campus, for one year of course, and as member of the Communist Party – we won the thing by a landslide: five positions out of seven. I made very good friends, male friends. But we had this silly thing... the three years I was in university for midwifery, I was always afraid that I was going to turn into a turnip or something, a vegetable, because my Spanish studying friends always called me the turnip when I was in agricultural engineering, so I was very conscientiously I decided that after every test in midwifery I was going to read three fiction books.

Interviewer: Is that why you were a turnip?

Judith: No, not to turn into a turnip!

Interviewer: Oh, what is a turnip?

Judith: A turnip is a vegetable, is whatever thing... but, it's like you don't use your brain if you study sciences because you are not creative – blah, blah, blah – but that was their idea. But I took it as mine and for three years, and for I don't know how many hundreds of

tests, because we have a tremendous number of subjects and things in midwifery, every time, from the classroom where I took the test, I went to the library to get my three books and I read them before the next test. So I read a tremendous amount and I was involved in politics and I was going to rallies and I was fighting the cops and I was stealing the students that the cops put in their trucks [paddy wagon] and things... it was the time of the whole revolution of the students around the world. I was also part of the representative of the students, of the renewal of the university, and the changes on how did you taught and what did you teach to the students and all those things that were coming from the French students' uprising. I was working with some wonderful people. I don't know, I was just got lucky. A person who had been in the United Nations for education, and was a teacher in the university, he was part of the team with whom I worked trying to change the university. To my pride, the changes that we as students did in midwifery, and the fights we fought for midwifery in Chile, are the things that are still standing because they were rooted in the principles of the social understanding on the life and the social needs of the people of Chile. They wanted to make one nursing/midwifery thing and we poo-pooed on it and we said midwifery is separate because it is a very specific profession, or a trade – you name it like you want, but it is specific and it is necessary because it is cheap and it saves lives, blah, blah, blah... I was part of a group that fought this thing in the University of Concepcion for two days or three days – I was much more interested in getting things changing, getting things moving.

Once I finished midwifery, I went to work in a farmers' town, thirty kilometers north of Temuco, it is called Lautaro, and that place has a 70% native population. That place produces 30% of all the wheat in Chile, that place had taken the last midwife at gunpoint and put her on the highway [sent her packing]. I said, I want that position – and I went there. It was the heat of Allende's candidacy, it was April when I got there... March or April... and I went immediately to contact the leader of the Communist party there and I got involved and I met a friend that she is still my friend – she lives in Sweden and in Chile... I saw her the last time, so Joan and Claire know her, Martha. In Chile, the Christian Democrats, the previous government, the government in power when Allende was fighting for the power, had created a national organization of women – it was called Centros de Madres – Mothers' Centres. They were all over the country and it was a tremendous political machine that I saw created and I was paying attention. The Christian Democrats have the young people and had the women and they organized the women and they gave them a little bit of... they sold them some things, say for before school they give them sewing machines, or two or three per community: they [the mothers] could make the things that their kids' need for school, the uniforms, because all the schools have uniforms, and they sold them the materials at very good rates too... but they were all under the command of the president's wife and then, in my community that was... it is like a governor because it had three or four communities, three or four municipalities together and they have this governor here. The wife of him was the one who ran these things [the centres]. I thought, well, I am a midwife, I could go to Mothers' Centres and explain things and teach things. All of a sudden I went to... I asked when was the next meeting of the presidents and secretaries of these Centros de Madres who were dispersed in the communities and I went uninvited and I say "I am the new midwife, my name is so and so" and I showered these people with my wonderful words of wisdom "and I would love to participate and work with these groups and teach them what I know, and learn

from them” and blah, blah, blah. The woman, the wife of the governor, didn’t know what to do so he had to open the doors for me to go.

I started visiting the Centros de Madres when they had their weekly meetings. I met I don’t know how many! There was about 47 or so organized groups and I must have visited at least once all of them. Except one that didn’t let me go in because they were in a poblacion that was made by the Christian Democrats... they didn’t let me in because by then they knew I was a Communist... before they didn’t know, I went everywhere. At that time I was already a serious midwife, so I had some education, I went to the radio, I got an educational program, fifteen minutes, but then I could say what were Allende’s forty first promises and talk about the half litre of milk for the children, the vaccination programs, the agricultural, the nationalization of copper and all the things that Allende promised and did.

Interviewer: So how long did you do that until the coup happened?

Judith: Allende was elected in September 1970 and he was, and the coup happened on September 11 of ’73. By then, several things have happened to me. Among them, I decided to have a child. I was single. It kind of caught everybody by surprise, particularly my party, the Communist party was not very happy with me because by then I had the responsibility of being the political secretary of four municipalities and I was a very visible person. I was candidate for councilor in the municipality – I didn’t get elected, but that is irrelevant because we elected a person. We had the votes and we elected a person for the first time. But then the coup happened, and um, I don’t know if I need to go around those things...

Interviewer: Well, uh... That night, you were at the hospital working?

Judith: No, I was not working at the hospital. I had rented a small house in a poblacion in Lautaro because I was with my daughter. I used to live in the hospital. With a friend who lived across from me in the poblacion, we used to ask each other every day “are we still government?” because we heard the rattling of the sabers, as they say. That day, we crossed on the street, I was walking to work and he was going to his job, and he said to me... actually, he gave me a ride to the hospital, he says, “but I have to tell you that we are not government”.

Interviewer: We have what?

Judith: We are not government. Because before we say “are we still government?”, “yes, yes”. “What have you done for the revolution today?” that was the other question we ask every day. That day, he said “we are not”.

Interviewer: So what did that mean for you?

Judith: Well, I went to the hospital too because I had lived there and I had things, I had books and I had some of my things. I entered the hospital through the back and one of the doctors, who was not my favorite anyways, he was also the doctor of the army, and he said “get your things out and don’t come back”. I understood and I took my things and I went to the... I left Carolina in the daycare that was in the hospital and I went to the government office. So I saw when one guy took the governor that was there at that time out to a safe place and we stayed listening to the radio for a while and then we dispersed.

I went with my friend Martha, who the police and the army detested... We had a station of the army in the town, [they] detested furiously because she had replaced the governor at some time and she was just a simple primary school teacher. They couldn't believe it.

Interviewer: Are you talking about Martha?

Judith: Martha. So we went together to my place with her children, her three girls, my girl, her maid and the little boy that she had and we all went to my house because my house, very few people knew where I lived, because I had practically rented the house the last month... because my daughter was thirty odd days. We stayed the night there and in the morning I decided to leave my daughter with a woman who worked in the hospital. I went to the bank, took my money out, gave this woman some money, and I went to Temuco. No, but before I went walking with my friend Martha from Lautaro, from where we were working, to Pillanlelbun 17:54 \*\* who was a village where there was a huge agricultural centre that was very important politically because it was one of the first ones that were taken by the workers and made kind of a co-op thing.

We walked our kilometers and we got there in the afternoon and the next day we took the train, because the train stopped practically in this place, and my friend went to her sister-in-law in the South, to another town, her husband had been taken prisoner. One of the girls was taken from high school, a twelve year old kid, then she was released of course, she was with us. But, my friend Martha took her three kids and went to the South to Puerto Varas. I went to Temuco and I start kind of roaming the streets and I found an ex-governor of our place and he was walking in the streets happily. And I said "how are things?" and he said "they are fine, you know, I went and presented myself to the army here and I was released with no problem". "So you tell me that I should go and present myself in Lautaro?" "Oh yeah", he said, "there is no problem". So, stupid me, I went.

They didn't know exactly what to do with me in the police station, but finally they logged me in. There were two other women there: the two of them were mere girls who were working politically in the countryside and they were taken there. They were released before me, I was the last one going. Ten days later, I was taken to Temuco to the Good Sheppard's Women's Jail. I was there for four months, I was received there on the 25<sup>th</sup> of ...

Interviewer: 21<sup>st</sup> of January it says here.

Judith: No, I left jail the 21<sup>st</sup> of January after four months, so it was about the 20<sup>th</sup> of September or the 25<sup>th</sup> of September that I got there. I assisted a delivery in the jail. We were afraid... actually there were several communists, and there were mere representatives, and we have, for the first time, we laughed, because we had the whole health care team there: we had doctors, we had social workers, we had midwives, we had nurses, we had everything, but we were in jail.

Camera Op: But you were jailed. You presented yourself at the jail.

Judith: I presented myself to the police station in Lautaro.

Camera Op: But you were jailed because you were communist.

Judith: I was jailed because I was politically active and I was a communist.

Camera Op: And that was why they continued to keep you in jail.

[21:50]

Judith: They kept me in jail. They kept us at the beginning for about over a month, incommunicado, nobody could see us. The stories ran, terrible: they say that I had been caught walking to this village that I say, Pillanlelun, and I had broken my legs, and I don't know what... nothing had happened to me, but I was stupid enough to go and present myself, because if I had listened to my sister, who also was in Temuco at that time looking for me, I could have gone scot free and I have to leave the country, but nothing else. Because I got black listed, I couldn't find a job, I was being called for the bands – every fifteen minutes our names were read on the radio stations and all that.

Interviewer: When did you go to Argentina?

Judith: It was kind of a chance too that I was left free in January because at that time, it was what it was called 'la caravana de la muerte' – the caravan of death – and the army and the general, I don't remember his name, was going up north and killing people like there was no tomorrow. Taking people from jail and killing them in different places; and torturing people; and throwing people; and making people disappear. My friend Natasha, the doctor who was with me in jail, her husband disappeared and they never recognized that. They never said where he was... he was thrown in the river apparently. The people who worked in the education department in Temuco also, two of them, were taken by their arms, with their arms in the back, and their hands tied, and they were taken in a helicopter, like this, and then they drop them somewhere. It was very dramatic apparently. But, personally, when the caravana de la muerte was doing all these ugly things, somebody else was left in charge. And that just happened that my father and my sister had come to see me in jail, and she went to see the person in the military. Then my father went to see my sister, when he didn't find me... ah, she's in Temuco, so he went to Temuco and the two of them went to talk to this, I don't know, general who was in charge and the guy said: "You know, you seem honest, and it seems that you are making a good case. I'm going to release her. But you have to take her out of the promise within twenty four hours. I don't want any trouble". My father said: "Twelve hours is enough." The two of them went to the jail, and Carolina was with the person that was taking care of her outside the jail, no, while I was... before jail and during jail she took care of her vaccines and things and she took her in and out. But Carolina was having her vaccinations, so she wasn't there, so we had to wait for her for a little while and she came. From there, we went to get a bus to go to Santiago, try to find a job in Santiago for four months – today they say yes, tomorrow they say, I'm sorry. I don't know how many doors I ...

Interviewer: And then you went to Argentina for a while.

Judith: I went to Argentina thinking to come back to Chile. I always thought I would be back. In Argentina I tried to find a job. We were first in Mendoza, they moved us to Rosario because Mendoza was too close to Chile, to the border, and they were, the Chilean people were coming to get the political escapees. And they also did something – it was Operacion Condor – and they started making people disappear from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina – because Argentina also had their political movement. After Peron died, his wife took over and it was just a disaster. So life got very expensive in Argentina;

the cost of living went up every day. To give you an example, when I went to Argentina in '74 as a nurse, when I got a nurse job, I made \$300 pesos, new pesos. When I left Argentina in November of '76, I was making \$15,000 pesos, and I still couldn't pay my rent. The United Nations had to help me with the rent.

Interviewer: So I am going to take you to Canada. Where did you first, when you left Argentina, you first went to Winnipeg in '76?

[28:12]

Judith: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you want to talk a little about that?

Judith: We were assigned [assigned] different places and I had friends in Winnipeg. First I was sent to Edmonton and I said: "no, it's too far north and too cold. I heard of sunny Manitoba." They said: "we do Winnipeg". I arrived in Canada I think in one of these celebrations on November the 11<sup>th</sup> or...

Interviewer: November the 9<sup>th</sup> in '76.

Judith: I think it was November the 11<sup>th</sup> because I flew on my father's birthday and it is the 10<sup>th</sup>, but they took us from Argentina through Bolivia. It was a dreadful place to make a stopover because the altitude affected Carolina and we couldn't leave the plane because they were afraid that even in Bolivia they would come to get us because they had taken people in Santiago when they were on flight to other places.

Canada was one of the few countries that took people. I came to Canada and the boyfriend that I had, had found a gringa girlfriend and I was left hanging high and dry.

Interviewer: A green?

Judith: A gringa.

Interviewer: A gringa. Oh, a gringa, a white person.

Judith: A Canadian. But my friends Olga and Rosa helped me to stand up and then I did all the jobs that a good immigrant does. I cleaned, I worked in factories taking lint out of new clothes. When I did that kind of job I realized that in three months I had learned three words: sweep, bundle and lint. I thought, at this pace, to get the two hundred basic words, I'm going to take I don't know how many years. I went to the employment office who was taking care of us and I sat with ... I didn't go with my friends – I went alone with my daughter. Carolina was three and a half or so, a little bit over three. I sat there and I told the officer "I am not moving until you write and make me sign the paper that says that I am going for English as a second language. Unfortunately, or fortunately, I started crying. My tears were running, Carolina was sleeping in my lap – it must have been a sight, let me tell you. But he finally got me the papers and I went to the Red River Community College for six months and I learned the basics and then I started looking for other jobs.

Interviewer: And then you moved to Victoria in '86... 31:38

Judith: Oh, no, but I forgot a part there. I had a kind of a fling with a married man with four children. Then his wife left him a couple of times and then the wife decided that she was going back to Chile and leave her children and leave her husband here in Canada, so I took over. So I provide her, as a good friend, this devious friend, I provide her with my apartment for her to spend the last month and get her things in order and I went to take care of her four children and she was going. And then she changed her mind and she didn't go to Chile. She stayed in Winnipeg and she filed for divorce and full custody. The family courts twice denied her the custody. They said that it was better for the children to stay with the father, to stay with their grandmother, to stay with me, that I was a fit person to take care of the children and that the children were well cared for. So there you have it. Then she started making problems with the visits, but sometimes she was partying to hardy that we went to take the kids to her and she wasn't there. So it was very iffy. But then I realized that Gaston couldn't practically put his foot down and make things final. The marriage was finito, but the thing with the kids was a thorn on my side.

Then I went to work as a care aid and a couple years later I still... I always hoard money on the side and I don't tell anybody and I was saving \$50 a pay cheque for going nursing school, for when I was working as a care aid. So when I went to nursing school I had about \$300 to pay for books and things. Or more.

Interviewer: So you finished your nursing degree in Winnipeg?

Judith: I was a midwife in Chile and they, the nurses, didn't accept any of my qualifications. Actually when I graduated in midwifery, I graduated with the top mark and I was the valedictorian and I did all these wonderful things.

Interviewer: In Chile.

Judith: In Chile. And my family was all there and it was wonderful day, but going back to Winnipeg, I studied in Winnipeg and they gave me credit for some of the practicums because they knew that I knew how to do things. It was a two year course in the hospital in Winnipeg. I finished in March or April of that year because they gave me credit for the last practicum. Gaston couldn't find a job in Winnipeg, so he came to work with a friend in Victoria. Then again the problems with his wife and the kids and then finally, he wanted to have a Master degree and we came together to the University of BC and I applied for nursing and he applied for his degree and I got accepted immediately and we had to move within a month from Victoria to Vancouver. I started working in the hospital and he started his Masters. His wife had left with the four children a year prior, or six months prior, and she was never to come back with the children. Christmas we get a phone call and New Year's they are here, home, all of them – in our house. Then I decided that this thing was not going anywhere because every time I kind of get my boat rowing in one direction, she came and kicked it and everything went to pot.

Interviewer: Judith, I am now fast forwarding to coming out. I want to hear about your coming out story.

Judith: Ah-ha, my coming out story.

Interviewer: Yes, this is for the archive. So, we need to have your background. How did you get into the life.

Judith: After I left Gaston because I couldn't risk losing my daughter and having such an unstable life, I started working in nursing, having my nurses friends, I picked up a book about 'how to improve your life' or 'have the life that you dream' or whatever and it had a homework to do and in the homework in the second chapter that was as far as I got, it said, how do you dream your best life. I saw myself dreaming my best life in a farm setting with enough means and with a wonderful woman.

Interviewer: A wonderful woman? It's the first time you mention a woman. Do you want to talk about that woman?

Judith: Well, I got thinking, and I looked back a couple of circumstances in which I have been with women... I haven't been very fortunate, a couple of times in Chile... but, in this case I realized that even though I did love Gaston and I could have lived with him if things were different, actually, my belief was that I wanted... that men wouldn't fulfill my needs. I started reading, I started phoning, finding numbers, and finally...

Interviewer: To look for what?

Judith: To look for somebody to help me understand this thing and to see that this was my life and fortunately for me there was another nurse who was a lesbian and she was kind of out. So, I talked to her and I say "I need to talk to you in your home or in my home" and I went to her apartment and met her partner and we talked and I just had a bunch of questions. They were so kind. They took me to the Vancouver Lesbian Connection to show me how other lesbians were. They took me to the Lotus and I almost died of a heart attack.

Interviewer: Why? What happened at the Lotus [Vancouver lesbian night club]?

Judith: Well, what happened at the Lotus – these women were kissing and hugging in front of everybody and people came on to you, and it was scary! It was my first encounter and I didn't find my place there, I didn't see myself reflected there. But then I looked at my friend, she was a nurse and God knows how many other nurses were there. I was, that was in 1990, I was forty something years! Yeah, because I was born in 1944 and '84 I was forty.

Interviewer: You joined the VLC, the Lesbian...

Judith: They took me to the Vancouver Lesbian Connection and from the Vancouver Lesbian Connection they took me to the Bisexual Transgender – whatever name it now this organization has... but then was the...

Interviewer: The Coming Out Group?

Judith: It was not the 'Coming Out Group'

Interviewer: Oh, you're talking about the Centre?

Judith: The Centre downtown.

Interviewer: Yes.

Judith: Yeah.

Interviewer: It was the Gay and Lesbian Centre.

Judith: Yeah, it was the Gay & Lesbian Centre and they had a 'coming out group' coming very soon. So, I registered immediately. I did the coming out group and then I volunteered for the Vancouver Lesbian Connection and I volunteered for more than two years... about three years I think until 1993-94.

Interviewer: Well, it disbanded. That's why.

Judith: When it disbanded... when it was going to disband, I said, and it was because of money that it disbanded, when government money is involved, things go to pot and I don't want to be part of that and I left. And it went to pot. But, I met, I organized a social group, the Over Thirtys group; I met good friends... Greta's one of them! That I met in that group in the Vancouver Lesbian Centre; I had my first girlfriend...

Interviewer: Do you want to talk a little about her? She may be watching these tapes someday.

Judith: She may be watching... I don't want to...

Interviewer: OK

Judith: I don't want to mention her, but it was a lovely person, I have the best sex life that you can imagine.

Interviewer: How long were you together?

Judith: We were together for a good four months or so. More than that.

Interviewer: Oh, we are not talking about the present person.

Judith: No, no, no. We are not talking about the present person. We are talking about another person. We went to the Lotus, we made a spectacle of us. I was just letting my hair down. It was good, but it didn't meet intellectually and she had a drinking problem, and the first time she made a spectacle in a public place, I say, I took her home, I got her sober and 'ciao pescado' [Chilean colloquial saying... see ya later], never again. And never again.

Interviewer: How was your love life after that?

Judith: Well, that time, the same time when this bad thing happened, prior to that, in 1993, at the end of '93, I went to the Take Back the Night March and I saw that the doctor who was working in my floor, in the hospital, was part of the crowd. I went to talk to her because the Vancouver Lesbian Connection had always needed doctors for the women who went there. I asked her if she was taking patients and she said 'of course, I am' blah, blah, blah and she gave me her card. Then she said: 'oh, you are a lesbian'. I don't know if we agreed to meet again at the Valentine's Day, at the party that the Vancouver Lesbian Connection put... so we had a few dances. Joan and I clicked and the rest is history. She was at that time bisexual, I don't think she considers it now herself bisexual. She had a man who has been with her for a while, but our things went very well and... she has a twin sister and we have a beautiful life. My daughter now is 37 years old, I have three grandkids: one from her husband and two from her. It's lovely to be a grandmother and it's lovely to be in Canada. Yeah.

I tried to go back to Chile in 1995. Left Joan and everything behind because I was going to put a nursing home with my cousin in Mexico. They tricked me on that and I lost four months of working here and I didn't accomplish anything in Chile. But I learned.

Camera Op: We can go on a little longer.

Interviewer: Just a little longer.

Camera Op: I can call in and say I'm going to be late ... We are close to the end, so...

Judith: What else do you want to know sweetie?

Interviewer: Well, are you willing to talk a little about, um, your health condition right now.

Judith: Well, even though I take good care of my health, and I do my papanicolaus [PAP test] religiously and check my breast religiously, in 1993 I went because I found a lump in my breast. My doctor examined it, he barely felt it. He sent me for a mammogram. I went. They said that I needed an ultrasound. They did the ultrasound and then, their conclusion was that there was nothing to worry about, that it was benign. Even though it was in the areola area. So, I was comfort with that report. Two years later I go to my doctor again because I have lumps under my arm. I go to the same clinic and they do the same mammogram; they say I need to go back to an ultrasound. Fortunately for me, the day that the ultrasound was done they were receiving a new machine for ultrasounds. When the technician came, she said, she looked at my left breast and she said 'you know, I'm going to call the doctor'. She called the doctor and the doctor said 'your left breast is very boring, there is nothing there'. And I said 'I don't know why you are concentrating on the left breast, when I am complaining of the right side axilla and my right breast.' And she said: 'Can I look?' 'Of course you can, that's what I want to know.'

So she looked. And then when she looked at my armpit she said 'do you mind if I take a sample, an aspiration?' And that when they found out that I had cancer of the breast with metastasis to the axilla. I go to see the oncologist, no, the surgeon, and the surgeon doctor said 'I want to do a bone scan because of your age and I, and because you have TB. God forbid we are doing the wrong thing.' About a week later I receive a phone call from the secretary and she says 'you have to go for a bone scan'. I say, 'why?' And she says 'I don't know, the doctor says that you need to go for a bone scan'. I went to the bone scan, and then the doctor, I don't think she even bothered telling me personally that I had metastasis... no, she told me that I had metastasis to the bone. Then they sent me to the women's mammogram place and did all the things that they needed to do and all the aspirations that they needed to do, but the cancer had gone to my spine. So, there was nothing they could do, so I have my two boobs, they are good looking, but [chuckle] but anyways.

I was scared terribly because the work in my ward was very heavy... that was the other reason I went to see my doctor. I was so exhausted I could barely finish my shift. I was afraid that I would hurt my back easily because God knows how those bones are. The doctors may know, but not me. So I quit my job, I start long-term disability and that and last year, no, 2009 I...

50:25

Interviewer: We are coming very close to the end Judith. What do you feel that you have in your life that has given you joy, that has been really important to you?

Judith: My daughter is very important, I think is top of the line. And my grandkids are a joy, another joy. But I think that finally my life has come to where I wanted it to be, from that chapter two of whatever book I read. I am happy with Joan. I couldn't have better people around me. I have made very good friends during my life here, in Vancouver particularly, if I could enlarge my circle of friends, I would love to, but my energy doesn't allow me much. But my life is wonderful at the moment. I don't think I lack anything.

Camera Op: I have a question: do you think, did you receive the kind of health care you expected to receive? Do you think being queer impacted it at all?

Judith: No. I think... I have known my doctor, is a male doctor, he's a Chilean fellow, he has done the best he could. He trusted the other specialist, because there was no reason not to. I have gone to them and they have been OK. The care from the Cancer Agency has been good. They have good services, good support, good support groups, good individual support and I have it available and I have made use of the Women With Metastases Cancer Group. I have made use of learning relaxation and that kind of thing. There is another cancer not for profit support group here, it's called Callanish and they are wonderful people, wonderful people.

Interviewer: So do they do accept you as a queer in Callanish without a problem?

Judith: No problem whatsoever.

Interviewer: Because it says in your notes you had very few encounters with homophobia.

Judith: I have had very few encounters with homophobia. It's just because I came out here in Canada. In Chile they would have given me hell back and forth, but here it's much... well, for me, I wouldn't say it's a piece of cake because you have to know what you are getting yourself into, but my life as a lesbian in Canada has been only but pleasant. It hasn't hindered my professional life, my political participation, my participation in the labour movement, in the Vancouver District Labour Council for several years, and the BC Nurses union for more years. And everywhere, I am queer, I am here.

Interviewer: Any words of wisdom, do we have anything more? Any words of wisdom? Do you want to read it here? You say 'you in life is just a tiny minute piece of life, not more important than anything else on earth, a blip. I believe the next generation is going to be better, more generous, egalitarian.

Judith: It is true, I don't have any religious beliefs. I do have, I can say, a serious political understanding. My idea is that the next generation has to be better, because I look back at my parents and how they have to fight for whatever they got for their children. They didn't even think that they were hurting other children. There was just me, me, me, for my family. I think those things have to change. I think we have to open and I expect the next generation to be more generous, more attentive, more caring about what is happening to their neighbor. I am so sure.

Interviewer: And you have a goddess, I believe, in your life.

Judith: No, I don't have a god or a goddess [chuckle].

Interviewer: Just for parking then.

Judith: Oh, the goddess of parking! Yeah, that's with me. Every time you need parking, you take me. I'll get it for you. Right at the door. It's very good, the goddess of parking. Yeah. But in general, seriously, I don't have religious belief. But I do believe that humankind needs, and it has been evolving. I think the last two hundred years, even with the two wars, huge wars, it's going to make better life for us. The rupture of the communist world, I think it's only spread the weed, or spread the seed of something that is going to happen. I believe that the Marxist theory, when you put it in the today, have a fundamental right principles. It has just been bastardized and I think the worst weed in the left is the social democrats. Because they make you believe they are going to change things, but then they take the same shoes and walk in them.

Camera Op: Thank-you so much for sharing your life with us.

Interviewer: Thank-you Judith.

Judith: You're welcome. You're welcome... I don't know what you can do about it...

[END OF RECORDING]