

Pauline and Diane

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SPEAKERS

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ABSTRACT:

Pauline Shulman and Diane McCarney were neighbors of Del and Phyllis from 1994 onward, across the street at Newburg and Duncan, three doors down. They had sightlines into one another's homes from their kitchen windows. Their friendship evolved as Pauline and Diane supported them in their aging. Diane drove them to their 2004 marriage before then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, and they were their escorts to their 2008 City Hall marriage. They tell stories of the longtime goodwill of the neighborhood toward Del and Phyllis going back to the 1950s. They describe how Del and Phyllis politicized them initially through neighborhood politics related to gentrification. They give a lot of details of the furnishings and art as well as how Del and Phyllis used the garden and rooms in the house, including at the end of Phyllis' life. They also detail the caregiving model in her later years. They describe their walkthrough video of the house after Phyllis passed, which has also been donated. They express interest in the space being recreated in ways that give the rooms "narratives" about its lived-in history for Del and Phyllis as well as an artist-in-residency and lecture/salon program, in a "living and breathing kind of way, not like a stilted sort of museum sort of thing....Something with a community spirit."

Carla Campbell

Yes, the video! I had so many questions about it, because I was tasked with finding pictures of the house to share so that we can use them. And of course, all you ever see is the living room mainly. So it was really interesting to see the other aspects of it. And then seeing, like you said, the house is empty. I took a trip to the house, and just got to walk around. So I really liked being able to see their personalities that you guys took in that video, in the house.

Diane McCarney

The thing that struck me when it was all cleared out at the very end, we got everything out and we walked through it one last time and it was empty. It was like, they're gone. (They're gone, Pauline echoed) So much of their energy was in all of this stuff.

Pauline Shulman

Even something like the little bulletin board that's covered with all their colorful button badges. They had all kinds of interesting art that people they knew did for them or they collected. They were just very colorful in how they did their house. And when you went there, there was always something happening. So that's why I wanted you to get a little bit of that when you see the video. Also, I have collected some photos. When we did the memorial for Phyllis, I had people just send me stuff I hadn't ever seen before. I have a ton of stuff, probably more than a 1000 photos from different events we were part of with them. But at the memorial, there were a few I hadn't seen and one or two of them of the house at different eras. You might have the one with them in the nook with a cat sitting on the table. I have another one of them before the stair rail between the bottom floor and the top floor. They're sitting there, Phyllis in front of the Del on the steps. That might be before our time, the artwork on the wall is a bit different and so you see a slightly different take of the house.

Carla Campbell

Right. Yeah, definitely. That's one of the things that we talked about initially, when we started this project was things like what books were on their shelves...

Pauline Shulman

You can see that.

Carla Campbell

Exactly. So there was like so much, I probably will go back into see if I can slow it down. Because that is exactly the types of things that we were looking for and we talked about, you know, and Kendra told me about a few pictures. I definitely liked a lot of the art that was shown. You know, so that was it was really interesting. And it's those intricacies that I really feel... I mean, that really outlines who they were as people and personality.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, they were fun. Especially, Phyllis, you know, she was kind of wild and crazy. I'm trying to think of some Oh, like for books, Phyllis loved mysteries. And so in the bathroom, there was a rack and where you'd normally hang your bath towels and whatnot, there was a rack that was filled with paperbacks of her favorite mystery writers. Right. And books were everywhere, you couldn't go into any room in the house and not see books.

Carla Campbell

Yeah, there was a variety. I was reading some of the titles and it looked like a lot of biographies or autobiographies in one section. It was like Bill Clinton and then Spock and I thought hmm, that's an interesting (Pauline and Diane giggled) combination! I think I saw the Harry Potter collection floating around in there.

Pauline Shulman

She read it, you know, she read all of it.

Diane McCarney

She had all of the Winnie the Pooh original series.

Carla Campbell

Oh, yeah? Kendra said she had those. And then the nature art. What was the one who loves a lot of raccoons in the bedroom. And then in the kitchen, there were like, Tigers or lions and..?

Pauline Shulman

Lion. Phyllis Lyon.

Carla Campbell

Okay. That makes sense.

Pauline Shulman

She had an affinity for the animal lion. So she had that symbolism all throughout the house.

Diane McCarney

loved cats. ("yeah" Pauline agreed) So sort of a connection.

Pauline Shulman

The cats are what would keep them together in hard times. They owned the cats together.

Carla Campbell

Oh, and you guys were neighbors?

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, we live three doors down. And we moved in, I don't know in 1994? ("1994" Diane echoes)

Diane McCarney

They moved in in 1955?

Pauline Shulman

52...I think they moved in in 52.

Diane McCarney

they got together right before you were born,

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, right.

Carla Campbell

And you guys live three doors, the way of the new giant house or a few doors the other way?

Pauline Shulman

Our house is like the little shack like they had.

Diane McCarney

If you look at what you can from Newburg, it's amazing how much the shrubbery has grown over their house. We're where Newburg hits Duncan, right across the street. If you were coming up Newburg, if you went left and you went three houses over, you'd be at their house,

Pauline Shulman

We used to have a clear line of sight to them. They'd be in the kitchen and one time when Diane was cutting my hair they said, "Come cut my hair!" They could see us doing it. Or we have a weather vane up on our deck and Phyllis really loved the weather vane, she could see it from her kitchen nook and mentioned it often. Another example, when we first moved in, we didn't know anybody here and our cat got on the roof. We got this kind of random call, because we'd never heard from them before. It was from them saying your cat's on the roof. (Everyone laughed)

Diane McCarney

Because our house is way at the back, and theirs was way at the back, we could just look out these windows at each other. (Pauline said in unison with a smile) She's like, Oh, they're in the kitchen. (Both with big smiles)

Carla Campbell

That's super cute! Yeah, I went there, and I took videos like going up the stairs and stuff like that. And I was like...at some point someone's gonna pop out of this house, and being like, what are you doing? Because I went all the way up the stairs and was taking video in the window. And I'm lucky that I didn't get eaten by those vines that are next to the stairs. Those are getting pretty overgrown. And it was just really interesting to see it. And I know that I noticed there's a hat hanging in the kitchen. Does that ring a bell?

Pauline Shulman

But whose hat is it?

Diane McCarney

It wouldn't be theirs. But I did see someone staying there. But you know, it was bought, there's an empty lot and then the house, the lot the house is on. But it's combined together as far as the city is concerned. The people who bought the lot are planning to do a big monster home on the empty lot. We've already gotten a notice that they've sent out the plan. So that's already underway. But it took a while because they had to separate the properties. All those vines, all of that is going you know, that's all going to change when they start building.

Carla Campbell

Oh, it was the house, the monster house that was already there. I thought that was the one that bought the property.

Diane McCarney

No, that's a whole different property. The space between Phyllis' front door and that big monster home, that's going to be another monster home. These lots are twenty-five feet wide. They're not very wide, but they're long and they go straight up with these buildings. What will happen is when you walk up to her house, you're going to have a huge wall here, where now you have all this shrubbery.

Pauline Shulman

But it could be worse. It could be a plain wall, instead it's their little stairway. One of the changes to the property I noticed right away is someone put a satellite dish on the top, that was never there. I don't know, I thought somebody was staying there.

Diane McCarney

I saw someone, one of the owners or something or their kid or something like that, you know? So maybe that's whose hat it was.

Carla Campbell

Interesting. It was like a umm, I want to say like a straw fedora looking. It was hanging in the kitchen.

Pauline Shulman

It had to be a baseball cap or ("yeah" Diane chimes in). They were serious baseball fans. They'd go to the games. They gave us their old stadium seats when they stopped going.

Diane McCarney

Not theirs [the hat].

Carla Campbell

Oh, nice.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah.

Carla Campbell

You guys got the questions then?

Pauline Shulman

No, I didn't receive the questions.

Carla Campbell

Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I thought I had emailed them at the same time as the invite.

Shouldn't be too horribly shocking. I have them in front of me too. So I can just read them to you. And then like I said, we can always go back. It's kind of like a loose thing. So I'm totally game for whatever you guys want to share as well.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah. Sounds good.

Carla Campbell

Um, so yeah, I was just asking the first questions like how did you meet Del and Phyllis, and how much time did you spend with them in their home? And can you describe the neighborhood?

Pauline Shulman

Okay. Um, we never really "met" Phyllis and Del, we were intimidated. So we didn't have anything to do with them in the beginning. And then we have friends up the street who had a barbecue in their backyard and invited us over. And I guess one of the partners had met Del during jury duty. And so they invited Phyllis and Del to their house for the barbecue. And they invited us for the barbecue. And so we were all there. And that's the first we met them. And when we were there, we both looked at each other in this kind of, like, knowing way, and we said we're going to be in their lives. I mean, it just was a premonition we both had that we're going to be with them for the rest of their lives; we're going to be people who kind of can look out for them as they get older. We both have that same premonition. And that was the first time we met them. And we still laid low for a while. When we first met with them, we had nothing in common. You know, they're very political, and they loved baseball, we didn't give a hoot about politics and had nothing to do with it. (I had to laugh about this statement). So we seemed good for nothing, you know? They weren't rude. But they acted like, "we don't know what to do with you." (They smiled) It wasn't until they started dealing with more of the aging issues. And we were neighbors, and we're both very nurturing kind of people. So we would help them out. And then they always asked us to go to every one of their events, either to drive or to just make them feel safer, and we got to be friends, you know, and they finally figured out some common ground with us. And so we spent time together and we became kind of one of the family. We would do Christmas with them and Kendra. We were just in regular contact with them talking every day for many years. But especially when they started having health issues later on, then they didn't see why they needed anybody else because they had us in their lives. When the marriage equality thing happened, just to give an example, they called over and asked Diane if she would give them a ride to something that was happening. They never even told her what it was. So she shows up to a massive crowd of people--

Diane McCarney

You know, press everywhere. What did you say this was? (They both laughed) And anyway-

Pauline Shulman

So Diane was there for that little wedding with Gavin Newsom.

Diane McCarney

And this is the first one that got annulled in February 2004.

Pauline Shulman

But we were at all those events. And then when we got married, they came to our wedding.

Pauline Shulman

So that's when- they legally got married in 2008. We were their escorts. (Diane in unison)

Diane McCarney

Yeah, I was pushing Del's wheelchair and Pauline had Phyllis' arm. So we were in the midst of that entire event.

Pauline Shulman

and in the backroom conversations with Gavin Newsom. We just had a very privileged role, and position to the whole thing.

Diane McCarney

I just have to say in terms of meeting them for me, I was well aware that the things that they had done, made it so that my life was so much easier than it would have been had they not done what they did. ("Yeah" Chimed in Pauline). So whatever I can do to, you know, give back to these people who did so much for me. I think that's a lot of the reason why we were being there for them. Also when we first met them, they were super independent. Oh, no, no, we got it. No, no, no. So then one day, they actually asked for help. And that's when they started to really need it. And so we were there for them.

Pauline Shulman

But even when they were sort of retired, they got calls every day. They were asked to speak at events, and several movies were made about them. Whenever we would escort them anywhere, people would come up and say, "Oh, you saved my life." They'd always stop and have a conversation with anyone who approached them. I didn't go out a single time with them where we didn't have people say, "you saved my life." So they had quite a following

Carla Campbell

Where you guys lived, did you find that there were very many other neighbors that were within the LGBT community?

Pauline Shulman

Yes.

Diane McCarney

Yeah, there are several. We're in Noe Valley. We're a mile south of the Castro Theatre and, we also have a neighborhood association and I'm a co-director. Everybody knows everybody within the nine blocks that our association covers. A lot of the neighbors who aren't gay knew Phyllis and Del and would watch out for them and knew us, knew that we were helping them out and knew Kendra would come. So really, I would say the whole community was really aware of them and always there to help them.

Pauline Shulman

They were local celebrities. I mean, everyone was really interested in them and cared about them and thought they were good neighbors. I mean, every other house has LGBTQ, pretty much. Across the street, there was Susan and Nancy, who were closer to them till they moved away. Then we have a

couple of doctors down the street, women. Jim and Mike, who host the Neighborhood Association events.

Diane McCarney

I would say at least a quarter of the people here are LGBTQ.

Pauline Shulman

Maybe a third, but everybody is really friendly and supportive.

Diane McCarney

But all the people who aren't LGBTQ are just very part of the whole thing. So, I know that my straight neighbors would absolutely look after them. If I said go help Phyllis with this or that, someone would step up. We happen to be lucky that we live in a nice little community like this.

Pauline Shulman

The neighbors liked them. Even some of their neighbors who moved in right after World War 2.

Diane McCarney

Oh, yeah. Our neighbor Vi across the street who died a few years ago, but at 99, she bought the house across the street brand new in 1941. And had lived there most of her life.

Pauline Shulman

And she was on friendly terms with Phyllis and Del.

Diane McCarney

Yeah, they set up a basketball hoop right in front of Phyllis and Del's. And kids would all play in the street right there- not now because this has all been developed, but back then and that would have been like probably the 50s and 60s when those kids were growing up.

Pauline Shulman

So they were good neighbors. I mean, they lived- they practiced what they preached. They were community oriented on every level.

Carla Campbell

Yeah, everything. They seemed very humble, even Kendra, when she talked about them. It just was so nonchalant. And so I think that that it's really interesting. It makes me want to learn more about them as well. I'm hoping to get involved with the Friends of Lyon-Martin House when this is over. That's another reason I went to the house. I live in Santa Rosa. So when I would ask questions like, how far, they said something initially, like, "Oh, it's just up from the Castro". And so I told my partner, and my daughter, "maybe we could just walk?" And then I was like, maybe not! My professor said, maybe in their really young years, but no, not close like that. And myself not being familiar with the different areas of San Francisco as well, I didn't know what the demographics were in different areas. So that was the another part of it for me.

Diane McCarney

No, this is all blended a lot. But the Castro was very gay. And Noe Valley was kind of like liberal people who were wanting to have families, it was kind of more like that. But then lots of gay people are in this area. And now lots of straight people are in the Castro. It does continue to change.

Pauline Shulman

So, things to know about Phyllis and Del as people that I often feel don't get communicated because they're such historical giants, but having spent several decades watching their life, meeting their family, going over their history, collecting everything I could, because I was interested in them. My first hit is authenticity. You hear about this Maslow's hierarchy and how people are self-actualized. To me they really epitomize that; they are just authentic. When you met them, you wouldn't even know they were famous, they're just really authentically present, which is something I associate a lot with lesbians anyway (Pauline laughs), there's a kind of like sensitivity and awareness. And so that's one thing. The other is, it never occurred to them that they couldn't make a difference. I don't think any of us since then can think like that. But they started early with the Roosevelt belief system.

Diane McCarney

Yeah, it was a completely different time period that they came of age in.

Pauline Shulman

For example, there were no commercial airlines, yet.

Diane McCarney

Yeah. They always thought everything was possible.

Pauline Shulman

But also because people were not polarized to the degree we are now, so when they went to fix a social problem, they thought, well, let's talk to the police. Let's talk to the churches. Let's sit down and be civilized about it. And it worked!

Diane McCarney

Well, actually- Del, as separate from Phyllis, they both had their skills, but Del had the ability to just look through a problem and get at the essence of what was really at the root of it and what needed to be changed. She was incredibly clear and able to think and simplify things down to their essence. And she did that, she really thought, "Okay, what's going to change the situation?" And she thought, well, we need to talk to the police, the religious people and the psychiatric institute. And she just set a course for each of those three things. She was amazing in her ability to strategize and break it down like that.

Pauline Shulman

And then the networking was astounding. Anyone who wanted to get anything done at all politically, become a judge, anyone that would come and meet with them, and then they, they'd connected with all the right people. A lot of careers of LGBTQ leaders got started, and even Nancy Pelosi's to a degree, right?

Diane McCarney

Nancy Pelosi, was a housewife, raise five kids, and then decided she wanted to get into politics. And so who is the other woman Burton, Sala Burton? ("I think so" Pauline confirmed) I think she's the one that said, oh, you should talk to Phyllis and Del. And Phyllis and Del worked with her on her first campaign, getting her started. Because they really wanted, you know, women in politics. They had a real connection to Nancy, when she was just getting started. Now, I mean, it's just amazing where she went.

Pauline Shulman

But she [Nancy Pelosi] still acknowledged them. Yeah. Even not that many years ago. But the other thing, one of the movies , No Secret Anymore, I think, in that was at the beginning or the end, but in the credits, it went on forever and ever and ever and ever listing all the achievements that Phyllis and Del had accomplished.

Diane McCarney

They had started, and it was a huge thing, that all of that happened in that house. That's where they came to get help from them, to start NCLR or, becoming a judge or whatever they were trying to do,

Pauline Shulman

And their name and address was always in the phonebook. And they answered whoever called.

Carla Campbell

You know, when they did things, even though you guys weren't into politics, did you? Would you go over and be a part of the stuff like DOB or wait, no, that was probably goes after before your time. But-

Diane McCarney

You can't afford to not be political.

Pauline Shulman

But you know, when we got started? So you know, these monster houses, right? Well, when the white house next- is still white? ("The house to the right? No it's green now" Diane chimed in) There's the house and then the one right after it heading towards us, when the guys that bought, McGrew was his name and he was head of the historical landmark association. He wined and dined him and told them, it won't be a problem, it won't be a problem, you'll like it. Fine. And then this monster house came in, it was a monster at the time. Now it doesn't look like it. And they were really upset. So there was a campaign in the neighborhood to go to the planning commission, and have it kind of limited a little bit. And so that was the first political action, we were up close and personally involved with them. They'd come over and meet at our house with all the other neighbors. And we saw how they worked. And they brought in other people. And Del wrote a little speech for me, but I was too shy to read it. And she was pissed at me because I didn't read it at the planning commission the first time. But I saw how they worked at a neighborhood level doing that. And then marriage equality got to be a very big thing. And we were very familiar with the people who were involved in that. And then, yeah, we took them to NCLR every year. So we always get the update of what was going on. We became more politicized over the years. It's just I was working at the time in tech, and I didn't have any extra energy to do things. But

then I became semi-retired after a while and got more involved with them. No one will ever call us political activists, except that we got married, and that itself was a political action.

Diane McCarney

You know, there's different things, for Phyllis and Del, politics was a passion for them. They loved it! I love things like that, but not politics. I have my own passions, but they loved it. And I did it because it was necessary, or because it's just the thing you needed to do. It wasn't- from love.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah. Something about that. Anytime you would ask Phyllis about it, she'd say, "well, the only reason we did anything is because it was fun. You know, we got that house. We were like we didn't know anybody. How are we going to meet people, you can't when everyone's in the closet, you can't meet people" and they didn't like being the only two lesbians in the world, they thought that's no good. So then they started this Daughters of Bilitis and they started socializing and every month they did The Ladder, the newsletter, which would come in a brown paper thing and was distributed all underground still. But a lot of it, Phyllis if you ask her it would all be about, she just loved meeting people and being part of something, you know, and Del was always, since I think probably even high school was politically oriented. That was in her DNA. But Phyllis was all about people. And then later she went on and got her Doctorate of Sex and everything. She had a slightly different trajectory. In the beginning, they worked together, but she just was different, she wasn't as politically strategic as Del was. And then together they wrote a book. They didn't write it here; they went to their place up near the Russian River.

Diane McCarney

In Jenner and ("in Jenner" confirmed Pauline) by Rivers End

Pauline Shulman

They went for a summer or something to write their book Lesbian /Woman. So they went there to write it.

Diane McCarney

It's where we spread their ashes, actually.

Carla Campbell

So it's out by what? River's End?

Diane McCarney

You take River Road all the way to the end, you get to Jenner, there's a restaurant, Rivers End Restaurant. There are a few houses just passed it on the left. And it was I think the second house in there, so there's a beach down from Rivers End. And when you look up, there's four houses you can see, and they lived up in there.

Carla Campbell

So they owned another house?

Diane McCarney

No, they rented it, but they had a-

Pauline Shulman

another place. And Kendra, I think lived there. ("Yes" chimed in Diane). She raised her kids there. And that's where she met her husband was out there too.

Carla Campbell

Oh, yeah? So, when you walked into Phyllis and Dells house, then what was the first thing that you noticed? I mean, you took videos, a lot of the bookcases and the different pictures, but when you just went over...what was the first thing that would catch your eye, or that you would automatically look--

Diane McCarney

For me, it was all the artwork and pictures and photographs all over the walls and the books, probably because that's what I'm interested in (Diane giggles) . And they have had a beautiful view. And they used to sit in their leather chairs, the twirly chairs, and they'd look out at the view and also up in the kitchen the little nook was really cool, from another time and place. It was very 1930s.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, we'd go over and play Tripoli over there. And they did solitaire every night, every single night before going to bed. They'd do solitaire in that nook.

Carla Campbell

That's an old game!

Diane McCarney

Yeah, it is

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, they were good that way. They were fun. They were really easy to hang out with, again, because of that sort of presence. You just felt at home all the time. I felt like more family feeling with them than I ever felt with my family. They were just really easy to be with.

Carla Campbell

Yeah, that's really great. When you hung out, did you go to any parties at their house?

Diane McCarney

("Oh Yeah" exclaimed Pauline laughing) They would have different events, but the big parties they used to have were before our time. The dancing in the 70s in the 80s. Yeah, I can imagine here. They had the big picture window, and they would close the curtains so that they had privacy so they could dance because there- yeah, that was illegal.

Pauline Shulman

We never got to do any of the illegal stuff. (Both ladies laughed)

Diane McCarney

By the time we got there, all the curtains were gone. ("Yeah" agreed Pauline)

Carla Campbell

In a video, there was a frame that looked like it had like a sheet or a dress, or like it was like a big long picture. And the objects in the picture looked like it was a 3d thing. Like a piece of fabric maybe?

Diane McCarney

Was a paper sculpture, right? Oh, so 3d in twirling to look kind of it could be a flowing fabric, but it was an artist had given them that and I'm pretty sure it was how people make paper. And then it was in like a plexiglass square.

Pauline Shulman

But it was trying to be something? Or was it abstract?

Diane McCarney

Yeah, it was kind of abstract.

Carla Campbell

I was thinking some special dress or cloth or something perhaps?

Diane McCarney

Yeah, that's paper. Like someone who did paper mache. It's just an abstract kind of sculptural piece. I don't know who did that one. We ended up with a couple of pieces from their collection.

Carla Campbell

That's I was gonna ask Is it how much of the little things did you guys keep?

Pauline Shulman

We can show her that one. (they gesture at the adjacent wall) Yes, let's see if I can do this here.

Diane McCarney

It might be easier to just stand in front of it. (They show me a framed piece of black and white art depicting two women embracing)

Carla Campbell okay. Yeah, I saw that in the video.

Pauline Shulman

That's the main one we got. And we got one other.

Diane McCarney

We got one of San Francisco.

Pauline Shulman

I'll show you that. This was done by Susan Sternau, who lived nearby and was very close with them for a while. She did a sketch of Del that you might have seen in the bedroom.

Carla Campbell

Yes, I did see that one.

Pauline Shulman

Susan Sternau did that one.

Diane wanted a couple of art pieces, and Kendra offered us whatever.

Carla Campbell

Yeah. When was that? When did you go in and take the video? Like, how long after Phyllis passed?

Pauline Shulman

Um, was it--

Diane McCarney

Phyllis died in April. And

Pauline Shulman

the packing up? So Tomi stayed there about a month, right? ("Yeah" confirmed Diane)

Diane McCarney

it was maybe May, . I think Kendra wanted to be out of there by July because she wanted to put it on the market?

Pauline Shulman

It was about a month after she passed, on May 12, 2020.

Diane McCarney

Within three months, they were cleared out of there.

Pauline Shulman

and she died in the home. Whereas Del died at UCSF in a VIP section of the hospital.

Carla Campbell

I didn't know they had a VIP section at the hospital.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah Del got in there.

Diane McCarney

On the top floor was an incredible view of the city.

Carla Campbell

Nice. Um, then yeah, I looked in the video and I didn't see, I'll say like caregiving type stuff. Only because I have been a caregiver for my parents. For things that were more kind of like in that end of life care stuff, but it didn't appear that there was anything like that.

Diane McCarney

We brought in a hospital bed, which was, you remember this is in COVID, right? No hospice nurse could come, nothing. We got hospice to deliver a hospital bed, so she could be propped up a bit. And maybe, one of those portable toilets.

Pauline Shulman

I thought Del got the hospital bed. I don't know. ("No, Phyllis had the hospital bed" Diane stated) Oh so, at the very end Phyllis was, I always say she's like a Gumby. I used to take her places a lot and I hold her arm. She's small like I'm. I'm small, I'm five foot. And she liked to drink a lot. So more than once, she'd take a fall and she'd usually end up on top of me. (Pauline laughs) So she, she was a Gumby. She never broke anything. She just fell so easily and gracefully. So she was ambulatory until the very end; she walked up all those stairs, she said that's what kept her healthy. For her age, she just kept moving. She didn't need to have the normal equipment; she never used a walker ever. She didn't even really seriously use a cane, a little bit little once in a while, her knee would bother her, and then she forgot about it

Diane McCarney

As she got older she didn't want to go out so much you know she liked to be in.

Pauline Shulman

But that was because she would get more disoriented as her mental changes were happening. Phyllis was a very brilliant woman so it took a long time to even realize she was declining, especially because she drank so you never really knew. But even at her worst, her ability to string together thoughts was impeccable. It's just that her memories were faulty, so she had the wrong information and reached the wrong conclusions. But, she lived well, she had the caregivers, and we had to kind of spin stories for a while that these are just freeloading friends who are staying with you. Because she would never accept she would ("never accept" Diane exclaimed) she wouldn't accept care, but she loved them all. I mean, she kissed them goodbye, and welcomed back and "how you doing honey?" (Pauline laughs) And it was -that's a remarkable story in itself how the community really, we were able to put a community together—Kendra's gets all the credit for that—really provided amazing care for her.

Diane McCarney

The LGBTQ community really showed up, we were able to put this whole caregiver team together. And it was 24 hours a day. And it was really amazing.

Pauline Shulman

And millions of stories spawned out of that. (Pauline giggled)

Carla Campbell

Yeah, there was a podcast from one of the caregivers. And I absolutely love that. Again, being a caregiver, I just love the aspects of it. But Kendra did talk about it. And there's so much of it, I can relate to with my parents. And so I just have really enjoyed how it came together. It just sounds so beautiful, the way that it all worked, and, and obviously to like having you guys who are only a couple doors down. ("um hmm" said Pauline) So it's not just you being family in a sense, you're also really close by so I mean, I feel like there's a lot of layers of trust that would be instilled in that as well.

Pauline Shulman

We had relationships with all the caregivers. If they had a question, they'd call us or, they were over here to borrow a cup of sugar. I mean, we talk to them every day.

Diane McCarney

or if she fell and needed to go to the emergency.

Pauline Shulman

We were always the emergency contact.

Diane McCarney

Right. You know how it worked for us, at a certain point, they started needing more help. And we were able to show up, and then Del got sick. And then there was a lot around that. But then she passed away. And then Phyllis was okay, but she was alone. So we spent a lot of time with her and, still looked after her, but she was totally able to take care of herself. And then it got to a point where it was too hard for her. And then she really needed help. And we helped her a lot. But then it got to a point where she really needed professional or 24 hour help,

Pauline Shulman

Back up a little. The reason we got so involved is when Dell started to have problems. She had two kinds of problems. One, she had a lot of neuropathy in her legs and a lot of pain. So it was hard for her to get up and down the stairs. And two, she started having memory lapses like you might see in Alzheimer's, she had a very different kind of mental decline than Phyllis, she had tall tales is what I call them, just these stories would come up. You'd be talking normally and she sounded normally smart. And all of a sudden, you realize, oh, this is getting to be a tall tale. (Carla giggled, Diane smiled) And they're always good and colorful. But she was like a brilliant, beautiful mind. You could just tell her and she sort of got it.

Diane McCarney

She'd be going on. She'd tell you this whole story and then she'd say "ya know, I'm not sure if it's true."

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, she was really good. But so as that was happening, Kendra and Eugene had moved back to the area to keep an eye on them and were planning to be active in their life. But then Kendra, was putting

in this chairlift and all this and there was a big event, right? And she told you that the day they were celebrating the completion, she got in a head-on collision. And because of that she couldn't show up. And that's when we got very involved because she couldn't do anything for them. So we just filled in for that year. And then by the time that was over, they were very attached to our being in that role.

Diane McCarney

Also it was very easy because we were right here if they needed anything else. Yeah.

Carla Campbell

And Kendra was living in-- Petaluma?

Diane McCarney

Petaluma. She just moved about a year ago.

Carla Campbell

Yeah. She said not that long ago. She was telling me about that. Now did they both smoke?

Diane McCarney

Yeah. And they smoked with pride. (we all laughed)

Carla Campbell

And they did it in the house, or no?

Pauline Shulman

Not with us. By the time we knew them, they weren't smoking. It stopped. I imagine they smoked in the house at the time. They were hard-drinking, hard smoking. They'd do bar crawls when they were younger. Del stopped all that when she got diagnosed with type two diabetes, no smoking, no drinking, eating healthy,

Diane McCarney

But Del said, "Well, you know, we'd be outside smoking, and that's where all the interesting people were" (we all laughed)

Carla Campbell

And so then Phyllis, continue to drink even after Del quit?

Pauline Shulman

Oh, yeah, we had to swap out her booze finally and put it in the fake wine for a while. Because when you're having that kind of mental challenges, it's unsafe, you fall more and all that. And I'll tell you, we asked the neurologists about it, how can you go from the amount she drank to nothing with no withdrawal? And she said, I've seen 80 year olds be able to do that. Phyllis was in her 80s. Just like that, no more alcohol. We took her to the planetarium and the museum at Golden Gate Park. And she must have had four martinis at lunch. And Phyllis is a little thing. Then we went into the planetarium and (Diane begins to laugh) as you can imagine, "oh!!!" (Pauline reenacted Phyllis's reactions to the

planetarium after the martinis) (We all laughed) She loved it, but she didn't care how much it was spinning. One of the times, she fell on me. And she felt a little bad about it. But I mean that she was still able to throw back four martinis. And in my life, I've never gotten through one. (Pauline laughs)

Diane McCarney

But she started having cognitive impairment. And she was still, you know, putting it away. And we worried about that. That's why we started switching out the wine. Because honestly, I think her sense of taste, she couldn't even tell anymore. She was having difficulty.

Pauline Shulman

She didn't miss it. I mean, really, she didn't know the difference.

Diane McCarney

When there was company we put the non-alcoholic wine in bottles with labels from her favorite wines on it. (giggles)

Carla Campbell

Did they cook a lot?

Diane McCarney

Caregivers would cook

Pauline Shulman

No, Phyllis used to prepare meals. Phyllis was really systematic, and you'd look in the freezer, and everything is wrapped with a date written on it. She's a real details person. And you could see some of the items we got from her, like things for cooking special little individual muffins and so yes, she was I think she was a pretty decent cook and she cooked all their meals. I don't think Del did any cooking and Del didn't drive either. ("Yeah Del didn't drive" confirmed Diane) So Phyllis did the cooking. And she did the driving and Phyllis was really mechanically handy around the house.

Diane McCarney

So she would change the lightbulbs. I don't think Del had any mechanical ability, no cooking ability, and didn't want to drive. But she was like a genius of politics and well-read and a brilliant writer.

Carla Campbell

Oh, that's interesting. Okay.

Diane McCarney

But what did they say, Phyllis was a femme, the butch-femme thing which was in that movie, oh a soft butch. And was it hard femme? (Pauline also trying to recall) I don't remember what the counterpart was. But you know, Del said she was the soft butch, and I said you can't even change a light bulb? I don't know about that. (Pauline laughs)

Carla Campbell

I feel like you're describing my relationship. We have the same thing. She identifies as butch but when we are at home, she's all about cooking, cleaning. I build and fix stuff. I'll ask how far apart is that? Or what kind of drill bit do I need? And she just stares at me. But if you ask how much sugar did you put in that? She'd instantly reply 3/4 of a cup organic white sugar. (We all laugh)

Carla Campbell

Did you see a lot of changes in like the furniture in the house? Like over the time, you said that you noticed different art occasionally.

Diane McCarney

You know, they really settled into the same furnishings, I think they were probably there for probably 30-40 years.

Pauline Shulman

I think the couch got worn out. So we got a new-("we got them a new couch" Diane says), you know what, when she needed care, we swapped it out to one that could be a sofa bed. Not major changes at all. It's only when things failed and had to be replaced.

Pauline Shulman

They used to send us over newspaper clippings. Anytime they saw something they thought we'd be interested in, they'd clip it out and send it over to us. Every day they would read the paper, and they would clip the paper. That only stopped after the mental decline. I think it would still be going on now even if they hadn't.

Diane McCarney

I'll tell you the biggest changes, at a certain point they were piled high with boxes and newspaper clippings, ("oh right" confirmed Pauline) hung memorabilia, and they thought, oh my god, we've got to do something about this. And so they did do a lot of clearing out and giving a lot of stuff to the museum, the archives and the LGBT archives. ("Yeah, that went on for a few years" Pauline said). So that was the biggest shift you saw in the house.

Carla Campbell

I know that. One of our so it's this project has two instructors that has a history instructor and the women and gender studies or queer studies. And so the history instructor, who also is from San Francisco, he said that he's actually used Del and Phyllis' archives of historical events. And he said it's one of the most elaborate and well organized archives that he's ever worked with.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, they were amazing that way.

Diane McCarney

It doesn't surprise me at all.

Pauline Shulman

Information wizards. And it's funny because Kendra's daughter, she has a PhD in library science.

Diane McCarney

So their granddaughter is a professor of information science, basically, she teaches at Florida State University's College of Communication and Information.

Carla Campbell

I don't know, what did Kendra do for a living.

Pauline Shulman

She was trained as a social worker.

Carla Campbell

Okay. Well, that makes a lot of sense too with managing the care and all the different things

Pauline Shulman

Yeah she dealt with the elderly. And then Kendra's children. You got Kevin, and he's PhD nuclear scientist. He handles nuclear waste. ("Yeah, he manages the nuclear." confirms Diane). Lori, she does online distance learning.

Carla Campbell

Oh, that's awesome. I bet they would be so proud of them.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, yeah.

Diane McCarney

Yes, they were.

Carla Campbell

so then would you guys say that the video you took is the last time you were at the house?

Pauline Shulman

Pretty close to it? Yes. (Diane agreed) Pretty close to it.

Diane McCarney

You know what we did. We took the video before we cleared it out, to get a record of what was there. ("Yeah." confirmed Pauline) And then we were back for like two weeks helping to clear it out.

Pauline Shulman

But it was just like, within seven days of it.

Carla Campbell

um, let's see, what else. And then if you were a docent for a tour of the house, how would you start the tour? ("hmm" Pauline starts thinking) How would you introduce visitors to Del and Phyllis? ("hmm" she repeats) How would you explain the significance of the house and their lives? And at the end of the tour, how would you sum up Del and Phyllis' legacy for you personally?

Pauline Shulman

Hmm, Yeah. ("What's the last one?" Diane asked) Legacy for us personally..

Carla Campbell

which you kind of mentioned a little bit earlier about how you realize how you were able to live your life because of some of the things that they had done in theirs.

Diane McCarney

To me, the biggest legacy—is very personal, because, you know, I had the difficulties for the time I was born into, they had way more difficulties. People after me have a little bit less, but still have them. It depends on where you're living, but, we're all trying to make it better for the next generation, and then everything that anyone does makes life better.

Pauline Shulman

I have a slightly different spin. I agree with all that. Absolutely. But that's all kind of out there. How was I changed by the experience of having them in my life for a long time? And apart from just a sense of connectedness because they were very present, I really sort of was interested in and asked about and came to appreciate how they felt like they could make a difference. And what they did to make a difference and their belief that everything they did would make a difference. So what is it like to me, I was always interested in the Maslow self actualization heirachy. I felt they totally embodied the best in that you take sort of ordinary people who are having a moment in time where they have this kind of magic force that they can just make change. They're just committed to their own belief that what they do matters, and they keep doing it. They just don't give up. That's why they succeed, number one reason. It's not in this kind of tenacious obnoxiousness; it is simply that they hold the space for, "I'm just not going to give up and over time, I'm going to get done, what needs to get done. And I'll keep thinking about it a new way and figuring and growing to the degree I have to to make everything better." So that whole thing, the mentality of when they came of age, like when it was the New Deal and a kind of socialism, belief in equality, belief, all those things. They grew up, they had their share of barriers, but they just didn't recognize them, you know. So that thing in them, and it never stopped. That was the other thing, you think, well, they're gonna retire now. They're getting old now. And then they get their most gains with marriage equality, you know? And that was like they were already in their 80's. Right

Diane McCarney

It was two months before Del died. ("Yeah" confirms Pauline) Del was in a lot of pain. She was just like, "if I can just get through the marriage stuff." That was June, and Del died in August.

Pauline Shulman

She was in one of the peak times of her career at 85, or whatever, you know, so as people, that belief has really energized and inspired me, beyond the politics, because, you know, I've already told you how I feel about politics, but I feel it's about people's personal presence and how it affects other people. And they really embodied that I think, to me, that was the most miraculous thing. And the effect of that, the side effect of that was political change.

Diane McCarney

Right. And so I'll add to that a little bit. I found it really special to become friends with someone who was 30 years older than me. I mean, they're older than my parents. But they grew up in a time period that was so different from what I grew up in during the Vietnam War. You know, you didn't trust the government. Everything was hopeless. It just was a completely different coming of age. And they're kind of coming of age with—Phyllis interviewed Eleanor Roosevelt when she was young—and I mean, she had a completely different time period experience. So, seeing them from that perspective, and seeing myself from the perspective that I was in, you can kind of step out of your perspective and have more freedom in how you think about things.

Pauline Shulman

Another part of that, though, is this incredible adaptability. Remember, they came of age at a time when there were no commercial airplanes. I mean, the tech was so different. And yet, especially Phyllis, she was utterly timeless, she used a Mac computer. For a long time, only when she started getting a little dementia did she stop and we stopped upgrading.

Diane McCarney

Phyllis said, "They changed the operating system six times! That's it, I'm done with it." (They both laugh)

Pauline Shulman

But until then, she was at home in any time period, just like a time machine over there. She was completely at home, capable, smart at any time period. People today aren't like that. You know, you were born into an iOS level and that's what you get. Right? Have that continuity, like they did, but especially that was a lot. Phyllis was more adaptable that way, it didn't matter where you plopped her down. Del, you know, Del was a tad bit scary at first; she was a more barking kind of person. She got mad at me for not giving my little speech at the planning commission. She was a little more intimidating. That fell away after I got to know her, but people will say that they were kind of afraid of her just because she had a bark to her. Yeah, Diane always had the easiest time in the world. Del would light up whenever Diane would come in the room, because Diane brings this big energy and Del's like, "finally someone who'ss my size, in terms of energy."

Diane McCarney

In terms of like doing a docent tour of the house, we were thinking about this because we went to see the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, some 20 plus years ago and it was also cleared out and empty. The whole house was maybe eight feet wide if it was that. It was up all these stairs and at different floor levels, but it was interesting to just be in that space where they had been.

Pauline Shulman

But partly because you knew what happened was behind the wall. So, it didn't really matter, I didn't care so much about what was on the walls.

Diane McCarney

Well anyway, it's just that's what I compare it to because I got more of an experience of Anne Frank and her family by being actually physically in their space. And now that's gone. They've got a museum and all that stuff. But it was really nice to be able to walk through it. And with Phyllis and Del, when you walk in, there were all the pictures on the wall, the beautiful view, and that's always where they would greet you, and always where you would spend time. When you went up the stairs to use the bathroom, there was a bedroom and what would have been a dining room was their office, they had desks and more books. And that's really where they did a lot of their work. And then the kitchen and the little nook, which was the only place to sit in the kitchen, so you ended up getting squeezed in there. It just had a lot of special little spaces like that.

Pauline Shulman

They were very big on listening to the radio; Phyllis, listened to the radio every day. I think that was in the nook.

Carla Campbell

They'd listen to music or listen to things like NPR type?

Pauline Shulman

KGO radio, I think she listen to.

Diane McCarney

Yeah, news, but they would also listen to music too. They like CDs and-

Carla Campbell

I thought I saw cassettes?

Diane McCarney

By then everybody had gotten rid of cassettes, or they were on the way out, but they did have lots of them, actually. And then they had videos for a while, and then they got CDs, the tech was changing so fast at that point. But they got a little less interested. They always were interested in lesbian stuff. So people would give them, "oh, here's my new movie I put out," and they always liked that. Phyllis loved Margie Adam.

Pauline Shulman

The Unicorn Song ("Unicorn Song" agreed Diane).

Diane McCarney

Seeing is believing?

Pauline Shulman

Seeing is believing, ("I think that's the name of it." Diane states) But when I was 17, my best friend was a unicorn. Oh, it's a classic. And actually, if you can really get all into this whole thing, Margie Adam wrote that song, and then some guy picked it up in Japan and thought they were talking about an autistic kid. And it became the centerpiece of this whole movement around autism in Japan. I mean, Margie has an interview that I listened to, it was an hour, and it was fascinating. But anyway, Margie, who's also a bit of a historian herself, was very close to Phyllis, and Phyllis loved Margie's music, but especially the unicorn song.

Carla Campbell

Yeah, Margie, I have a interview with Margie tomorrow.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, she's really interesting. She's really good. She was close to them.

Pauline Shulman

She lives in the East Bay, but she would come over all the time.

Carla Campbell

I know we did. Um, let's see. Marcia Gallo. ("um hum" they both acknowledge) Who's the other person?

Diane McCarney

Oh, Jeb?

Carla Campbell

No, it was a lady and she's also a historian. And I can't think of her name. We didn't do Nan, Nan wasn't available and Jewel was not available. And so yeah.

Pauline Shulman

A lot of times, historical stuff, and this is cause I am not politically there, I read it and it's like, it doesn't feel like it feels. It's like the historical agenda is getting in the way of the story and I'm sure it's just people's perspective. I'm sure they're telling it accurately from their experience of it, but I look at it and it's like, it really doesn't feel real to me when I read the historical stuff sometimes. But that's just, I'm sure it's really like that for Kendra because Kendra is always saying they were just ordinary people. (Pauline laughs)

Diane McCarney

You know, that is the thing about it, they were ordinary people. Right, doing ordinary things, which is-

Pauline Shulman

the beauty of it. Right?

Carla Campbell

Right. makes them more genuine, makes them more interesting. Easier to connect with, I think because it's not somebody who wanted fame. I have one more question for you. If money were no object, what would you imagine the best use for the Lyon-Martin house to be in the future?

Pauline Shulman

Mm hmm. You know, I've been bitching the whole time I've had really mixed feelings about the Lyon-Martin House because when it's empty, it doesn't say anything. The whole environment changed so much anyway, that you don't really get the feel and the experience of it. But I'll tell you, what bothered me was the starkness of it because it's the exact opposite. So I would like to see it recreated and I actually imagined that happening on the video. Ideally, if you take the video that I sent, and take the video that you have and have some artists, and film genius, populate the rooms with that content, you'd actually be way closer to an experience, you'd see the books, you'd see the spaces they occupied, you'd see the view they had. But when it's completely empty, I mean, I liked the narratives that were there, but I didn't get much out of it seeing the space.

Diane McCarney

But I think that if you just do one wall, say, of all sorts of photos, whatever you can find that is about them. I think that that's probably enough. And just being in the space, that should be fairly powerful. But what I'm thinking is, what about an artist-in-residency program, where they come in for, I don't know, three months or whatever, and they use it as a studio, or maybe you do shows there or have talks or lectures or salon, wasn't that what they used to call it with poetry readings, you know, that it might be nice, but the issue with landmark is that you have to keep it the same zoning, like the theater's commercial, you can still use it as a theater. This is a residential home. So, I don't know, what kind of-

Pauline Shulman

We thought it was just going to be a plaque.

Diane McCarney

We had no idea, and I would like to see it be used by the community in some way.

Pauline Shulman

The living and breathing kind of way, not like a stilted sort of museum sort of thing. But where people come, and they'll do some creative pursuit there for a while and then move on kind of projects.

Diane McCarney

Or as a place to bring people together for meetings or project planning, or I don't know, I mean, the arts always need support.

Pauline Shulman

Nothing static or stilted because that's not how they were, they would never have, they wouldn't plan this. They wouldn't have done what happened.

Carla Campbell

Okay, do you guys have anything else that you want to add?

Diane McCarney

I think we've kind of covered everything. Can you think of anything?

Pauline Shulman

No, I think I've made the theme over and over again, that their story is just real people fallible and extraordinary and that is what's most interesting, and the things they accomplished are miraculous. But I don't know. I don't like the whole stiltedness of everything. You know, I don't want to see that happen.

Diane McCarney

You mean like when they put it into history? ("Yeah, exactly" agrees Pauline). Like George Washington and his cherry tree? (Diane giggles)

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, that's why the historical people disturb me. (they both giggle) You know, in that sense? No, I think Margie will tell a good story. Margie sort of blends in. She has enough of a sense of vision and beauty. But she's also a history buff. ("Yeah" agrees Diane), you'll get a very interesting session with Margie.

Diane McCarney

With all the money in the world, I would fix the place up. Well, yeah, to some degree, and decide how to use it, the front room, you could use the living room for poetry readings, or you could do yoga classes there. I don't know. But you know, it needs to be maintained. That's kind of my worry. It's like circa 1900, that house and the basement, it really needs to be taken care of. I guess technically, the people who bought the whole thing still own it, but at some point, I'm betting they're not going to want that liability.

Carla Campbell

Right? Well, I think my understanding is that that's what part of it's about is, I mean, they'll the owners will still own it. But it's based on if the Friends of Lyon-Martin House can establish a plan and maintain it and actually, like get the house in use for whatever the community decides is the best use for it. I don't know if the friends of Lyon-Martin house would be responsible for the maintenance. I'm still waiting to hear back because the instructor knows the main person for that he was on the tour as well. And so he's supposed to connect me with that person whose name is Shane, I think to find out how I can come up and help and be more involved if it's about, you know, kind of painting and doing houseware stuff to kind of get the house up to date, and then decide, you know, I can't say I'm one that's going to run to the city all the time for for events and projects, but I would be totally game to come every once in a while or come for a couple times to help get some of the things in shape.

Diane McCarney

I think if you come up with some kind of a fund, or grant kind of a thing, just to maintain it, that's going to be something that would be really good. Also, for the people who own the property, once they sell, they build and sell the monster home that they're doing, and that's going to take a couple of years. But at that point, they're going to sell it and make a lot of money, maybe donating a property to like the gay

community center, or the Friends of the Lyon-Martin house or something. Because they have to pay taxes on that every year and maintain the house, that's a liability for them. They just want to make money and get out. So there might be some opportunity to have it be taken over by some organization that can really take care of it. ("Yeah" agrees Pauline), There's a property over in Russian Hill, it was just some rich person's house, and they had some land, and they made it a park. So people could just kind of be there. There's lots of opportunities. It's very residential here.

Carla Campbell

a really nice area.

Diane McCarney

Yeah.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah. I'd say this about our house too. It's like, a piece of land with a little house at the back. But it's mostly land, like three-quarters or more. It's just things growing. So yeah, making the front of the house, like just a nice place to-

Diane McCarney

They had a really nice picnic bench out back at one point behind the kitchen. Because it's really sunny in the back. Yeah, nice little spot. I think something like that rather than making a museum out of it, something where people can really grow, like what artists and residency or poetry readings or-

Pauline Shulman

Something with a community spirit. ("Yeah" agrees Diane) Where people are interacting with each other a little bit, right?

Carla Campbell

No, I think that's a great idea.

Diane McCarney

You know for us, there was so much energy there. And with all the caregivers there, and this went on for years, and then all the caregivers went to the corners of the earth. (Diane laughs) And then the trees just grew up over it. It's like, all the energy just disappeared from the place. So it would be really nice to see it have some energy. "some life" adds Pauline)

Carla Campbell

Yeah. Yeah, I can see that. I know. I had the urge when I was there. I was thinking, Can I can I come back here and do some yard work for them? Or just like the backyard. You said, "there's a bench-" and I'm thinking to myself..Did it get swallowed? Because the the backyard was really overgrown.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah. Phyllis was a gardener right?

Diane McCarney

Oh, long ago. Yeah. But they had a gardener though too when she couldn't do it

Pauline Shulman

But before that, she was a gardener.

Diane McCarney

Yeah, she did a lot of little things to the house.

Pauline Shulman

They really loved the house.

Diane McCarney

She had Daffodil clumps and orchids. The kind of orchids that live outside. She had a big pot of them. And yeah, I mean it's going to be hard to see them put that house on the lot [empty lot adjacent to the house]. You know, they had beautiful eucalyptus trees that were chopped down. Changes, you know, that's life. It's always changing like that.

Carla Campbell

it is us have a lot of really amazing memories that you can hold on to about the House. So even if somebody puts up a giant brick wall between you and the house. ("That's true" agrees Diane) You have those memories and what the house means.

Diane McCarney

So yeah, as long as we maintain our mind, we're good. (They laugh)

Carla Campbell

I really appreciate you guys giving me your time. It was really nice to meet you. All right. So we create a transcript, and then we send it to you guys to look over just to make sure and then we're supposed to send a waiver with it saying like, Hey, this is what we're going to send over to friends of Lyon-Martin House, and then you guys say it's all good. And then that's it.

Diane McCarney

Okay, sounds good. And good luck with the projects. I really hope you are able to do something really good with it. Because it is like the only lesbian spot that really was preserved. That would be great. I mean, there's other little places here and there, but they're gone now.

Carla Campbell

Right? This was just a project that the Lyon-Martin House asked us to, like help with because they knew Don, the professor, and we're not really a part of their specific organization. We were just doing some work for them. But I'm hoping to then be able to use this opportunity to go to get involved with them. So hopefully, I'll learn a little bit more about where it's going, ultimately, now that I feel like I'm more invested in it. So, if I find out anything, if you guys want to know, I'm definitely happy to pass it on.

("Yeah, yeah." Both ladies respond). Okay. Yeah, I'm happy to do that. Hopefully, I'll find out something by at least by the beginning of next year, so I can definitely keep you guys in the loop.

Pauline Shulman

Yeah, sounds good. All right. Yeah.

Diane McCarney

People in the neighborhood ask me all the time, "What's happening with the house?"

Pauline Shulman

I mean, if it not only being a historical house, but just being a vacant house, in the neighborhood too just trying to make sure that it gets kept safe, regardless of what happens with it and stuff like that.

Carla Campbell

Yeah. Absolutely. All right, ladies, we'll have a great holiday, and it was nice to meet you.

Pauline Shulman

Nice to meet you.

Diane McCarney

Nice to meet you too. Bye. ("Bye." adds Pauline)

Carla Campbell

Bye.