SUBTRACT 52 FOR TIMESTAMP
51:45 Okay, Okay, So this is interview number 2 I would Yeah, it'd be great If you could just introduce yourself like name Major Year where you're from, just like, have that background info.
0:08 Yeah. So my name is Anastasia. Me teach. I go by Stasi.
52:13 I am Originally I was born in Rockville, Maryland, right outside of Dc.
52:17 I moved to New York City when I was 15 years old with my family. I'm.
52:22 A sophomore i'm a double major in advertising and music.
52:26 At Eu, and my family. I guess i'll go into that is Serbian in heritage.
52:34 My My father was born in America, but his parents are both from Serbia or former Eugoslavia.
52:43 It was that at the time, and my mom also born in former Yugoslavia and immigrated here, and she lives there right now with my brother.
52:53 Right now we're all dual set of them so we kind of go back and forth perfect just to start it off.
53:01 So this project is about traditions, and just like breaking traditions, and like how living here has impacted, like your celebrations and your traditions.
53:15 So yeah, just to start off like our traditions really important to you like when you grew up where they're Serbian traditions that your parents really emphasized in your life.
53:26 And wanted to be a big part of your childhood. Yeah, Absolutely.
1:33 Well, I guess, like the first big thing that was like passed out of me, I guess, was the language.
53:37 So I speak both of my grandmothers also I was very close with them, and I speak Serbian with both of them.
53:44 One of them doesn't speak in English so that was just an out of necessity, and I would go back all the time.
53:50 So. it was like one of those things like, you know, serving holidays that would happen in the summer, and stuff.
53:56 I would usually be in Serbia for but traditionally in Serbia.
54:01 Like I feel like all the like cultural holidays or traditions.
54:04 It's all very linked to the religion which is Orthodox Christianity, and so we were actually on a separate calendar.
54:14 So we celebrate Christmas at a different time. We usually celebrate Easter at a different time, and just like all these other small events.
2:23 So those were really drilled into me. Serbians also do a thing like a patron saint of your family, which basically commemorates the day that your family was converted to Christianity in Serbia.
54:34 And so that's like a really big thing culturally and so that was another big one.
54:40 My family was very religious. I actually don't tell a lot of people this, but my dad's actually an orthodox priest, a Serbian with ox priest.
54:50 And so we were very active at church, growing up so just like, you know, and we have, like Biblical school, and all of that, but also just the Serbian part of like the religious aspect.
55:05 Also. that was a huge part of our lives growing up. I hope that answered No, no, that was that was perfect.
55:11 So are there any traditions that you've like brought with you to Boston like?

55:17 Are there any like traditions or celebrations? You try to, you know.
55:20 Continue doing, even though you're not with your family Yes, so I guess I mean the biggest one would be just I do.
3:29 There's a Serbian church up here that I do go to almost every Sunday.
55:38 I try to go if you send it Doesn't always happen, but so it's nice to be able to go over there.
55:47 And everyone speak Serbian, and they make Serbian food for lunch.
55:48 After the service. and so it's kind of just like this diaspora of like Serbian immigrants that have come to America.
55:54 And so that's one of the big ones and then that's where i'll go for like holidays that I can't go home for so you know Christmas and stuff i'm usually home and my like patron saint falls
56:06 under a break. So i'm usually home for that too so that's really how I celebrate it up here.
56:13 Just And then also I have, like the Serbs are big on like hospitality, So that community, I would say, is also kind of a tradition or a cultural thing.
4:25 Just because I don't know like to me I know that, like if anything works like to happen to me here, and I would need somebody close by being that like my dad lives in New York like I just have a list of people who would
56:38 be at my dorm and 10 min if anything happened to me, just from going to church with me.
56:43 And so you know. I have people over there that will send food home with like send food home with me like home cooked serving meals because they're afraid of what i'm meeting the dining room.
56:58 You know things like that. So I think that that's probably the biggest thing that I was afraid to lose Atpu. but I kind of gained it a new way.
57:07 Okay, so that's perfect I was gonna ask like if there was, If you were able to find, like a community in Boston which you already answered, so like to narrow it down.
57:17 How have you been able to like find people at, be you specifically, who are like Serbian, or like share any sort of like traditions or holidays, like?
57:27 Is there like a club, or like an organization on campus?
57:30 Not that I know of I don't think i've actually met one serving person on campus.
57:38 So funny to me. but there's not a lot of us so it's not that surprising.
57:45 I just have also generally found that a lot of my friends are very like designated to their cultures, even though they're like different.
57:55 So 2 of my closest friends like my roommate my freshman year was Turkish, and that's actually the culture is pretty similar to like serves, because there was layover in terms of kingdoms and
58:11 invasions doesn't matter who is you so there is like overlap there.
58:19 So we were able to kind of find, like kind of just like things in common there, which was really cool.
58:25 And then I have another really close friend who's lebanese, which doesn't have much to do with being serving at all.
58:33 You like. We can both kind of bond in that like.
58:38 We are very devoted to our cultures. her parents are also immigrants.
58:41 And so, even though I haven't found a community of serving people at all, I have found a community of people that do you have some kind of like relationship to some other culture, and that's been like reassuring and that's been

58:55 really interesting. it's really opened up like kind of my perspective on things.
59:00 Oh, okay, that's awesome my Next question Do you celebrate like the same holidays in Boston as you would at home?
59:15 Or are there like some things you just don't celebrate like being here?
59:19 The big ones. Yes, so again, a lot of like the biggest, like holidays would be like Christmas Easter, like your patron say day.
59:31 Most of those fall under breaks Easter this year.
59:37 I went home pretty sure last year the easter this year I'm staying up here. but my church community is doing a big thing, so I will be celebrating it here.
59:48 Other smaller like St. Days, that people also celebrate not so much because people will generally like throw parties and things like that.
59:57 So I think that's also partially like a covid thing.
59:59 But like people will go to church and stuff and usually that just kind of like interferes with my class schedule.
20:00:06 So usually I don't go unless somebody is doing something afterwards, and then I kind of try to work it around.
20:00:12 But the main ones I still definitely sell, celebrate, and I try to
20:00:19 I try to go all out. so that's not all out but like I really do try to involve myself in whatever's happening up here.
20:00:28 That is I would say, for the most part. Yes, okay, cool.
20:00:31 What are like some people's attitudes to like your traditions like? Have you ever shared stuff with like friends or classmates, and like what have they thought like?
20:00:43 Have they been like like well-informed or like?
20:00:46 Have you mostly had to like teach people about like like the patrons Saint like holiday, for example, like like just like what are people's?
20:00:57 What responses to yeah like serbian culture is very traditional.
20:01:03 So that's probably like the biggest thing that people kind of There is like a disconnect between there is like
20:01:15 People are definitely very People are generally very good about like being accepting, I guess I would say, or like being open to like learning about it.
20:01:23 I have I have like friends who had never really like didn't know anything about Serbia, or didn't know like you know.
20:01:36 Really what it was that just kind of that it existed.
20:01:38 And so, being able to like share that with them. The people that I live with are all really great.
20:01:43 They all love to hear me speak in Serbian. So things like that just kind of weird, funny things that we do, that other people would find very strange like.
20:01:53 They are very, they're very open to it they love to learn about it.
20:01:57 So I found that really my friends are really like like learning about it, and I could share music stuff with them.
20:02:04 But a lot of people don't know really what I guess survey is like a very niche country to be from at least here. so a lot of people really don't know what that's like or what it entails
20:02:15 at all. Most people don't know what it is a lot of people get it confused to Siberia in Russia, in the Middle East.

20:02:25 That's the amount of time that i've been asked isn't it really cold?
20:02:28 There is like probably too many like it's a little sound things like that, things so like there is like a disconnect with things like that.
20:02:36 But people are usually very willing to learn I would say There is also the fact that it's very close to like, I guess.
20:02:44 Now in like the current political climate, Serbs and Russians are generally very close in like culture.
20:02:51 Tradition were the same religion. and so and politically also, there is the tie, and the languages sound very similar.
20:03:01 And so there is like that whole as that whole thing like kind of comes out in Ukraine.
20:03:06 People have been asking me like you know is that in any way related, and we're really not but like you know people have been willing to learn about it.
20:03:16 That was a very convoluted way to answer your question i'm sorry, but I hope No, no, no I more You have to say the better.
20:03:22 Honestly like this Is this is good I also i'm curious to just like learn about this stuff, too, like beyond the project.
20:03:29 So have, or like, How has your view on traditions differed from like your parents views, or like your grandparents views?
20:03:42 Yeah, well like, Is there any sort of like issue like within your family?
20:03:47 Because I know like generations like there's like a different level of like tradition within each generation.
20:03:55 Yeah, I was very into being serving, growing up I would tell everybody that I was Serbian, even if you didn't ask like the whole, like, you know, proud of my heritage thing was never a problem for me.
20:04:08 But like my little brothers weren't as into it so like can't speak for them, but just kind of a bit like what they've like.
20:04:17 Told me like it was you know they wouldn't go and like shout it from the roofops. they've as they've like become teenagers.
20:04:25 They were like they've gotten kind of more into it now they think it's interesting when they were like kids, and they were like That's stupid because our moms who would make us like you know my mom would make us
20:04:33 like whatever like leftovers from like last night's Serbian meal would be put in our lunch box, and all the other kids had, like peanut butter jelly sandwiches.
20:04:41 Like I was like. this is great, but, like my brothers, were like.
20:04:43 This is not for me like, Get me some wonder but bread, please?
20:04:50 They were as into it they've been getting more into it now, because now they're older Now they're all teenagers. and so and generationally, I think probably the biggest thing is just because serving culture is so traditional and
20:05:02 it's so linked to religion and orthodox Christianity is one of like the most strict Christian that i'm in terms of rules in terms of things like that. So there is kind of that disparity
20:05:21 It's like, How do you live your life? according to these traditional values that you were taught, but also like be a functioning member in a very like progressive forward moving society.
20:05:34 And so there is a little bit of a disconnect there, and so I feel it's like I when I think about this like I feel like you know, I may have lost some part of like the traditional part of myself

just to be able
20:05:47 to like. keep up. but I think that like the important values that were like instilled in me are inherently still in there.
20:05:58 You know I don't feel any less serbian just because I maybe don't subscribe to some outdated traditional belief for the purpose of holding on to something that's historical if that makes sense so, that's
20:06:14 That's probably the biggest disconnect but generally you know you know my now, especially also serbs have tense relations with a lot of people, and I have cousins who are starting to get married to people who are from
20:06:28 country countries with whom Serbia has like tense relations and so I've seen my family personally start to kind of like open up and like move past just like old bygones.
20:06:43 I guess if serves know how to do anything it's hold a grudge that's the like a bull stereotype.
20:06:48 But that is what we do, and so you know that's been something, I think, as a lot of my family immigrated to America eventually like something that we've really talked about is like Yes, We're Serbian but
20:07:01 like, you know. we're all Americans now too and so we have to at some point find some, some kind of compromise with them, because sometimes it is going to clash you just have to.
20:07:13 So that let go like the restrictions that being serving gives you, for the you know, freedoms that America would, while still fully, inherently being and feeling like a proud serving citizen, you know okay cool.
20:07:33 How has food played a role like in like holidays?
20:07:38 Traditions. I you know food is a big thing in bringing people together.
20:07:41 So do you want to just like talk a little bit about 200?
20:07:44 Its role in your life. Yes, i'm like gosh my favorite topic.
20:07:49 I love food, I mean. I grew up on Serbian food like I said.
20:07:57 I always say that my house was like serbia but in America. I was joked that you had to like go through customs to get in my house, because, like I know, you would walk in my house, and it was just like it
20:08:06 Wasn't. your typical American house like my Grandma was making food, and you know people were seeking Serbian, and you know all the Serbian books, and just like things like that.
20:08:16 It felt like that Was my upbringing. Really, food was a big part of it, you know.
20:08:23 My mom and my grandma always cooked serbian food they didn't know anything else, and so I grew up on the homemade, like meals of, you know of my like you know, heritage which I guess is really cool I was
20:08:37 really lucky to get to experience that I and I had friends who would come over and like American friends who knew nothing about anything.
20:08:48 That was a terrible thing to say. Oh, my Gosh but I know it's okay. You American friends, who just like had never like experienced anything Serbian before, like or anything like Vulcan that region is like a very again, like
20:09:01 not well like, understood, or like well known region, I think, to be from.
20:09:06 And so people who would come in and just like not understand anything, anything that

was going on really from where I was from.
20:09:15 We're always just kind of excited and kind of interested in what we were eating, and so that's kind of a way that I shared my culture with people food.
20:09:21 Also the big cities. New York, Boston, Dc: do like festivals through the churches like surveying festivals or even food festivals that I would always bring friends to so that they can kind of get a taste of
20:09:34 things Serbs also do, or orthodox people I don't really so Russians to greeks do something we do a type of fast for about a third of the year.
20:09:45 And it's no meat no dairy Wednesdays and Fridays for most of the year.
20:09:51 And then the 42 days before Lent, the 40 day or 40 days Jordan land before Easter, and the 40 days before Christmas Advent, and then other specific periods throughout the year.
20:10:01 So it adds up to about a third of the year. not as many people follow that, or as strictly as I guess.
20:10:09 Church doctrine tells you to I didn't fully follow it.
20:10:14 Growing up. I did lent an advent, and I would do what my family would do.
20:10:16 Wednesdays and Fridays if we could sometimes you forget that's fine.
20:10:19 But so I did give that up coming to be you.
20:10:26 Just because that was difficult. I would do some Lent if I could.
20:10:31 I would always do Holy Week. I would always go off meet and dairy. but
20:10:36 That was something that I gave up coming here just because it was difficult.
20:10:39 I was also in the dining hall, I wasn't cooking for myself.
20:10:44 I probably will go back i'm going off campus next year, so I probably would go back to doing that eventually.
20:10:48 But i'm just contending with the dining hall It was just a little difficult, but so that's like another big thing, too.
20:10:55 Is that you like that's the way that food has impacted my life really?
20:10:58 Just like, you know it's essentially veganism for a third of the year.
20:11:02 And so yeah, it's you know you explore those like routes, too.
20:11:08 So it's there's a lot that goes into Serbian food in the way that it's prepared, and when you eat what but I don't know I Think that it enriched my life a lot
20:11:19 so that's all i'll say on that that's good?
20:11:25 Do you plan to like, Carry on these traditions like with your family like with your children?
20:11:29 Do you definitely want to like? Show them that side of like their heritage, even though they aren't growing up in Serbia?
20:11:40 Yeah, yes, absolutely. I mean I would I don't know what's going happen.
20:11:46 But I want my children to speak, Serbian, I just.
20:11:50 I also just think that from like a practical standpoint, and speaking another language, opens up your brain in ways that, like, definitely like, just, you know, in like, in a really excellent way.
20:11:58 And so just for that purpose. I think it's great I think Serbian is also just to a really great language to learn and Serbia has, like so many like the language itself has like a lot of like
20:12:12 nuances that really can't be like perfectly translated to other languages.
20:12:19 And so it's like it's a really cool language to study and like to understand, and so I

would like, Don't know if I could share that with my kids.
20:12:26 I feel like I would want them to but you know we'll see, I guess, in terms of traditions, and things absolutely like serving Christmas traditions like the patron scene of your family, like things like that.
20:12:40 I mean those you I would definitely definitely continue. I would still want to bring my kids to church, and you know, to break them around.
20:12:49 Serbian people all the time to have that to community because I mean to me like That's I don't know that's like everything to me.
20:12:56 That community for me they're like my family essentially and you know, having people to fall back on in times of need, and being there for other people when other people need something something that like I don't know it's like
20:13:13 an experience that I can't even describe it's just so you know, like everybody's different, and everybody has different opinions, and everybody's you know.
20:13:21 Not everybody gets along, and not everybody you know Likes each other, but like, and at the end of the day everybody Serbian, everybody, you know, and we're all here in America you know We're all I don't want to
20:13:32 say a minority. But you know we're all yeah essentially, yeah, essentially, yeah.
20:13:38 And so, you know, we do have some kind of shared lived experience that everybody can relate to.
20:13:44 And at the end of the day we're there for each other, and that's something that I think is a really important thing.
20:13:49 And I would want my kids to experience that. Okay, perfect. And then this is like a perfect lead into the last question.
20:13:55 How have your traditions shaped? who you are and your values? Yeah.
20:14:02 Yeah, it really goes back to the community. thing. I think I'm: just to read, or that family, the family unit is really important in Serbia.
20:14:17 And the passing. just yeah, just the you know, passing things down, and just like the an honor and a respect for your family.
20:14:25 And that you know that here means biologically, Of course you know my like bloodlines, but also I have fit and family and Serbia, that you know the you Rigo like way back.
20:14:38 But there's also here. you know you have immigrants people that have come to start their better life, and they've left their families, and you know they don't have anybody here.
20:14:50 And so you we've made up this kind of like at least I church like it feels like we've made this new kind of family, and it's artificial and it's not blood.
20:14:58 And it's not you know anything like that but it is essentially a family, and everybody kind of came in the as a community, and we come together and we help each other. and
20:15:09 You know we celebrate together, and you know, like Thanksgiving, and which is American.
20:15:15 But you know, as American serves. We celebrate it, too, and you know Easter and everything.
20:15:21 We all spend it together. We spend it at church and you know It's just this: This you know, everybody's in the same place.
20:15:26 Everybody's away from home. I Guess right Serbia everybody's away from home base.

20:15:31 But on we've kind of created this like beautiful like family unit here, and that's you know it's It's a great like outgrowth of that like family familiar tradition that in serbia was just used to be you know your
20:15:43 bloodline. And now it's become something so much more so Okay, perfect. Thank you.
20:15:49 So so much. this has been great. No, this is literally perfect.