

**Penn South Archive Project**

Witness: Judith Eisenbach

Interviewers: Trudy Rudnick, John Harris

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**John:** We're rolling.

**Tracy:** Okay. Hi, Judith. It's very nice of you to volunteer to do this interview. Would you tell us your full name and when you came to the co-op?

**Judith:** Yes, Judith Eisenbach. I came a little later than I . . . I could have. I came on January 1963. And that's because we were living in Israel, and we got the letter that our apartment was ready by snail mail. So, I really could have come a month earlier if I had gotten the letter in time. But that's worked out.

**Tracy:** Were you happy to get the letter and know you had an apartment here?

**Judith:** I was happy. I was ready to leave Israel although my . . . my husband really wanted to stay in Israel, but he's the one who learned about these apartments. And although he planned to live in Israel, his friend encouraged him to give the \$25 that . . . to get his name on the list. And in those days, we didn't even know each other. You could get an apartment no matter what your status. He was a bachelor, didn't even know me, but he was able to get a two-bedroom apartment and we had a six-month-old baby when we moved back here. So that worked out well. In fact, we took this ship, the Zim Line, I didn't want to be thrown from one world to another by flying back. So, we took the ship, the Zim Line, which no longer exists. That was an Israeli passenger line. And its dock was 24th Street, here. Our apartment was in Building 2, on 24th Street. But we did have to take a cab and not walk it, with the two grandmothers meeting us at the dock.

**Tracy:** Well, that wasn't far to go, was it?

**Judith:** Well, we had a lot of stuff to take, plus the baby. Yeah, but normally, it wouldn't have been far.

**Tracy:** So, I think you mentioned your husband was active in organizing and building and in other aspects of governance.

**Judith:** When he lived, he was on the . . . he was on the House Committee, was what it was called, then. What is it now called . . . Council-

**Tracy:** Co-op Council, yeah.

**Judith:** So, he was on that for a couple of years. He was on the Board of Directors for one term. He was really a minority of one, pretty much. So that was hard . . . he'd have to come back and take a nap.

**Tracy:** Was it pretty contentious, in those days politically?

**Judith:** It was. There were two groups, really.

**Tracy:** Yeah.

**Judith:** And his group was . . . well it was a group, but he was the only one representing that group on the board.

**Tracy:** I see.

**Judith:** Yeah, but I was glad he didn't run a second time. But also, I said, when we lived in Building 2, there definitely weren't as many facilities for people living here and we thought we should have a playroom. And I think my daughter must have been about three or four. So, he and Ed Feit, who's . . . gone a long time, that his daughter lives in Israel and knows about all of this through my daughter, they're very good friends, anyhow, Ed Feit and my husband really made a playroom. I mean, I guess the board's okayed it and they set it up. And that was the first playroom in the co-op, in Building 2.

**Tracy:** Is that the toddler room in Building 2?

**Judith:** Yeah, yeah.

**Tracy:** Oh, that's great.

**Judith:** So, I don't know what it looks like now, this was a long time ago.

**Tracy:** It's beautiful.

**Judith:** Yeah, well, my daughter is 60, so it was at least 50

years ago.

**Tracy:** Well, that's quite a lot. And did he do something with the lobby patrols, too?

**Judith:** He was involved. I think he was involved in setting the schedules.

**Tracy:** And why was that needed? Do you remember?

**Judith:** People just worried, I guess, about coming in the lobby at night . . . would be very empty. It worked for a long while.

**Tracy:** Well, that's good.

**Judith:** People volunteered.

**Tracy:** Was there still a lot of construction going on in the beginning when you came . . . or you came in '63.

**Judith:** I came . . . yeah. I missed Kennedy's being here. I feel bad about that. I don't really remember what it looked like. My building must have been built earlier because it was Building 2. Then we had a 2 . . . J apartment, a two-bedroom apartment with a wonderful view. I think we were only on the seventh floor, also. Or was it . . . No, it may have been higher, I don't remember, but the view we had . . . no, it was the 14th floor, so we had a gorgeous view of the river.

**Tracy:** Nice.

**Judith:** And when there was a blackout here, I think in the Sixties . . . late Sixties, we could see all the lights on in Jersey, across the river and we had about ten people staying at my house, sleeping on the floor, because the whole city was blacked out.

**Tracy:** Right, this was the only place that had lights. Because . . . you know, the story about . . . behind that?

**Judith:** No, I don't think we had lights because my husband, yeah, it was the 14th floor. My husband escorted a few people up the staircase with a flashlight.

**Tracy:** Oh.

**Judith:** This . . . there were two black outs, I think. The earlier one, which I think was in the late Sixties, I think it was '68, we didn't have lights either. The whole city was dark.

**Tracy:** Yeah.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** I think the co-op converted to generating its own power,

**Judith:** Right.

**Tracy:** Maybe it was in the Eighties.

**Judith:** Yes. Yes. Right.

**Tracy:** I'm not sure. It's kind of amazing.

**Judith:** And the elevators weren't . . . nothing was working. And my husband, I think, escorted at least three or four people, like my elderly aunt worked in the city. People we knew worked in the city, came to us.

**Tracy:** Yeah. Well, that's part of . . . sort of a community story of . . . people seemed to . . . in the beginning and also to some extent now, but certainly in the beginning, people were really . . . seemed to be eager to help each other and support each other.

**Judith:** Yes, definitely.

**Tracy:** Was that . . . did that play out for you as a mother of two children and . . .?

**Judith:** Yeah. I had quite a few friends in the co-op and the children, even before they went to Prekindergarten, Hudson Guild Nursery, would have friends in the building, in the next building, so they always had children to play with, you know? So that was wonderful.

**Tracy:** So, did you and the other mothers, did you sort of . . . help each other?

**Judith:** Yeah. We related. We sat together in the . . . I had the

Building 2 playground, then. I think most of the friends that made it, came from the playground. Absolutely.

**Tracy:** And then . . . you want to tell us about your involvement in the Hudson Guild in the P.S. 11?

**Judith:** Well, my children went to the Hudson Guild Nursery from age three for, I think, at least two years until the public school. Then they were eligible for the public school. P.S. 11 was our school, then they were eligible for the prekindergarten class at P.S. 11, so then we switched them. And I taught at the Hudson Guild Nursery for one year, I think it was. I had taught I don't know if I taught first grade before I moved to Israel. I taught at P.S. 11. That may be . . . I think then I moved to Israel. Then when I came back, I did substitute teaching. So, I guess when I . . . my children were young, and I worked one year in the nursery school. I really didn't . . . I taught first and second grade at P.S. 11.

**Tracy:** So, was the Hudson Guild a significant part of your life then?

**Judith:** Oh, it really was because the kids, when they were a little older, the Hudson wasn't too far from P.S. . . . I guess after P.S. 11, they'd finished their classes at P.S. 11, they would go to two or three afterschool programs at Hudson Guild. My . . . um . . . Both of them were in the drama . . . the drama class, and they would fight like cats and dogs as they were both in Charlie Brown, so . . . and they were both Snoopy and they would fight all the time: who is the real Snoopy and who is the understudy? That was . . . and then, I think it was . . . Dorothy, "The Wizard of Oz." My daughter was Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz." The first, I keep telling her, it was the first time I saw her legs in ten years because she only wore pants, dungarees, and slacks. Finally, she had to wear a dress. And then, I think, also, she'd be . . . it helped her to become an architect, that she opened up the woodworking class to girls. It was only boys in the woodworking class at Hudson Guild. And she fought that. It was written up in the Chelsea Clinton News, which it was called in those days.

**Tracy:** What did it say in the . . . in the newspaper?

**Judith:** Well, that she was the first girl in the class and that she had to fight her way to get in. And I forgot who she wrote

to, or she had just the fact that it was in the paper. We knew Dan Carpenter, the Head of Hudson Guild, at the time. And she really . . . she loved it. I really think . . . and that she went on to a it was then . . . the middle school was I.S. 70, and the head of the art department was very encouraging to her with her art. So, I think all together that's what she ended up doing is the architecture part and also the painting part. But she became an architect.

**Tracy:** She started off in the woodworking.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** And ended up making buildings, designs for buildings.

**Judith:** Yes. And the people who taught the classes they took, were really wonderful. I think she . . . both of them, I think, took ceramics also at Hudson Guild.

**Tracy:** So, Hudson Guild was kind of the place where all the . . .

**Judith:** Right. Oh, even more than that . . . Well, they also had plays, very good plays, we went . . . my husband and I went to. But what really was a big part of our life also was the Hudson Guild Farm. Hudson Guild owned a 500-acre piece of land. We went there twice a year for many years from when my kids were like two and three years old. We went with a group of mostly friends from the co-op every New Year's weekend and we were about six or seven couples. So, they then had like two or three buildings with 10 or 12 rooms in each building. And then they had the main house, which we all went to for meals. Very reasonable. We did that for many years. The kids loved it. There were two lakes. We did hiking, they went ice skating. We all went sledding.

**Tracy:** Sounds great. How long did you do that?

**Judith:** Till they sold it to a gun club. But my son really started when they were two or three years old. We took . . . my son married at age 28. and they were hoping . . . no . . . 20 . . . yeah, about 28. They were hoping to have the wedding, at Hudson Guild Farm . . . at the farm, we were talking about it. The kids loved it. Loved it. So, there was a gang of kids, about ten of them, and we were like six or seven couples. We did that for many years, every New Year's weekend. So that was one way

that it played a big part in my life.

**Tracy:** That sounds great. So, it was kind of like a Penn South away from . . .

**Judith:** That's right. That's right. And the—

**Tracy:** Did they keep friends with any of those kids?

**Judith:** Yeah, quite a . . . quite a lot. They kept friends with, I think, most of them. Because they were co-op kids. You know, they knew . . .

**Tracy:** Co-op kids.

**Judith:** It's . . . yes, a lot of couples, but mostly gone now, unfortunately. The other thing . . . oh, and then we didn't have much money in those days. My husband was a chemist and he only got two weeks' vacation. So, I think one week we took . . . We'd make a lot of three-day camping weekends, but we also rented a cottage. They had like periods of time . . . the day . . . two weeks as there was different sessions of two weeks in . . . in the farm in the summer. And the kids had a day . . . day camp and we would get a nice cottage and then we would take hikes and the area was very nice. It's about an hour and a half from New York. So, it was summer and New Year's weekend that we always went to the farm.

**Tracy:** I heard somebody else speak about it as being a very important part of his life being able to go to the country.

**Judith:** It really was. Right. So, I would tent camping usually in Montauk or Riverhead, sometimes in New Jersey. It was wonderful. I would do that maybe three or four times a summer. And then . . . but the big luxurious vacation was the cottage at Hudson Guild in the summer. It was really wonderful.

**Tracy:** That's great. That's a great memory.

**Judith:** Yes.

**Tracy:** So, tell us a little bit about your son, because I remember saying he has something to do with buildings also and helping people.

**Judith:** Yes. yes. He grew up . . . my daughter went to school to RISD in Rhode Island, and then after school she lived in Boston. My son was in Israel for a year or two. Both my kids . . . after college and everything, had lived in Israel for about a year. So, my daughter was living in Boston. And then Steven, when he came back from Israel, also moved to Boston because that's where Ronit was and he wanted . . . oh, so he did a little building work. He worked in Israel, this odd jobs in a restaurant and construction, and he liked construction. And he read an article about a Jewish carpenter. He really didn't know much about it, but . . . about that skill. But he . . . when he came to Boston, he worked as a carpenter and he learned about an organization, I think it was federally funded, I'm not sure of the name . . . where people taught teenage kids. I think it was sentenced by a judge maybe. Who . . . problem kids, and they could learn the skill of building. YouthBuild. It was called YouthBuild, and it was in every city in the country, so he tried to apply to that or maybe he did a little work there as a substitute. And he tried to apply there for a job, but the kids they dealt with were mostly minority kids, and they wanted minority teachers.

**Tracy:** Right.

**Judith:** So, he . . . I don't remember what he ended up doing . . .

**Tracy:** You were saying he went to the West Coast?

**Judith:** Yeah. And then meanwhile, he married. And he had . . . they had a baby already. They moved to Oregon . . . Portland, Oregon, because that's where his wife's parents were. And they were younger than us. And Oregon was so good for my son. He loves the outdoors. It's a laidback community.

**Tracy:** Tell me about his . . . yeah.

**Judith:** So . . . so, when he was there, again, he volunteered at YouthBuild because he really wanted . . . he's very good with people and with kids. So, there, it was different. He did volunteer work. And finally, when a job opened up, He got a job in YouthBuild for about five, six years, and then he became his own contractor. He left and he became . . . no, he left, and at one point he became a contractor. And then, I think his partner left the business and moved to Australia. And Steven always had this in mind to form a group, He calls it Tivnu. There is a

board of directors. It's like a . . . it's a gap year program. And he had the idea of it, of kids between high school who aren't quite ready for college. This was the only Jewish one in the US. 'Cause those kind of programs that were Jewish oriented were going to Israel. So, he had the first Jewish gap-year program in the States.

**Tracy:** Wow.

**Judith:** I saw that he rented a house, got eight . . . eight kids, I think, the first two years or so, and he has a board of directors, got a lot of grant money charged quite a bit of money, but also had a lot of financial aid for kids who couldn't afford it. It was about \$20,000. Kids lived there with a counsellor in the house, they rented their own bedrooms. So, he ended up with that . . . doing that. He's still doing it. Program has grown to 23 kids a year now in two houses. They just bought one house until now, they rented two houses. But he's always afraid that the owner will decide to sell, or something will happen, that they won't have a house anymore. So, they just raised enough money to buy one house. And he's still renting a house Now when COVID started, and kids who were more interested, I think, in going to gap year rather than go off to college and they're very careful about COVID There was an editorial written by someone that Steven knew as a friend, but was also on the board of directors, there was an editorial about gap years in the United States, written by someone he knew, a friend, actually, but who's a writer and has written books and writes editorials for The Times, talking about gap years in the States and mentioning Steven's gap year program. So, if I think from there it grew to them needing two houses.

**Tracy:** That's a great story.

**Judith:** Yes.

**Tracy:** It also shows me that he was influenced by,

**Judith:** Very much.

**Tracy:** would you say, living here?

**Judith:** Absolutely, absolutely. He's written an article, I forgot where it was, saying that he was very influenced by living here.

**Tracy:** By the community?

**Judith:** The community, the politics.

**Tracy:** Yeah.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** And I think you told me his son, your grandson, built a truck that's also a house.

**Judith:** He built the house and bought the truck, right. It's amazing. Oh, if you'll tell me where I can send you photos. Yeah.

**Tracy:** That's great. So, sounds like you had a very rich experience as a family here.

**Judith:** We did.

**Tracy:** And now, how does it . . . how do you feel the Penn South community is helping you since the situation now is, like many of us, you're living alone, and you have issues like we all do.

**Judith:** Right.

**Tracy:** Of getting around and being lonely or whatever.

**Judith:** Or whatever, right, a lot . . . a lot of whatever. But at . . . I think it was only about . . . till about ten years ago that I started even using the Senior Center I belong to the Y on 23rd Street. I went to the exercise room that was here, but I went to the exercises in Ys, not . . . not here. I didn't use the Senior Center at all until about ten years ago, and I took art classes, but they weren't here. I went to museums and theater a lot, but not . . . nothing here. It wasn't until maybe four years ago that I submitted paintings to the yearly art show they have here. I used to go to it, but I wouldn't submit it. I wasn't active. I wasn't really active in the co-op except for all the friends I made here. I have dry eyes and my eyes tear.

**Tracy:** Okay.

**Judith:** But when I started going here, I started with classes. I

took Ivy's class . . . exercise class three days a week. I took art appreciation. I didn't . . . I went once to the painting class here. I didn't like it. What else . . . oh, and I also took the film class. I took exercise, film, and when they had art appreciation classes. And then met most of my friends . . . and then of course, my kids were, you know, out of the co-op more when they were teenagers. I took them to their own thing; Hudson Guild played a big part. And of course, living here, the maintenance is wonderful. My electricity went. Someone was here to fix it in half an hour.

**Tracy:** Right.

**Judith:** You know, those kind of things. I've used the social worker when I got depressed with COVID.

**Tracy:** Good.

**Judith:** I've had the nurse come up a few years ago to help me with my diet because I'm diabetic. Then . . . it's lovely.

**Tracy:** It's nice, right?

**Judith:** And my husband had a very big, unusual disease called Amyloidosis. And it settled in his skin. It's like a bad protein that settles in different organs. And he had it in his skin and sometimes he would bleed. He'd get . . . it'd look like black and blue marks all over him. So, the nurses came up to help him and got a specialist to help him in the co-op, here. She's long gone but she was lovely. So, we've used the nurse here quite a few times.

**Tracy:** So, he was able to stay in the apartment and in a home with you.

**Judith:** Yeah. He died 11 years ago.

**Tracy:** That's good.

**Judith:** We had what do you call it at the end? Forgot the word. I blocked the word. The . . . when you get services coming to the house . . . hospice.

**Tracy:** Hospice.

**Judith:** We had hospice at home for three weeks.

**Tracy:** Oh, did . . . did the Senior Center help you find that resource or, did you know already?

**Judith:** No, I think . . . I forgot what it . . .

**Tracy:** Doctors or something.

**Judith:** Well, we had . . . we had an agency that was working with us, and they gave us hospice.

**Tracy:** Okay. What was your experience during COVID? How was, how did it impact you and your life?

**Judith:** Well, I think it started in . . . like a February and my daughter was very worried about me because I have diabetes. So, in March 2020, she found me an Airbnb a few blocks from her. So, I was there for eight months in Maryland.

**Tracy:** Oh.

**Judith:** Yeah. And the Senior Center was wonderful. They called a few times.

**Tracy:** They called you in Maryland?

**Judith:** Yeah, well, on my phone . . . yeah, right, to ask if everything . . . I don't think they knew I was away, but they did call a few times asking how I was.

**Tracy:** Well, that was good.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** And did . . . did it impact your friends? How did that work?

**Judith:** No. You know, at the beginning of COVID, people would call each other a lot. That's much less true as time went on. And my daughter lived like two blocks away. Then, I didn't even have a walker. I could walk two blocks uphill, but it was a little lonely. I had a friend who I had met when I . . . before I was married, and that was in '60 . . . '60, who I met when I taught in P.S. 11. And then she moved. And I came back from

Israel and there she was living in my building. So, we were very good friends and her husband worked in the government. And so, after a while, they moved to Maryland. So, when I visited my daughter and it was every few months, I would see Cecilia. So, when I was in Maryland for COVID time, I saw Cecilia. She drove. I didn't. She drove and had lunch with me quite a few times. So even in Maryland I had a co-op friend well before co-op . . . an old friend. But I've lost so many friends I had here. It's sad.

**Tracy:** You've lost your friends here?

**Judith:** I still have two or three . . . new ones.

**Tracy:** Well, that's good.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** What would you say if you were going to tell somebody who is moving in here, say now, or didn't know much, what would you want them to know about the history of the co-op? What's most important, do you think, that they should understand?

**Judith:** The reason why we voted against going private, because it was built for middle-income people who couldn't afford to live elsewhere, and the place itself is wonderful. So . . .

**Tracy:** So, you opposed the privatization?

**Judith:** Oh, absolutely. Strongly.

**Tracy:** Was it a . . . was that a very . . . troublesome time? Was there a lot of conflict?

**Judith:** Oh, absolutely. There was. There was. But, luckily,

**Tracy:** The result was pretty high. I don't know the figures, but pretty high for keeping it the way it is, right?

**Judith:** Yes, I think so. But, you know, some people could only think of the money they'll make, unfortunately. The other big thing that was very divisive, I think we talked about a little before, was the teachers' strike.

**Tracy:** Oh, yeah, I heard about that.

**Judith:** I had some kids in my apartment. I teach . . . I was a teacher at P.S. 11, so I'd have some kids in the apartment and we did some . . . a little teaching . . . like a little bit of school. But that was very divisive. Millie Glaberman talked about that. And . . . and the bad feelings lasted a long time.

**Tracy:** I understand. I think Ira Glaser talked about that.

**Judith:** Yes.

**Tracy:** Glaser.

**Judith:** Yeah.

**Tracy:** What . . . what was your take on it? What was your position about . . . ?

**Judith:** Well, we felt definitely that we were . . . we were for the strike.

**Tracy:** Uh huh.

**Judith:** I hardly remember the issues now, but it was very divisive, and we were for the strike.

**Tracy:** Did . . . did you know a lot of teachers here?

**Judith:** Maybe two or three.

**Tracy:** But you . . . you were teaching young . . . very young kids and you took them—invited them to come into your home?

**Judith:** But just the kids I knew from the co-op

**Tracy:** Right, right. Take care of them.

**Judith:** So, we did a little something with them. My sister-in-law, my husband's sister, lived in Chelsea and was on the opposite side. I think we didn't talk for a long time. and I'm very . . . you know, we're very close and then she moved away to Virginia, years ago, but we really didn't talk for several months.

**Tracy:** Why do you think it went so deep?

**Judith:** I don't know. I don't know. The issues, I don't even . . . I barely remember the issue. I don't remember, really.

**Tracy:** Do you think, in general, the co-op was very union based?

**Judith:** Definitely. Was based on the ILGU, ILGWU started it. Yeah, but I don't remember the details of it. I just remember the divisiveness of it and having classes in my house.

**Tracy:** Well, it's kind of remarkable that the cooperators here, the early cooperators were able to deal with these some very big issues and get through. Right?

**Judith:** Right. Absolutely.

**Tracy:** Why do you think that was?

**Judith:** Well, I think it was the whole workers union philosophy.

**Tracy:** Commitment?

**Judith:** And Commitment. Exactly. And to provide housing that people couldn't afford otherwise.

**Tracy:** Yeah.

**Judith:** We didn't have much money then. Right when I was starting teaching . . . when I started was . . . I'm trying to remember when I started . . . '54 . . . '54 when I graduated City College. Teachers then made \$3,000 a year. But . . . so that was '54. A couple years later, I married in '58, in '60 I married . . . in '60, yeah. So, I guess I was making a little bit more than \$3,000, but it was low. And my husband worked in New Jersey as a chemist for many years, but it was very different then. So, the luxury vacation was the Hudson Guild Cottage. So that's how we felt. Anyway . . .

**Tracy:** It sounds like it was a lot of fun.

**Judith:** It was. We had a lot of fun. And then also, I love the theater. I love it a lot. So, there was the art museums, the theaters . . . TDF, getting cheap tickets.

**Tracy:** Well, I think it's really spectacular that you managed to have such a rich experience here and contributed to it also, you

and your husband, and you raised your children with a sense of what cooperative living is about.

**Judith:** Absolutely. All my kids have such great values. Once I had them here for dinner, about six months ago, and both sets of kids were here. I think Noah was the only one who was working and her girl . . . and her friend was in school. So they were usually in college, out of college, close to college, and they had this wonderful conversation about what they want to do in the future to make the world a better place. And Noah, who made a ton of money at Facebook, said, well, she hopes in her mid-thirties that she will leave the field and try to do something else that's helpful. They all think like that. My grandson in Oregon, who's graduating this year from Oregon State, took law classes . . . have to do with the law in college, but also worked as . . . as his internship for an organization that was similar . . . same kind of thinking to the Innocent . . . like the Innocence Project and his job was from this organization. He . . . they assigned a young man who had served his prison term, was out, having a family . . . had a family, but had trouble getting jobs and good housing because it's on the record. So, this organization gets people like my grandson, Tamir, to work very hard to appeal to get it taken off their record. He worked very hard on it and was successful. So, they just offered him a job, the internship place, 'cause he does . . . he did wonderful work, so he was thrilled because he helps people. He didn't even ask what the money was . . . what the job would pay, but it helps people and he's found it very interesting and rewarding. They all think like that. They all think like that.

**Tracy:** Well, that's quite an achievement.

**Judith:** Yes. The younger one, who dropped out and left, the one with the house truck, dropped out of college after one year. He . . . also Oregon State . . . College wasn't for him. He loves to build and do things with his hands. He's a wonderful craftsman. So, we . . . my . . . my . . . my son's gap-year program, they have the kids volunteer, and a lot of them volunteer for something like building houses for the . . . the houseless they call them, now. And they have a Norwegian man as a carpenter who works with the kids and shows them how to do the building. So, Eric, the Norwegian carpenter, told Lev, my grandson, about a program in Norway that has schools all over the country heavily subsidized by the government, art schools,

you can major in various things He majored in . . . So, at age 19, not knowing Norwegian, not knowing a soul in this program, he went to Norway, got accepted. I think it cost like \$12,000. He got accepted, went there on his own for nine months. Unfortunately, the program was cut short because of COVID, almost finished, but not quite. So, he learned to be, even more so, to be a carpenter. He also took my son's gap-year program, and he was building the houses for the houseless. So, he's remarkable also, because he only wants to do, and make, and go, and create.

**Tracy:** Those are good stories. It's good to hear that kind of story.

**Judith:** Yes.

**Tracy:** And I . . . I think you probably can take some credit, for sure, in helping your kids.

**Judith:** I'd like to. My husband was more of an activist, but I did bring them along.

**Tracy:** Is there anything else you'd like to say about

**Judith:** Well, just living here is wonderful. I mean, I've had . . . I had many friends. I lived in the south and the north of the co-op. I still have friends here, three in the building and the grounds . . . I mean, it's really wonderful. At the beginning, I sort of wanted to run away from it, and go elsewhere for my classes or entertainment, but now I really appreciate it. And I can't walk around too much, so I'm supposed to walk every day for my strength and walking. But when the weather's nice, it's great to walk out back, like walking in a park, and sitting outside. The grounds are always beautiful in the spring and summer. So, I really appreciate it. You have help here. You are not alone.

**Tracy:** That's right.

**Judith:** My EMS watch . . . my medical alert watch and being here . . . So, it's really great.

**Tracy:** Okay. Well, thank you, Judith. It's been really nice getting to know you and hear your story.

**Judith:** I do have a recommendation. You asked me last time what I would recommend. Well, one I already discussed with you, interviewing the kids who grew up here. The other is . . . my daughter in Takoma Park, Maryland, and a friend in a downtown Manhattan apartment both have this. It's called LISTSERV, where people register their name and if you need a recommendation, you need to borrow an apartment, you need the name of a good plumber, people . . . you can call on people who have listed their name, for recommendations of different things. Or you can, you know, so you could be someone who needs a recommendation, or can give a recommendation, a babysitter . . . whatever.

**Tracy:** You use that?

**Judith:** I . . . we don't have it here. I was thinking that would be a good thing to have here. I know people who have it.

**Tracy:** That's a good idea.

**Judith:** It's wonderful. My friend downtown . . . 3rd Avenue, has it in her apartment building and my daughter has it for the community, Takoma Park. So, they've gotten a lot of things that way and given things away that way. So, I . . . I thought that would be good here.

**Tracy:** What . . .

**Judith:** It's called LISTSERV.

**Tracy:** Okay.

**Judith:** One word. L.I.S.T.S.E.R.V.E.

**Tracy:** Are . . . were there any places around here either now or in the past where you shopped and that you enjoyed going to regularly to buy things in the neighborhood?

**Judith:** I enjoyed the market that was on the corner which we no longer have, and I did go to the McBurney Y for many years, on 23rd.

**Tracy:** What was that?

**Judith:** A Y where they had exercise classes, before I discovered Exercise with Ivy.

**Tracy:** Oh exercise. Yeah . . . yeah.

**Judith:** I'm not a big shopper. I can't think of anything. Could walk to 34th street, you could walk, you know, I could walk to a lot of places. I used to walk to Macy's.

**Tracy:** Yeah, that's not far.

**Judith:** No, my leg could do with that.

**Tracy:** Thanks. Okay, Thank you.

**Judith:** Thanks so much. This was fun.

**Tracy:** It was fun.

**Judith:** I look forward to seeing it. I enjoyed watching all the others.

**Tracy:** Did you?

**Judith:** Yeah. And I also knew of the architects. He was here to fight on the other side of going private.

**Tracy:** He was on the other side, right.

**Judith:** I remember him.

**Tracy:** He's very articulate.

**Judith:** Yes. Yes.

**Tracy:** There's a lot of diversity here in opinions and everything.

**Judith:** Absolutely. Yes. But I was sad to hear some of the opinions about the co-op, but some people complain about nothing. We have so much, here, but there are always those who complain.

**Tracy:** Yeah, it's too easy.

**Judith:** And they're so lucky to be here.

**Tracy:** That's right.

**John:** Okay . . . we will do 20 seconds of silence and then we'll do that again. And then we'll be done.

**Judith:** Okay.

**John:** Okay, so we can start right now. Okay.

**Tracy:** Do you want to do it, again?

**John:** Yeah, let's do it again. Okay.

**Tracy:** Great.