

Cynthia Kalland, by Julie M. Luker

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Minnesota

CS: Cole Steinberg

CK: Cynthia Kalland

CS: This is an interview conducted as part of a larger faculty and student research project initiated by Dr. Julie Luker of Concordia University, Saint Paul. Today is July 27th, 2022, and I'm here with Cynthia Kalland. My name is Cole Steinberg and I am an undergraduate student at Concordia University, Saint Paul. Today, I'll be talking to Cynthia about what life was like growing up in the Twin Cities. During this interview, I'm going to ask you to reflect on your childhood life experiences as they relate to a variety of social topics from that time period. For the purposes of this interview, we have defined childhood as birth of 17 years of age. To begin, please state and spell your full name, including a maiden name as applicable.

CK: My name is Cynthia Lubet Kalland. C-Y-N-T-H-I-A. Lubet is L-U-B-E-T. Kalland K-A-L-L-A-N-D. I'm often called Cindy, but either Cynthia or Cindy is fine.

CS: Please identify your race and gender.

CK: Female. White.

CS: Please state your date of birth.

CK: September 25th, 1949.

CS: Finally, please share where you grew up, such as the name of the neighborhood or a nearby street intersection. Include any major moves you made during this time period.

CK: I was born in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota, and made only one move throughout my whole childhood, which was from across the street. And so, my family, when I was seven, moved from 26th and Huntington to 26th and Glenhurst. The streets in Minneapolis and in St Louis Park are alphabetical, so H-G. We lived in a house that was on the top of a hill that overlooked France Avenue, which is the dividing line between Minneapolis and Saint Louis Park. So right down at the bottom of our hill, that was Minneapolis. And I could see out my bedroom window there was a big field and then I could see Cedar Lake. And I don't know if you're familiar with Minneapolis or not, but Cedar Lake was part of the chain of lakes of Minneapolis.

CS: Thank you. I would like to learn more about your family life. Let's begin with the memories you have for immediate and extended family. Please share some memories that you have about these relationships.

CK: Oh, well, this could be all 3 hours, just this one question. My parents, Max Lubet and Helen Lundquist Lubet, and my sister Judy, who is three years older than I am. I lived with that nuclear family for until I was 20. This part, I think, is always kind of interesting, but nobody else might. But my father, his name was originally Lubetsky, L-U-B-E-T-S-K-Y, and he was born on the north, near north side of Minneapolis, which was the area in... He was born in 1913. That was the time when there was a very large number of Jewish people in the near north side area of Minneapolis. And lived within this fairly large area of a lot of Jewish people. As he became a went to school, became a pharmacist, owned a drugstore. My parents-and I'll talk about my mom in just a second-when my parents decided where they were going to live. Saint Louis Park was right next to Minneapolis, and there were housing covenants in bold Golden Valley, which is just to the north and Edina, which is just to the south, whereas they weren't allowed to sell to Jewish people, black people as well, and people of Japanese or Chinese ancestry. And so St Louis Park, there were parts of Saint Louis Park that were restricted, it's called, or they had housing covenants. There were parts of Saint Louis Park that did. But the area where my parents moved to, which is right at the border, was an area that did sell to Jewish people. So that was one of the reasons why they moved just where they did. My mother, her name was Helen Lundquist Lubeck. My mother's parents both immigrated from Sweden and my mother was raised Lutheran. Very devout family. She was a nurse in a Swedish hospital in Minneapolis. And my dad was at a hospital pharmacy right across the street and they met and got married. It was relatively unusual for a Jewish man and a Christian or a Lutheran wife to marry. That was not super common at the time. So, I hope I'm beginning to answer your questions. The area in Saint Louis Park where I grew up, starting on Huntington and then on Glenhurst right behind each other. As a young person, you know, playing in the streets right around our house, lot of friends over on Huntington 26th, a few friends on 27th, but as a little child, that was almost a little too far to go. But then when I started riding my bike, I could ride much farther, much farther, meaning six blocks in any direction. And it really wasn't until junior high when I started meeting people from other parts of St Louis Park. My elementary school at the time was called Fern Hill Elementary and it has now been bought is called Torah Academy. Now it was bought by as a as a Jewish private school. I think K through 12. I think I'm not sure.

CS: Which family members did you engage with the most growing up?

CK: Oh, definitely, my parents and my sister, without question. We were close. I had what I would call a happy childhood. My dad could be very critical. And so that may not have been the happiest part. My parents, my mother was home as a housewife, cleaning and ironing and sewing and doing all the things that a traditional 1950s housewife did. And my dad worked six days a week out of seven. So, he only had one day off the week. We took family trips from the time I was two, we took road trips. My parents loved traveling and taking road trips and planning out trips every year and they always took us. They said they didn't really like to vacation without us because they thought my sister and me. They liked being with us and we had fun. And so, we traveled all over the United States driving. Went to just about every state but missed about five states in the Union through all those driving trips. So those are the people I was that certainly the closest to them as far as family.

CS: Did you have any family pets? If so, please describe them.

CK: Yes. Well, yes, we did. When I was in ninth grade-I don't know why we didn't get anything younger than that-we bought a toy poodle, and my sister and I were crazy about this and my mother crazy about this toy little. And she was this tiny little apricot poodle. And of course, we named her the dumbest name ever possible, which was Bambi. So, Bambi was our little toy poodle. I adored

my mother, adored me, adored my sister, hated my father, would never go near him, ever. I mean, the whole time she was alive, he would never she would never allow my father to go near her, which was really sad.

CS: Thank you. Next, please describe the ways in which your family's economic status influenced your childhood. I know you covered your parents' occupations, but if there's anything relevant to economic statistics you'd like to share.

CK: Well, I think it's interesting because I think when people are fairly well-off, they don't think about the people who aren't so well off. I grew up quite well off, but I didn't know it. I lived in a beautiful house that was on the top of this hill overlooking Cedar Lake. My dad did very well as a pharmacist. Owned his own drug store and in fact had a part-ownership in another drug store also. I know, looking back, that I was quite privileged. We had two cars, this nice house, my mom didn't work outside the house. And, you know, I had great, beautiful clothes. My mom had great taste. And I didn't realize that St Louis Park is also a town of many, many small houses, many, many houses that have four rooms on the main floor and just a half floor above and single car garage and built very close together. Right after the war that so many-World War Two-that so many people moved into St Louis Park, and they were building a lot of small houses. I didn't pay any attention to that as growing up. But now looking back, I realize I had a lot more than a lot of the people, the kids that I knew and who I went to school with. As I said, we travelled. We didn't take outlandish trips. They were always driving trips. We stayed in motels, loved it. And then as we got older, we flew on a few trips taking a plane for the first time. I know that when it came to different groups that I was in, in high school, we always did a lot of fundraising in these groups, and we would do things like selling donuts and selling glassware and having rummage sales, those kinds of things. And my parents were one of only two and one in my groups that preferred to donate the money rather than trying to sell things.

CS: Great. Now, I would like to know about your experiences with religion, such as Catholicism, Lutheranism, etc... Describe what you can recall about your family's religious practices when you were growing up.

CK: This is always a complicated question. I get it. But a lot of times it takes other people a while to get it. My father was raised Jewish. He came from a house where their first language was Yiddish; That was my father's first language, even though he was born here in the U.S. And his mother, his parents kept a kosher home, meaning that they had separate dishes for different meats and milk and all of that. But my father chose decided at age seven that he was an atheist, and he didn't want to go to the synagogue anymore. And then as an adult, he decided, well, I'm really not an atheist, but I'm an agnostic. And he didn't believe in practicing religion. My mother was raised, as I mentioned before, in a very devout Lutheran family. Lived right across the street from the church in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, a small town about an hour south of Minneapolis. And her mother in particular was very religious. And so, my mother moved to the Twin Cities to become a nurse. And she really wanted to leave that religious life behind. She found it very stifling and wanted more. Marrying my father, she loved that he was funny and outgoing, and all his friends were funny and outgoing. And she loved that world. So, as I was growing up, and this sounds so dumb, and I think about it as an adult, but it's exactly right. People had asked me what my religion was, and I always said, I'm half-Jewish and half Swedish. So, we had Christmas trees every year. That was fun. But my dad didn't want them in front of a window. And I didn't know that at the time; I had found that out as an adult. And they always came down the day after Christmas, which also I didn't know that there were rules about the Christmas tree, but it was just pretty. And then we got Christmas and Hanukkah presents. So that was pretty fun. I don't think my parents really knew what to do with my sister and me. But when my sister was five, she came home one day and said she wanted to go to Sunday school with her friend Jamie. And Jamie went to Temple Israel, which was

the large Reform Jewish synagogue in Minneapolis. And my parents looked at each other and said, okay, that sounds fine. So, they sent both my sister and me to Sunday school at the Temple Israel. And both of us stayed until 10th grade and were confirmed. So, but that my dad was very clear about what he believed about religion. And we knew that he didn't practice religion. And my mom was the one who was a little more supportive. So, my Lutheran mother, who had abandoned Christianity, she's the one who came to both of our confirmations in 10th grade. My dad didn't come, and it was fine. I mean, that didn't bother me at all. I understood why dad didn't come. And I know this is more about childhood, so I'm not going to say too much other than that I married a man who had been through 12 years of Catholic school, and he decided to call himself a retired Catholic, and he liked the idea of raising our children Jewish. So, our children ended up going to a synagogue. So that I can do further, but that that's my childhood. Oh, and one other thing about religion is that again and my guess is you don't know. I don't mean to make assumptions about you one way or the other, but my guess is you don't know too much about Saint Louis Park. It was one of the suburbs of Minneapolis that had the largest Jewish population. At its peak, it was about 19 to 20% Jewish. Asked most people who lived there at the time, they would say, oh, it's at least 50%. Well, it wasn't, but it seemed like that. My elementary school that I went to Fern Hill Elementary in that neighborhood school that was 90% Jewish and the high holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur there were only about three or four kids left in school. But it was that one elementary school that had almost all of the Jewish kids. And then altogether, I think there were seven elementary schools in the whole suburbs. And so that's a long-winded answer.

CS: Oh, it's fine. How important or relevant is religion to you now as an adult?

CK: That's another good question. I consider myself agnostic, absolutely. I don't believe in organized religion. However, my sister married a very observant Jew, and they included my husband and me and our daughters in all sorts of religious events. So and so my daughters grew up having a really connected feeling to Judaism. And so, they both married non-Jewish men. And both of my daughters have children, and they are raising them to be Jewish. They both attend the synagogue. I happen to pay dues to a synagogue. I never go. But I think it's I just happen to think it's an important institution to be supportive of. So, I never go unless, of course, it's, you know, somebody's wedding or funeral or whatever. And so, it's I always think it's kind of interesting that here is my father up here, and then they're my kids who had my children, who had four grandparents, and only one of them was Jewish. And now they're raising their kids who only had one out of eight grandparents who was Jewish. It's kind of strange, but interesting. And everybody gets it. We all understand a lot of other people don't get it, but we do.

CS: Yeah. Aside from the religious aspect, it seems like the Jewish culture is still very desirable. People still want to be a part of it.

CK: Yeah, it's and so now my, as I told you, my husband was Catholic and retired as a Catholic man and then he passed away 11 years ago. And now I have a new partner, a new spouse who's not Jewish, but he totally gets it, too. And comes with us. We do Passover at my sister's house, and they do a whole big thing. And my kids love it. My children always loved it, which says a lot for, I think, my brother-in-law and my sister, who did a lot as my kids were growing up.

CS: Okay. Now I'd like to learn more about the neighborhood in which you grew up. Mm hmm. If you moved during childhood, you may wish to reflect on more than one neighborhood. This is fine to do, but please indicate as you do it. Please describe what comes to mind when thinking about the neighborhood in which you grew up.

CK: Okay. I did move, but just across the street. So, I lived in the same neighborhood for 20, 21 years. Thinking about the neighborhood as I was before I went to junior high, before I was 13, I

think about a lovely neighborhood. I loved wandering around my neighborhood. I had there weren't any girls my age, but there were three boys and I played with them a lot. And they lived just right on the same street that we did, you know, played baseball, and went hiking and rode bikes. And it was that very idyllic childhood. And, you know, the one that they kind of every that kind of Norman Rockwell childhood, I'm sure that there were bad things that were happening. I just didn't know about them or know that that that was happening. I walked to school, to elementary school. It was three and a half blocks. I didn't have to go through the alphabet of the streets. Three and a half blocks walk. I walked every day. But no matter how cold or how hot I walked; it wasn't uphill both ways. I would never say that. But it was a beautiful neighborhood, lovely neighborhood. I would say my family knew about three quarters of the people who lived on our street. Most of them had kids of some sort of age. It was a time, the baby boom time, when there were just a lot of kids. And I think I mentioned you, there were seven elementary schools at that time in St Louis Park. And right now, I know that there's two. So that the baby boomers definitely made their mark in St Louis Park. Then by the time I went to junior high, my world expanded more. I rode my bike a lot of places, riding up to the drugstore, riding to friends' houses, you know, that kind of thing. And then, of course, once high school came and my friends were driving, then my world became my neighborhood became the entire city St Louis Park. And I didn't know that there were bad things happening. There were. But I didn't. I didn't know about them.

CS: How well did the residents in your neighborhood know each other, and what were some of those relationships like?

CK: Oh, yeah. My parents knew many of our neighbors and socialized with them to some extent. As I said, I think we knew maybe half, my parents knew maybe half of the people on the streets. And that is basically two streets, Glenhurst and Huntington. That would have been where they knew people. And we had met our next-door neighbors, had much older children, so their children were gone by the time I was five or six or seven. And so, I used to go over to my neighbor's house sometimes and play in her pool, wash her dishes or, you know, that kind of thing. So that was nice to have neighbors that you could kind of count on. Oh, well, this is why I think this all these things I think are interesting, but I don't know if anybody else is going to think they're interesting. Right across the street from us was a family and my parents would not speak to them. And the reason is because that neighbor who was a little bit older than my parents had been. The man in the family had been a member of the Bund, B-U-N-D, which was a Nazi organization in the United States. And so therefore, my parents would have nothing, nothing to do with them at all. And we always knew why that was interesting that I, as even as a young child, knew that that was the reason, you know, remembering that being born four years after World War Two, the Holocaust was the information about the Holocaust was coming out while I was growing up. And we were learning people were learning more and more and more about it over the 1950s, you know, they didn't really know that much in the late forties. They knew some things, but they didn't know as much as they found out.

CS: Is that a discussion that your parents had with you and your siblings?

CK: Absolutely, yes. Yeah, we knew about that. Oh, that another again, to me, it's interesting. When we sold the one house and moved across the street, our house was bought by a couple with it with a baby. And he had been he grew up Jewish in Germany and had been in a camp and he got rid of... by the I think that they moved in around the 1955/1956, something like that. And he worked very hard to get totally get rid of his German accent. And my parents became very good friends with them and, you know, really wanted to support them. Just as far as being good neighbors.

CS: If you had to describe the best part about growing up in your neighborhood, what comes to mind?

CK: Just how beautiful it was and how fun it was. I mean, so many places to explore and bushes that when I was young it seemed like there were forests, but they really were just a bunch of bushes. And being able to walk everywhere, staying out at night until it got dark, going over to, you know, two blocks. So, this is by the time I was in maybe junior high going over and playing with huge groups of kids. Capture the flag, we used to do that. There were two friends who live right next door to each other. A couple of blocks away. Whole groups of kids would go over there, and they capture the flag at night. Riding my bike up to elementary school in the summer. And they had park activities, summertime activities, and I often would go up there, all by myself. There be people, kids, that would be up there and we'd play tetherball or squares or whatever you do, you know. And it was a very free world for me. I know a lot of people today my age will say, well, we got to go everywhere and do everything. Some parents are so crazy and careful with their kids now. I think we know a lot more now about what could happen. I always believed that Jacob Wetterling was a watershed moment in the life of parents and children. Do you need me to say anything about Jacob Wetterling?

CS: No, I'm aware of Jacob Wetterling.

CK: Yeah. Okay.

CS: Describe what you can recall about your home, such as the layout and other features that come to mind.

CK: Well, it's a beautiful home. It was built, I'm thinking about 1927 and we moved in. Well, the house that I really feel like I grew up in. There's two, but I'm talking about the second one that was on Glenhurst and that overlooked Cedar Lake. It was a beautiful house; it was all brick. It was had climbing ivy. The style was called English Cottage. It had been built for a family, who, a wife and a husband. I don't think that they had any children, but they had a maid. And so, there was one of the rooms on the main floor, which we used as a den. It was a bedroom for maid to sleep in, and it had a closet. And then the bathroom, on the main floor had a bathtub, which in that day and age was very unusual. And then there was a hall right outside that bathroom and that bedroom so that the maid could live there and be separate from the rest of the family. Three bedrooms upstairs. It was two baths, three-bathroom house, double car, garage, huge lawn, top of a very big hill that went down to France Avenue. It was beautiful.

CS: Next, I would like to learn about the values shared by your family and your neighbors. Values are principles or standards that help guide behavior. What memories come to mind that demonstrate what these values were for your family and your neighbors?

CK: Well, I think there was the value of... I think in in a tiny way, the value of diversity in that in that there were a lot of Jewish people and a lot of not non-Jewish people living together and everybody was accepted. Now, when it comes to the diversity, larger diversity, there was not a single person of color in anywhere in Saint Louis Park. The only black person I had ever met was the nanny of one of my friend's families that lived half a block away. It's the only black person I ever met. I was raised to be very accepting and non-prejudiced. I do know that society instills within us prejudices that we're not aware of. So, I know those prejudices were there. Like my father's drugstore that was on the north side, his old neighborhood where he grew up. I'm on West Broadway in North Minneapolis, and he had a very large customer base of black people. And it was important to my dad to be friendly and to be accepting. And that was that was instilled in us. One thing I will never forget. My mom was quite quiet. She was very introverted and kind of passive. My dad had a very powerful personality and they kind of kind of fit together. But I think my mom got the raw end of the deal sometimes. But I'll still never forget... They had some friends over. And

I remember one of the people used the N-word. And I'll never forget my mother, sweet, beautiful, Swedish, quiet Helen stopped, put her hand on the table and said, we do not use that language in this house. And I was just shocked and thrilled when I look back at that, that she took that kind of stance. So that was, I think, one of the one of the values. Hard work, working very hard. My dad worked six days a week. He sometimes had to work a split shift where he would go in the morning drugstore opened at ten. He'd walk to one, come home, go back at five or six, work till ten. Hated doing that. So didn't do that too often. But, you know, hard work. Education, absolutely. It was never even considered that me or any of the people that that I kids I grew up with would not go to college. We all did. Everybody went to college. Now, those are the days when colleges are quite a bit less expensive. It didn't have the costs that we have today. I went to University of Minnesota and even now the university costs so much. But so, education, books, going to the library once a week, always. We did a lot of reading in my house. I became an English-Both my sister, and I became English teachers. So intellectual discussion was very important in my family. I remember we used to sit at the kitchen table after dinner and sometimes we'd ask our dad, ask us some questions. And basically, it was trivia. And so, he had to sit there and then come up with trivia questions. We love doing that! So, an intellectual philosophical discussion was important. My dad thought that people who were very religious were weak. I will tell you that right away. I mean, he didn't he thought that they were it was a weakness. How can somebody so smart believe this or believe that? He didn't understand.

CS: Now, I'm going to ask you all about leisure time. Describe some of the ways in which you, your family and your neighbors engaged in leisure time when you were growing up.

CK: Well, again, you know, being 13 years or younger. Baseball in the streets. Soccer in the streets. Running. Running everywhere. Biking everywhere. And as I got older, biking farther and farther. We loved going out to dinner. We didn't do it that often, but we knew my parents loved to take us out to dinner. And leisure time, let me think. And then as once I got into junior high, then I started playing tennis, had tennis lessons, went to camp a couple of times. I didn't like it very much, and that's why I didn't go more than twice. Leisure time reading another part of leisure time.

CS: Can you recall if your family ever took vacations, and if so, to where?

CK: Every year we took a driving vacation, and my parents would plan it out months and months and months ahead of time. And that was part of the fun. Of course, we didn't have internet where you can start searching for hotels. And so, we had AAA books that my parents would read cover to cover, figuring out where they were going to go. And then my mom would write away for brochures for places to stay. And looking through those brochures was always very exciting. And then it would be, I think, sometimes even three weeks, but two to three weeks at once a year. And we went on all sorts of trips. Arizona a couple of times. My parents ended up moving to Arizona and living there after my dad retired. We drove to California quite a few times with my dad. Had family, an uncle and an aunt and cousins in California. Florida several times, three times. New York City. Once we saw this was the highlight of my life! Was-I'm super into theater and particularly musicals-and I got to see my first Broadway musical. So, in 1959, we saw Robert Preston and in *The Music Man* and I'll never forget it and have been love theater and musicals ever since. And my parents loved musicals. They would watch musicals on TV with us, and they had a lot of record albums that were, well, not just musicals, but a lot of records and listening to music. Oh, one thing I forgot to say about leisure time was that my mother was a wonderful pianist. She played both the piano and the organ, and she and I would sit and sing together. And singing became really important to me because it was so much fun singing with my mom, and she could do the harmony. And so, we often would sing and harmonize. And that was a wonderful memory I have.

CS: Was there a local hangout spot in your neighborhood where you could be with your friends? If yes, describe it. Yeah.

CK: Well, not really. You know, there was a drug store about four blocks away, but we didn't hang out there. But by the time we maybe in junior high, we started to... People who know this are going to be jealous. Most people won't know what this is. But there was the Lincoln Delicatessen that was three blocks, three and a half blocks away. The Lincoln Delt was one of two traditional delicatessens, the old-style delicatessen. And we often would go there after school and order food or malts or hamburgers. But there were a lot of, it wasn't just teenagers hanging out. But not really. There really wasn't a hangout, though. By the time I got to high school, though, there was. High school it was a McDonald's right across the street from St Louis Park High School. I think it was the second McDonald's in Minnesota, I believe. And in high school, that is where a lot of people hung out. A lot of guys particularly guy. Well, girls and guys would drive through, see who was at McDonald's, be in the parking lot, hang out. That was high school.

CS: What television shows did you watch growing up?

CK: Well, as a child, you know, as a young kid, I mean, I remember things like Mighty Mouse and Rin Tin Tin and Lassie. Those are when I was really young. Oh, and we like to watch Rocky and his friends, Rocky and Bullwinkle. My dad loved to watch it with us because the humor was so adult. And he would laugh! You know, we would know what he was laughing about. But it was always fun to watch it because my dad would be laughing. My parents watch TV at night, we would watch with them. They did have a TV up in their bedroom, but we would often watch TV with them. And the other thing is that and this is part of the economic thing that you were you asked about earlier. My dad always liked the newest electronics, the newest thing. And so, we got... And he had a friend who-in the Jewish community always knew somebody who sold something, and they would always give you a deal. And so, my dad got a deal on colored television in 1956. So, there were hardly any color shows at the time. But Bonanza was one of the ones that was in color. And Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color was also in color. And I remember watching specifically those shows that were in color, a lot of Westerns, tons of Westerns, and we could never figure out how my dad knew who the bad guy was and always did. And how did he know that? And of course, they had black hats, [Laughter] kind of not real subtle. But we you know, we were young. TV shows, comedy shows, the Dick Van Dike show, The Donna Reed Show, Ed Sullivan on Sunday nights. Oh, The Twilight Zone, loved that. I remember having girlfriends to sleep over and we'd watch The Twilight Zone on Friday nights. My dad would watch boxing on TV, and I would watch with him. That's what I remember.

CS: Okay. I always ask this when I'm talking about television. Kind of a contentious topic, but TV during dinner time, was that an acceptable thing in your household?

CK: Never. We didn't have a TV in the kitchen. I've never had a TV in my kitchen. I don't know. Just no.

CS: And the same thing with like radio or phone calls, any sort of distractions during.

CK: Well, I remember, no radio. No, not at all. And my sister had a friend who-we always ate at the same time because my dad would get home from work, and he wanted to eat right away. So, if he got home at 5:00, we ate at 5:30. And if he got home at 6:00, we ate at 6:30. And three times a week, my sister's best friend called right during dinner. My dad used to get so annoyed with her and I remember what her name was, and I remember what my dad would say. And my sister would get off the phone pretty quickly because it was dinner. So, you didn't get to you didn't go and stay on the phone.

CS: Next, let's discuss your experience with schooling. Please describe what it was like going to school as a child.

CK: Well, I was a good student and I loved school all the way through. I mean, elementary, I loved all of it. Except for when I got to high school and I had to take things like chemistry, which I hated but I liked Math. I was good in school. I liked my teachers a lot. I had very good teachers. You know, I had some favorite teachers. One teacher in high school, she was taught my 11th grade advanced English class. She's one of the reasons I became an English teacher. I was one of those weird kids, I liked Phys-ED. I hated changing and taking showers. I mean, I hated that part of it. But, you know, swimming and getting your hair wet, that was in the days when you couldn't just brush your hair and go out. You know, you set your hair in curlers, and it was all poofy. And then we had to go swimming. So, that was a pain. But one of the things for me that became a very important part of my life is that when I went into 10th grade. I auditioned for the dance line in my school Saint Louis Park Parkettes, and I made the dance line, and it was one of the best experiences of my whole life. We as a dance line, we didn't just... First of all, we were Vikings cheerleaders for two years the first time. Now I think they might have had one year of another, another group being a Vikings cheerleader. But I'm talking about being a cheerleader with wool skirts and wool sweaters and Go-Go boots, being outside of the old Mets stadium and pom poms dancing in the cold. And it was cold! So, the fact that we did that was cool. I didn't really love it that much at the time. But our dance line also we had, I'd say, 10 or 12 very cool costumes. There was sequins, and fringe, and all sorts of very fun stuff, tap shoes. And we would raise money by being hired by groups going out and dancing. You know, of course, we danced at football games and basketball games for the school and pep rallies and that kind of thing. But then we also went to many places around the state. We were hired by the state of Minnesota to dance at all sorts of institutions, homes for the mentally retarded. And when I think back on this, I think it's really weird. But we were we danced at prisons and so and I still think about that. Like what!? Why don't we do... You know, we were high school girls in little costumes with, you know, dancing and there were these prisoners, men prisoners there. And I think that's a really strange thing. But then we would be hired a lot of times by private parties to go to parties at many of the different country clubs around the city and dance at country clubs for parties. And then we would get paid for that as a group. So, then each year, our dance line, the Parkettes took a trip, the whole group and our and we would dance someplace. So, when I was a sophomore, we went to Aspen, Colorado, which was hardly even a place then. It was this is 1965. It was known, but it wasn't like a big deal. And we danced at the... It's something I forgot where we danced. And then when I was a junior, we went to in March in the Rose Bowl for it and danced at the coronation of the Queen of the Roses in Pasadena, in California. And then when I was a senior, we went to Hawaii and danced at Tripler Army Medical Center and at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. So, those are wonderful memories.

CS: Wow, that's really cool. Traveling and experience with it.

CK: I still have friends, and we had a reunion. It was interesting. There was a Vikings cheerleader reunion before COVID, so I'm thinking about three years ago and the women from all over the country came and they were all people like me. I would have been, they would be two years older than me. And then it was all sorts of cheerleaders from all the way to the present day. And we performed it before a Vikings game, and I was pretty cool. That was it was fun to see people. We felt like we had a wonderful time. And this is before Title IX. So, there were no girls' sports. There were none. And there was the Girls Athletic Association, which, you know, we didn't want to join. But other than that, you know, there weren't girls sports before Title IX.

CS: Okay. For our final topic, I'm going to ask you to reflect on local and global issues such as war, poverty, discrimination, social unrest, etc... In your opinion, what were some of the biggest local or global issues affecting the people in your neighborhood when you were growing up?

CK: Yeah, I thought about this when I saw that question. You know, I think I mentioned to you that the idea of prejudice was important to my parents. And they as I said, I didn't know anybody that was particularly different from me, but at least it was a value instilled in me. I understand that I live in a racist society and that there are many things that have set boundaries for other people that my privilege has allowed me to not be a part of. However, my father experienced a great deal of antisemitism. Minneapolis was considered to be one of the most anti-Semitic cities in the country, and that's one of the reasons why Jewish people had such a strong regard for Hubert Humphrey, because he was mayor of Minneapolis in the 1940s and worked very hard to get rid of as much antisemitism as possible. You know, there's a reason why there was a hospital called Mt. Sinai Hospital in Minneapolis. It's not far right now from Abbott, Northwestern and Mount Sinai was built because of many, many because Jewish doctors weren't allowed to practice in many of the other hospitals. And this is true around the country, by the way. You'll find Jewish hospitals or among Sinai or things with that kind of name and that's the reason. There was no need now for Mount Sinai Hospital any longer. And it closed down, I would say, 25 years ago. But if not more. So, we were very aware of anti-Semitism. Not as a 10-year-old, I didn't know, but I did as a 14, 15, 16-year-old. I did know about restrictive covenants, and I knew that's why people, Jewish people, didn't live at that time in Edina or Golden Valley. Later, then of course, they opened up too. And now you've got many, many Jewish people living in those areas. But at the time they were pretty restricted. Oh, I remember the Cuban Missile Crisis. I was I was maybe 10 or 11 and my parents would watch it on the on T.V. And I do remember that very clearly. And then when John Kennedy was killed, I was in ninth grade. I was sitting in social studies class. And I remember it vividly. And I remember it was on a Friday watching then coming home and all weekend watching the news. My parents saw Jack Ruby kill Lee Harvey Oswald right on live on TV. That was a really big deal. Kennedy. And then as I got older, it was the Vietnam War, but that was when I was in high school and later. So those are those would be the standout. The other thing I would say when I'm talking about antisemitism is that so many non-Jewish people in St Louis Park grew up to be very comfortable with Jewish people. It would be unusual to find antisemitism in those people right now. Oh, one other thing is that there were quite a lot of actually pretty famous people that grew up in St Louis Park, and I didn't necessarily know them, But Tom Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times and has written quite a few books. His sister was a friend of mine and one of the books he wrote beside Tom Friedman was... I can't remember the name of it, but he began his book talking about what life in St Louis Park was like when he was growing up and how unusual it was to have Jews and non-Jews get along so well. And the Coen brothers, the, the movie makers, they were there. And then Al Franken, his brother was in my sister's classes, his brother Owen. And then Al went to school in Saint Louis Park and then moved to L.A. for high school. So went to the private school. But, you know, there were a lot of famous people who came from... Alan Weisman is another one. And I know Alan quite well, a writer who has written many books, and he was a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune and all sorts of stuff. I don't know why I brought that up. I can't remember.

CS: It's okay. It's all good information.

CK: Okay.

CS: Is there anything else that you would like to comment on as far as local and global issues that come to mind, particularly, you...

CK: No. You know, when I hear today of people are talking about Make America Great again, America was great for me when I was in my and I was growing up, but it wasn't great for a whole lot of people. And I didn't. Oh, yeah, actually, I do vaguely remember when we would drive. We took all our trips driving and whenever we drove into the south, I very clearly remember white only drinking fountains, white only bathrooms. And I remember seeing the colored, colored drinking fountains that were horrible and dirty and rusty and the bathrooms that were separate. And I remember being very shocked at that. And then I remembered very clearly driving and there was a road sign. It was a big, huge billboard. And it said Impeach Earl Warren. And Earl Warren was the chief justice of the Supreme Court in the 1950s. And the reason they were wanting to impeach him was because he was the chief justice when Brown versus Board of Education was passed in 1954. And so that would be people who did not want blacks to go to school with whites. And so, I remember that very clearly because I couldn't figure out who is Earl Warren and why do we wanted to impeach him. So, it was an opportunity for my parents to teach us.

CS: You know, you mentioned the segregation of facilities in the South. Was it a lot less prevalent during that time for public facilities to be segregated in Minnesota as well?

CK: No, it did. It didn't happen in the north at all. I mean, there was no such thing. Now, were there places that wouldn't let black people stay there? Probably. Was there discrimination? Absolutely. It wasn't true, though, in any of the states north of the Mason-Dixon Line? No, but Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, I remember. I remember those in particular, Georgia. I remember Georgia. South Carolina. I remember. I remember all those. But remember when we were there, I was seven, eight, nine, 10 years old. And so especially by the time I got to be 10, that became it became more of made more of an impression. So that was all the 1950s. And we know that even though they did Brown versus Board of Education, we know that they continue to segregate.

CS: Okay. This is the end of our interview. Your responses are invaluable, and we really appreciate that you took the time to do this today. Thank you so much for participating.