Kadija Hassan: – for allowing us to interview today. Today is June 9th, 2008. My name is Kadija Hassan.

April Wilson: And I'm April Wilson.

Kadija Hassan: Why don't you tell us your name?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I'm Jocelyn Dan Wurzberg.

Kadija Hassan: All right. Well, we'll just go ahead and get started. Can you tell us a little bit about your childhood?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I'm born and reared here in Memphis. I'm a fifth generation Memphian. As a matter of fact, my mother and I went to the same high school, and had some of the same teachers. I grew up right around the corner from here, north of Valentine, up Springdale Street, on the other side of Jackson. And had a fairly nice, probably lower middle class income family.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: My father was in the newspaper advertising business. My mother worked during the war. In fact, she was the first woman shoe salesman allowed to sell shoes in Memphis during World War II, when the men went off to war, and then when the men came home, they all lost their jobs, and she pretty much was a stay-at-home mom, until my father got very ill my senior year in high school. And then she had to go back to work, and I had to go to school only on scholarship, which was here. So I got a scholarship to Rhodes College and stayed home and went to college.

Kadija Hassan: Can you tell us a little bit about your – like elementary school? How did you like it? Did you enjoy it? And which school did you go to?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I went to Valentine School, and did like it. I – it was evident in first grade that I had a reading disability.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And my early reminiscence of school was that I was in the sparrow class, when everybody else were bluebirds and cardinals and robins and that sort of thing. And so they didn't think that I was very bright, but they didn't know what to do, because I was sort of a whiz in math. And so they worked with me, and I continued to have this reading defect. I read audibly in my head, saying every

word before it goes to my brain. The good news is, I had 100 percent retention and 100 percent comprehension, because I'm telling myself everything.

And – but it did – it – I read even today with about the speed of a fourth or fifth grade child. Law school was awful.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: If you could imagine going through graduate school, reading every word in my head. The other good news is when I read a novel, I can change voices, so it's like I'm watching a play, when I read. I really enjoy reading, but I have to do that.

So Valentine. It took them till I was about third or fourth grade to realize that I could make As in everything else but reading. And so Valentine was a feeder school to Snowden, and most of us went to Snowden Junior High down the street. And I really sort of blossomed at Snowden, and I had a – a good junior high career. I think I was voted the best all-around or something for seventh grade and eighth grade, and that's when sororities started taking hold. And so I – you can't – being Jewish, you can't join the sororities either in high school, or even here at Southwestern, I wasn't allowed to join sororities because of my religion.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And if you've time for it, I'd love to tell you a fabulous story about Rhodes Southwestern.

Kadija Hassan: We'd love to hear it.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: The principal – I was editor of our yearbook, and I was in the hall one day, and the principal of Central High, his name was Robert King, said, "Jocelyn, where are you going to college?" And I said, "I don't know, sir. If I get a scholarship, I'm going to Southwestern. If not, I guess I'll go to Memphis State." He said, "Hmm," and he looked at his watch. He said, "Wait here a minute."

And he went inside the office, and he came back out, and he says, "Come on. Let's you and me, let's go over to Southwestern." And he put me in his car, and he drove me over here. And we met with a woman named Ms. Woolf, who was the admissions director. Now this is 1958, you've got to remember.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And that morning, I'm positive that was the day, Sputnik, which was the first satellite to be put out into the orbit by the Russians – they beat us, the United States, you know. And we talked about, the three of us, what the impact Sputnik was going to have on our students, our colleges, science and everything. And we talked for about 15, 20 minutes. And then he said, "Oh, by the way, Ms. Woolf, Jocelyn can't come here unless she gets a scholarship. I just wanted you to know that." And he says, "Come on. We need to get back to school." And we left.

And about a couple of days later, he called me down to the office, and he said – which you couldn't do today. He says, "You want to give me a big hug?" And he says, "You've got your scholarship to Southwestern."

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So that's how I got to come to Southwestern, because my principal took the time to help me get that scholarship. Isn't that a great story?

Kadija Hassan: That is a great story.

Video Cut: 00:06:07

Can you reflect on any other times at Rhodes? Like your experiences going to college here?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Oh, well, Rhodes – when I came here, there were 500 students, max. It was a wonderful environment. The honor system worked. Because I had had some contentious time with friends who wanted to – me to participate in cheating, really, and I wouldn't do it, and so it was refreshing to be here where everything was honest and open and above board. In fact, you could leave your purse on the hood of the car, if you forgot something, run get it, and come back. It literally would be there when you came back.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: There was this complete honor system. And it was – it was wonderful.

I had a fabulous professor by the name of Jack Conrad who was the sociology department, only he was more of an anthropologist,

so I got more anthropology than I really wanted, for a sociology degree. But he was wonderfully influential on me in the fact that – we recently heard a speech by Barack Obama's minister where he said, difference doesn't mean inferior. Well, I learned that lesson in anthropology back here in 1959, '58 and '59, in that Dr. Conrad instilled in us that cultures all over the world cannot be put into good, better, best.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: If they work for the people within the culture, then – then it is as equal as our American culture. And that was a very important lesson for me to learn very early on.

I did have the experience of being told when I signed up for Rush, the Dean of Women called me in to the – her office to say she knew I would understand, but of course, the sororities can't take Jews. And I said, "You know, I know that, but I just thought it'd be a good opportunity to meet people, and that that would be a lot of fun for me." And she says, well, good, she didn't want me disappointed.

One of the sororities called me back for the second night, and that was something I did not expect.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And they went – because they were sacrificing somebody else, but they were struggling with what to do with me. They wanted me, but their charter said they couldn't have me. And I got a phone call asking, would it be all right if I would take a pledge to join Tri Delt if – if it were in Jesus's name? And I said, "No, I can't do that. I can do it in the Lord's name, but not in Jesus's name." And I said, "Who recommended me? I don't know a person in the world who belongs in Tri Delta." And they said, "Your ninth grade Latin teacher was Tri Delt, and she recommended you." They went to some effort to find me a recommendation.

And so I did not get an invitation for the third night. So that was all right. It ended up where coincidentally, all my good freshmen friends went – the ones I liked the best went Tri Delt.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So they called me a Two Delt, and that was – that worked. I got to go to some of the events, and that was nice. So – but otherwise, I felt good here.

An additional problem I did have here was I was for many people their first Jew. They had never met a Jew before. And many of them came from religious backgrounds that they were required to try and convert me. And I finally had to go to Professor Kinney and tell them, "You have got to call these kids off. They're wearing me out trying to convert me to Christianity, and is there any way you can sort of all them off?

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And so somehow it did stop, so the word got around, you know, leave her alone. But it was interesting, because people admitted that they had never met a Jew before, and they had so many misconceptions of what a Jew looked like or acted like or sounded like. And they wanted me to explain the religion.

And for me, it was the first time I'd ever read the New Testament, here, when I got here. We had a course called Man in the Light of History and Religion. It had started a few years before I got here, which was a very exciting course, but you had to take Senior Bible. And Senior Bible here was the New Testament. And so that was really fascinating for me, reading it and studying it as a non-believer. So you can imagine how fascinating that was for me to do.

And in fact, the exam, though, just angered me. I never will forget this. I get on the final exam, and the question was, they had a list of about 20 biblical cities, and I was to circle the ones where Paul visited.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I said, "Now what kind of question is this?" They're not asking me what Paul said. You know, they want to know what cities did he visit? And hell, I didn't know what cities they visited, so I – and I had to laugh, because years later, I went to Ephesus, in Turkey, and as we're going through Ephesus, they said, "And of course, this is – we are going to see the old Roman Coliseum, where Paul spoke to the Ephesians." I went, maybe that's why they wanted me to learn where Paul went. So I even went to where Paul spoke, so that was kind of fun and exciting.

I did have one other experience here that wasn't as – wasn't so pleasant, but otherwise, I really get to say Rhodes was a positive experience for me. My father got more and more ill, so it was really a safe place to come to and be – and be.

Video Cut: 00:13:00

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I married between my sophomore and junior year. And my husband's family had a fascinating young man who they put through LeMoyne College in exchange for which he lived at the house, tutored my husband in school, and cut the grass. And so he was like a – you know, like a house person, but sort of a tutor, and they paid for his way to go to college.

Well, he ended up becoming extremely famous. His name is Dr. C. Eric Lincoln. And Dr. Lincoln had a degree in sociology, and he was a Methodist minister, and had a Doctor of Divinity.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And in Divinity School I think at Columbia, he came across, in some prison work, black Muslims, and they really hadn't been heard of very much. So he wrote a book called *Black Muslims in America*. Well, anyway, Dr. Lincoln came to visit my husband and me right after we married, and this is the first African-American I had ever met who – who was of that educated level, and so far superior to me in education and intellect and everything else. This was a real exciting experience for me.

And here I am in sociology, and so I asked him would he be willing to come to my sociology class and speak to us about black Muslims?

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And let me call the professor and see if it's okay. And he said he would love to do it. So I called Dr. Conrad, and Dr. Conrad had heard of him, yes, we mean we can get him here? And that was great. And he said, wonderful.

Well, I get a call from Jameson Jones, who was dean here. And he called me at home. And by then, I had a child. And while I majored in sociology, I really told people I majored in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, when I had a babysitter. Whatever was offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, I took it, when I had a chance to come to school.

And so Dr. Jones called me and bawled me out. What was I trying to do? Hurt the school? They're not interested in furthering this man's career. I said, "Dr. Jones, he was vice president of Clark College in Atlanta. He has a chair at Boston University."

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: "He doesn't need this lecture at Southwestern to further his career. This will put a feather in our cap having him here." Well, he said, "And where do you intend to feed him? The help here doesn't like it when black people come onto campus and come into the dining room." And I said, "Well, I hadn't thought about that." I said, "My house, if I have to," you know?

And so he hung up from me, and I started crying like a baby, and jumped in the car, and came over to Dr. Conrad. And he couldn't console me. How dare he think I was trying to ruin this school?

Well, in the meantime, apparently the powers that be here looked up Dr. Lincoln and found out who Dr. Lincoln was, and I got a call back I think from Dr. Jones.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: The school would be honored to have Dr. Lincoln have lunch in the bell tower. Now do y'all know what that is?

Kadija Hassan: No.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: You don't? Okay. In the dining hall, when you come in from the east door, on the left is a little room which is under the bell tower of the dining hall. And it seats about ten people, and Dr. Jones said that I and Dr. Conrad and Dr. Lincoln could invite six, seven more people, in the – to be guests of the cafeteria. Okay?

So I told Dr. Lincoln that he was being honored, that the school wanted him to eat in the bell tower, and that was a real honor, but I knew they were hiding him by putting him there, and then just let somebody come and serve us lunch. So I wasn't fooled, but that was that.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: That was disappointing. And later, later I learned Dr. Jones had apparently a 180 degree, and became very involved and pro civil

rights in Memphis. So that was probably one of my first experiences of dealing – black/white in Memphis. But all my experiences here otherwise have been – I had a great education here. I'm very grateful to Southwestern. And as I say, they gave me scholarships.

Now when I got married, I lost the scholarship, because I married somebody they figured didn't need a scholarship. And I left here and went to Memphis State for a semester, and I got a phone call. "Jocelyn, a secret donor has offered you a scholarship to come back to Southwestern."

Well, it was already about five weeks into the semester. Could I be prepared to come right away? And I said, "No." I said, "I'm five weeks behind."

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: I said, "I can't come right now." I said, "I will be there next semester." So I had a semester at the university, and then I came – came back to Rhodes and finished. With having children – I'm in the class of '62, but it took me to '65 to really finish up my course work. And I loved it.

Video Cut: 00:19:21

Kadija Hassan: Did any other issues of race surface while you were here?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: No. But I didn't learn until later that it did for some other students. As a townie, you sort of run onto campus, you go to your classes, and you go back. And then when I was married, you know, I was really just running on and going to class, and going back home and taking care of my daughter after she was born.

And so I learned later that there was an attempt to do some interracial work between Southwestern and LeMoyne.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And a good source on that is Dr. Bill Davidson, who was in my class. He participated in that. And so there was some stuff going on, I think through the Kinney Foundation. Do y'all still have the Kinney Foundation here on campus that does philanthropy work? Well, that was very big when we were here. Dr. Lawrence Kinney was a beloved professor. In fact, he went to work on the Dead Sea Scrolls when they were uncovered in Israel back in the late '50s,

and he was one of the professors in the United States he was selected to go and study the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Anyway, he was a wonderful, wonderful man, and I enjoyed him as a professor. But he had started this Kinney Foundation, where students had to perform a certain amount of philanthropic work to get their diploma.

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Kadija Hassan: It seems like religion played a really big part in your life, like throughout your entire life. Does it – why is that, or are you – did your childhood have a lot of religious foundation?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I am what is called a Reform Jew, which is – in other parts of the world, they call it liberal Judaism. My mother was very reform. She married my father, who was not, and he converted immediately to Reform Judaism. We did not do things like light Sabbath candles, but I went to Sunday school. In fact, here, instead of going to chapel, I was permitted not to have to go to chapel if I would go once a week to my temple. Well, I taught Sunday school there. It was – they paid you to teach Sunday school at our temple, so that was part of my work. So I was at temple a couple of days a week to satisfy not having to go to chapel for religious services here.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: I'm a committed Jew without being a terribly observant Jew. I go to services, but I feel more culturally Jewish. It's my heritage. It's who I am. In later life, I – through some things we'll talk about later, got discovered by the National Structure of Reform Judiasm, and I got invited to serve on things like the Commission on Social Action, which I did. And I became very involved in National Structure Volunteer Committee work, commissions and boards ____ national religion.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So I'm very proud of my Judaism. I am a Zionist. I am for the State of Israel. I worry about State of Israel. As family, I love it, but I don't think we're on the moral high ground about a lot of things, but that's another whole conversation. But very loyal to it.

And yeah, my religion is an important part of my life, even though I'm not attending services like perhaps as often as I should. A lot

of Christians go to church on Easter, and I manage to go for Rash Hashanah and Yom Kippur, even if I don't go all the time during the year.

Kadija Hassan: Do you think that you have to have a strong religious foundation to be in the non-violent movement?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: No.

Kadija Hassan: Okay.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I think – there's a religiosity and there is a spirituality.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I think participation in the non-violent movement with religious roots, of course, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, is a matter of spirituality as well, which you can have without being religious.

Kadija Hassan: How did you meet your husband?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: It was kind of funny. There was a girlfriend who lives not too far from here, called me up in a panic. She was having an open house, and she couldn't find any girls to come. And she thought a lot of guys were coming. Would I be available to come? I said, sure, and so I went.

And she was right. She was in the kitchen putting stuff out, and I'm trying to entertain about 15 guys. So I got about six dates out of that evening, and one of them was my husband.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And he is from here as well. In fact, he's a fifth generation Memphian. And when we dug deep enough, we discovered we were probably distant cousins, because if you believe in endogamy, which means marrying inside your own, if you lived here long enough, you probably had to be. So he took me water skiing our first date, and I got up on the second try, so he was impressed. And we had a whirlwind courtship. We were engaged in a month, and married two months later.

Kadija Hassan: Wow. Have you – how long have you been married now?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I was married to him for 22 years. We did get a divorce.

Kadija Hassan: Okay.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: In 1982. I claim our divorce was a product of the civil rights and feminist movement.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: We just plain grew in different directions. And it's interesting, because he's the person who introduced me to my first African-American friend, you know, friend friend. And I got very, very involved in – in civil rights work, and all – while he agreed with it, he wished it weren't me doing it. And so we just sort of grew in different directions, and parted as friends.

I am now in a committed relationship with the same – actually, my high school crush. I ran into him six months after my divorce, and we've been together for 25 and a half years, dating. So I've got the same boyfriend for 25 and a half years. That's not a very good example, is it?

Video Cut: 00:26:48

Kadija Hassan: Do you – what did you do after Rhodes College?

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: I became a committed civic volunteer. I overdid it. I finished here in '65, pregnant with my second daughter, and built a house. And someone called on me to come and meet Howard Baker. They were real excited that I would go, because the Republicans were watching people who moved into the neighborhood, and they – I was made a Republican here by Dr. – what was that professor's name? Y'all going to have to forgive me. I had surgery recently, and that anesthesia doesn't help me get words right on the tip of my tongue. What was that professor's name? Great professor.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: But he really made me a Republican. And then when I met my husband's family, my father-in-law used to pride himself, saying he'd never voted for Roosevelt four times. Anyway, so they were pleased about that.

Anyway, so I got involved in politics, and our age group – our age group – now I'm 60 – I'm almost 68, in a few weeks. Our age group that didn't have to work really felt an obligation to give your

time away, either to the temple or to civic work or charity work, or political work. I mean, you – it was just expected of you that if you didn't have to work for a living, you were to donate your time away.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And my parents were really not financially able to give me music lessons or buy a piano or dance lessons or – well, they did when I was real little, but you know, carry on that sort of thing. So if you've got a lot of energy and you have abilities to organize and do things, you did them in high school on such things like the yearbook, and you know, your little clubs and things. You know, around the temple and so forth.

And so I just carried that out of high school and into college, although I had to work along with the scholarship that I got here. And so as soon as I got married, I jumped immediately into volunteer – into volunteer work, and started off into politics, and became very active in Republican politics.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: That, by the way, back then, was the liberal party, because we had what were – what was called a Dixiecrat, a Democrat, but from Dixie. And so the Republicans at the time was mostly a black party here in Memphis, and some people thought it ought to be not just all Republicans were black and all whites were Democrat, so they started a Republican party here. So I did a lot of volunteer work in all kinds of areas.

Video Cut: 00:30:40

Kadija Hassan: What made you decide to start the Panel of American Women?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Ah, you've heard about my Panel of American Women.

April Wilson: Yes.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Dr. King was assassinated April the 4th, 1968.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And my father-in-law and I went to a – an event called Memphis Cares. It was held at Crump Stadium, and it practically was full. Blacks and whites went together to learn about what had caused

the assassination, and to learn about just exactly what the sanitation workers' strike was about. See, I thought it was a union management problem. I thought that this union was coming into Memphis and taking advantage of unsophisticated black workers for the money.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I had even written Henry Loeb, stay the course. Don't let them come and take advantage of our people. And I did not understand unionism. I was middle class. I didn't know anyone who was ever in a union. None of my family were in crafts, skills. And I genuinely thought that the union was just coming in and doing this.

Well, anyway, at Memphis Cares, there were union speakers. There were civil rights speakers. But there was a wonderful woman there who taught at Melrose School, and her name was Mary Collier. And Ms. Collier gave a talk that explained that this was more than a labor issue. This was a matter of race.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I sat there and I listened to her, and that was different than what I had been thinking. So I came home, and I found her in the phone book, and I called her on the telephone. And I said, "Ms. Collier," she didn't know me, but I heard her today, and I just thought she was so articulate about what she was saying, but I didn't understand. Tell me why this was a race issue and not a labor management issue again.

And she said, all of the sanitation workers are black. All of the truck drivers and supervisors are white. If it rains, the sanitation workers don't get paid, but the supervisors and the truck drivers still did. And that that couldn't happen except in an environment of race, where one group thought the other inferior, and not worthy of having all the considerations of the white power structure.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I said, "Would you be willing to come to my house and discuss this with some friends of mine?" And she said, "I would be delighted." So I had a tea, and I invited all my Jewish friends, which was all I had. I didn't have any non-Jewish friends, really, at the time, except my old college friends here. We stayed in touch some.

And I invited them all over. Well, Ms. Collier couldn't come, and she sent somebody else. She sent this white woman, she was a professor at the university. Her name was Dr. Phillips. And Dr. Phillips started off this conversation in front of all my Jewish friends, that the darkest day in the history of the world was April the 4th, 1968, when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: Well, everybody in the room thought the darkest day in American history was the rise of Adolph Hitler and the extermination of six million Jews. And so she turned them off with her first sentence. But I listened, and I – anyway, when she was through, my friends left. They walked out the door. They were shaking their heads at me. They said, "Jocelyn, what are you getting into? Jocelyn, don't do this. This woman's crazy." And they walked out the door, and I walked into a whole new – new life.

I immediately started going to events in town of the Human Relations Committee. I subscribed to the *Tri-State Defender*. I started reading – I guess *Soul on Ice* was out then. I don't know. I started reading. Started reading things to help me understand race.

Video Cut: 00:35:59

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I had read here in college Richard Wright, and I remembered being impacted by that, but my fault with Southwestern at the time was there was a whole Civil Rights Movement going on in the late '50s, and it was not mentioned in any of my classrooms whatsoever. Not in the literature, not in – you know, not in English. Even the sociology class, he hinted at it. We studied African tribes. I'm extremely fond and collect African art. That started with my primitive art class here at Rhodes.

But nothing taught me about civil rights on the college campus. Well, my friends who'd all gone up to Eastern school were coming back talking about it, and you know, we weren't reading what they were reading up at Yale and Harvard and those sort of places.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: We weren't doing it here. And the only bit of real civil rights I got, there was a news team back in my day called Huntley and Brinkley. And 30 minutes news, they may have five or four

minutes about civil rights movement going on. Well, I did see dogs being unleashed on people, and I thought it was terrible, but it didn't have anything to do with me, I didn't think, you know.

And I remember once announcing to the girls at the bridge game, "No, I think my heart's on a Freedom Ride bus," but I just dealt the cards, and – you know, and didn't do anything. So here, all of a sudden, it was thrown in my face. This was an assassination in my city, of the most renowned civil rights activist, you know, in our country.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I didn't understand what that was all about. So I set about this course of study. Well, to answer your question, our temple had had a program once from Little Rock, Arkansas. Some women came over from the Little Rock Panel of American Women, and they presented what the panel does. Now the panel was a speaker's program. It was a very mild introduction into human relations. Okay? The panel consisted of a Catholic, a Jew, an African-American, and a white majority. We didn't say Protestant, but white majority.

And each of us spoke about prejudice and how it affected our lives. And we talked about anti-Semitism, and I talked about my experience here.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: The Catholic talked about crosses have been burned on Catholic yards, as well as black yards. Then the African-American spoke about prejudice, and how trying to rear children in a prejudice-free world, and not to hate people who were prejudice against you. And then the white majority's role was to speak about, you know, I can go anywhere, do anything my education and money will allow. There are no restrictions of where she can buy a house. You know, Memphis used to be restricted. Certain neighborhoods wouldn't let Jews in. And of course, we were segregated.

And that was her role, to say, you know, it's really the responsibility of us in the majority to stop this nonsense, and so forth. Then after we spoke, we would allow the audience to ask us questions.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: Well, okay. So this Little Rock panel came to our ___, and right after – right after the assassination, the National Conference of Christians and Jews held a conference called Rearing Children of Goodwill. And I'm sitting there watching this, because I wanted to rear children of goodwill, and this man is sitting next to me, and I went, "Oh, they're doing the Panel of American Women." And he said, "What's that?"

And so I explained what it was, and there was a group from Little Rock. And he said, "How can I get in touch with them?" I said, "All I know is one of the panelists was named Brownie. Call your chapter over there." And he did. And he brought in the woman who started the Panel of American Women to Memphis.

Video Cut: 00:40:45

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Well, this man said to me, "How do I find out about this Panel of American Women?" And so he got in touch with the Little Rock group that had come to visit Memphis, and found the person. And the next thing I know, the National Conference of Christians and Jews calls me to see if I would be willing to come and meet a woman named Esther Brown, who was coming from Kansas City to Memphis, to help start a Panel of American Women here in Memphis. And I said, "Sure."

And I took her to lunch, and she had a hospital armband on. And she was a dynamic speaker, a dynamic woman. I mean, she was just one of these people who you're having lunch with, and oh, you know, what's she done. She knew the Ms. Brown of Brown versus Board of Education, and helped raise the money for that lawsuit.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So she – here she was from – well, Kansas City, but I think Missouri, but – and that was a Kansas case. But anyway, she spoke to me, and then we went and met at – at a meeting that the National Conference of Christians and Jews had gathered women, interracial. And Ms. Brown spoke about the panel, and how it works, and that each city that had a chapter was autonomous, and that she had hoped that Memphis, Tennessee, would start one, and Ms. Wurzberg here will be your coordinator.

And this is an absolute, total dictatorship. You don't have to do a thing except get your speech approved by Ms. Wurzberg and then serve on panels whenever she calls to ask you. So this is not a

democratic participatory organization. This is a project. She's going to run it. And we want your total participation.

[0:42:47]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And that was a surprise to me, because she hadn't said anything to me about this. So when I drove her back to the airport, I said, "Do you go around the country doing this to people?" She said, "Yes." I said, "How do you pay for this?" She says, "I got a grant for race relations work here in Kansas City, and since I'm dying of cancer," hence the armband, she says, "I figured I'm just going to take the money and I'm going to run around the country, and I'm going to start these panels. What are they going to do to me? Put me in jail?" She was an exciting woman.

And the panel started – she needed a brotherhood month program at her temple, and she had a group, a Catholic, a Jew, a black, and a white majority serve this panel, and people in the audience were stunned. And they said, "Will you come to our church next week?" And then somebody was there from out of town. Would you help me start one of these in Philadelphia? And it spread all over the country. There were about 70 something by the time they came to Memphis, Panels of American Women.

[0:43:48]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And we practiced – we wrote our speeches. Every category had to get together and study very hard all of the issues they felt they should be, say, in a Catholic speech. They wanted to talk about, we believe in separation of church and state. At least back then they did. And the Jews wanted everyone to understand how anti-Semitism worked, and what Israel meant to us.

And the black panelist needed to talk about trying to rear a child and not – like one of the black panelists said, mama, is Jesus black or white? And then she said, "Well, honey, we don't really know. Why?" "Well, if he's white, he couldn't love me." I mean, you can imagine the impact on an audience for a black mother to have to relate this story, you know, particularly at churches, when we went to churches. You know, that was real impactful.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: Anyway, the panel worked for nine months, honing our speaking skills, crafting our stories for the greatest impact. See, you can write something for reading, but that's different than writing for

listening. And so our speeches had to be written for the hearing, and not for the reading. And so that means your subject can't be too far away from your predicate. You know, there are all kinds of little tricks about that.

But anyway, we rehearsed, and we finally opened – we had our first meeting for our husbands, and we gave our panel, and there was dead silence afterwards. And we said, "Is this not good?" And the husbands said, "We don't know what to say. This is absolutely stunning."

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: What was stunning about it was we were just housewives and mothers. We weren't paid by anybody to do this. We –

Video Cut: 00:45:52

Jocelyn Wurzberg: The panel launched itself after our husbands heard us, and as I say, they were flabbergasted. The reason the panel worked was we never pointed the finger at anybody. We only pointed a finger at ourselves, and about our own prejudices. And of course, we hoped that if any of them were applicable to anyone in the audience, they might think about that. Then after the presentation, we threw it open for questions, so people could ask someone Jewish a question that they'd always wanted to ask. We had a pamphlet that said, everything you ever wanted to know about other races and religions, but was afraid to ask.

And so you could ask – and I learned so much. I remember one of our Catholic panelists was a sister.

[0:46:44]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And we had lunch one day, and we went to the bathroom, and she took this thing off and started brushing her hair. I said, "I thought you were bald." She says, "No. Some orders do do that, but no." And so I really – you know, I didn't know. And so – anyway, we spoke in Memphis – I hope I get my figures right, because I think I've been exaggerating. We spoke for a decade in over 1,000 engagements around Memphis, Eastern Arkansas, North Mississippi, and around West Tennessee.

And I think we probably reached over 100,000 people in that decade, because I know one time we did it for the Memphis City School System. We had four panels speaking at the same time,

and we did four of those consecutively. So we had 16 panels in one day with hundreds of people in each room, who for – you know, all the in services. It was in service training for the Memphis City School System.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So what the panel was was a mild introduction to human relations work. And it was based on the premise that racism – there are three kinds of racism. There's institutional racism that's systemic, that works on an institutional level, such as the phone company charging deposits for telephones with people of certain zip codes, but not in my zip code, and the certain zip codes were black folk. Okay.

There's symbolic racism. Angel food cake is white, and devil's food cake is black. You know, it goes on.

And then there is attitudinal racism, and this is where your internal prejudices are. And our job was to work on attitudinal racism.

[0:48:46]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And after I did it for a number of years, I really realized that where it's really at is attacking institutions. And hopefully, the panel's philosophy was, well, we're going to work here in the grass roots, working on an attitudinal level, and maybe – maybe thinking in better terms of goodwill will flow up, and if we worked on institutions up here at the same time, it would flow down. And so if we could change institutions, and in the meantime be changing personal attitudes, it'd be easier for the institutions to change. And so that was our philosophy.

But the Police Department came under a court order to do race relations work, and they called on the panel. I said, "Whoo, no, no, no. You're under court order to do intensive race relations work for the Police Department. We are a mild introduction. So no, you're not going to use us and then tell the Department of Justice, 'We've used the Panel of American Women.' Now we'll come and be your first two hours, but no, you know, we're not – we're not of the level of what you need to work on police brutality and police prejudice and that sort of thing."

[0:49:58]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: So but – so we – the reason it was so very effective is we remained ladies. We didn't speak for anyone. No one paid us to do this. We did ask for an honorarium to pay for babysitters, you know, so we'd get may $20 or so to show up, and then I could pay babysitters when we needed to.

And I'd say not being accusatory and – so we were acceptable. It was really a mild-mannered presentation that really – that really just got folks to thinking. And we know that it – that it was effective because we got feedback from it.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I remember once being in a grocery store, and somebody said, "You're Ms. Wurzberg, aren't you?" And I said, "Yes." And she said, "Our church had you and the Panel of American Women come and speak with us, and we decided to start a day care center in the neighborhood." And so people would share things with us.

And I never will forget this, as long as I live. I had my six-year-old daughter with me downtown at some event at the Auditorium. And when we came out, it was pouring down raining, and it was lightning. And we were parked a few blocks away. And I said, "Cheryl, do you think you'd be afraid if I left you right here at the door, and I went and got the car, and I came back and got you." And she looked at me, and she said, "I think I'm going to be afraid."

[0:51:40]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And I hear this voice behind me. It said, "Ms. Wurzberg, you don't know me, but I saw you perform on a Panel of American Women. Would it be all right with Cheryl if I stay here and stay with her till you go and get the car?" I mean, you know, that's nice. That was really nice. That was great feedback.

And so, I mean, people recommended us to come to their church, and so we felt like we were pretty well-accepted in town. And it was because we didn't point fingers. And I was telling someone the other day – I was reminiscing with someone, we accidentally got invited to the Shelby County Council of Civic Clubs. Happy Jones, who y'all have got to interview, Happy Jones was sitting on an airplane with this guy, and they started talking, and what do you? And she said, "Oh, I'm with the Panel of American Women." He says, "Oh, well, our civic club would love to have

you come." And she knew who they were. They were the White Citizens Council.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And she says, "We would love to come." "Well, you're a good, patriotic group?" "Oh, yes. We're really patriotic." And so we went. We took our husbands with us that night. We were a little nervous.

And so we presented this panel, and when we finished, this man said – turned to the group and he says, "I thought they were some patriotic group. I didn't know what they were about." And he turned to us, "And I didn't tell you who we were." And I said, "Don't worry. We're fine. We are patriotic. We're delighted to be here. It's time for questions. Let's have at it."

And so – well, our husbands were sitting in the back. And they – they heard somebody there say, "Ask the nigger this. Ask the nigger this question." But then they raised their hand, "We'd like to ask the black lady."

Video Cut: 00:53:44

Jocelyn Wurzberg: So when they actually asked the question, they knew to refrain it. And it may be the first time they ever refrained a question. And so when our husbands reported that afterwards, what they – you know, what they were hearing back there, and the polite way – because again, we're ladies, and we're in gloves, and you know, they could be cluckers, but they didn't – you know, they at least had some manners.

And so we – we worked for about a decade. And then the feminist movement had come in somewhere around our fifth, sixth year. And there was a big debate whether we should bring feminism onto the panel. And our black panelist said, no, that's going to deflect from black/white issues. And so we really were interested in black/white issues.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: But we couched it in terms of prejudice against religion and races, so that by the time the Catholic spoke and the Jewish person spoke, when the black person spoke, the audience was ready and able to – you know, to accept what she was going to share with us.

So anyway, the feminist movement came in, and while we decided not to address feminism as an ism, we did begin to go back – you know, we started going back to schools. And the panel sort of broke up, because everybody was deciding they could do more, now that their children were a little grown, and getting up. And most of us – a lot of us went back to school. I went back to law school when I was 36, and didn't finish till I was 40.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: The panel for me led to some other experiences that were very important. The second year the panel was in existence was 1969. Now what a lot of people didn't realize was the sanitation workers' strike of '68 was for recognition and for the right to join a union, and for checkoff. Checkoff is where the employer deducts the dues and sends it to the union, kind of like your United Way pledge. They deduct it from your paycheck and send the check to charity.

So when they were saying, "Oh, no. We can't do checkoff." Yeah, you do. You do checkoff all the time for United Way and others. The 1969 strike was over hours, wages, and working conditions.

[0:56:46]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: So the following year, there was going to be another strike, only this time, it wasn't in March and April. It was going to be in June. Well, Memphis in June, and garbage on the streets, that wasn't going to be very good.

So the union had really sort of backed itself into a corner, and wasn't able to come out, and the City was certainly backed in a corner. They were not negotiating in good faith. And there was going to be another strike.

And the sanitation workers had a strategy, which was really very clever. There were no uniforms as a sanitation worker, so people had to go in their own clothes, and then bring these nasty clothes into their homes, you know, to be washed or put aside to put back on the next day, left outdoors, you know. It was bad.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: Because these cans that – they used to come to the backyard and dump your garbage into these tubs, and often you put the tub on

your head and walked away. Well, some of the tubs leaked. I mean, this was a nasty job, being a sanitation worker. It's – we quickly discovered that it – we were willing to pay for that. If it meant paying more to sanitation workers, we liked that a lot better than our taking the garbage down to the street, which we all now have to do anyway.

Anyway, their strategy was that we're going to wear our garbage clothes, and we're going to go shopping in the East Memphis shopping malls. And of course, they weren't going to buy anything. They were just going to mill around and look at clothes and things, and just have a huge presence.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And they were hitting a different mall every week. Well, here it was June, and it was almost Father's Day. So there was a human relations committee that had been formed after Dr. King's assassination, and they – the union went to them and said, "You've got to do something, or we're going to have to strike." And the human relations committee, a man named Lester Rosen, called me, and asked, "We have an idea. Would the Panel of American Women be willing to, in exchange for the sanitation workers coming to East Memphis to mill around and protest, demonstrate, would you be willing to get on a bus and go into the homes of sanitation workers?"

Video Cut: 00:59:43

Jocelyn Wurzberg: "And see how somebody who worked very, very hard for our City had to live on poverty wages?" So I called the panel together, and they said they would be willing to do it, but we couldn't do it in the name of the panel, because the panel didn't take stands, political or otherwise. You know, that was – that kept us free to be able just to talk about things without being pegged as liberals or conservatives. We were obviously liberals, but anyway.

So as the only Republican panel coordinator, in the country, it was discovered – and here I – here I was just becoming more and more liberal about my whole expansive mindset and everything. But our panel agreed that we would do it. And so we called for anyone who would like to ride with us. We were going to meet in Laurel Wood.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And we met in Laurel Wood, and the union had to send for three more – two more buses, that enough women showed up of good will to load three buses. And the Reverend James Lawson was on our bus, and I am so naïve, and said, "How in the world can the sanitation workers pay for renting three buses?" I didn't know anything about unionism. They were being funded from Washington and New York, AFSCME union, you know. I didn't know. How could these guys afford buses, you know? I was so dumb.

Anyway, we did. We toured the homes of sanitation workers. And we came back to Laurel Wood, and across the street from Laurel Wood, where Oak Court is now, was Siena College. It was a Catholic women's school. And some sisters road with us on the bus, and they said we were welcome to come over there afterwards and meet.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And we did. We got off the buses and we went over there and said, "What are we going to do now?" Because what we saw wasn't right, and it wasn't fair. Nobody should have to live in the conditions they were living with, if they're employed. I mean, if you're working, you ought to have a right to a wage you can live on. We're still fighting that battle today, because we're fighting for a living wage. We got the City and the County has approved a living wage. Y'all know what a – how much a living wage is? It's $10 an hour with benefits, $12 an hour without benefits. And I'm not even sure that's a living wage anymore. And I don't know anybody getting away with just $10 and $12 an hour for – anyway.

But nevertheless, they were sub-minimum wage, and there's no way to live like that. And so we formed an organization called the Concerned Women of Memphis and Shelby County. And we decided, now what do we do? We have seen the union side of the argument.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: So we decided that we would go the following Tuesday down to City Hall, en masse, and protest that we did not want another strike in Memphis. And we went before City Council and demanded that the union and the City, and we were not going to take sides in this labor dispute, but we charged both of them to come back to the bargaining table, and bargain in good faith, because we weren't

going to have the disease, the trash, the ugliness of trash accumulating on our curbs, and not be – being picked up in the hot summer months.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And Carol Lynn Yellin, of blessed memory, she was sort of our mother of feminism in Memphis. She wrote *The Perfect 36*, which is the story of how Tennessee became the 36th state in the nation to give women the right to vote. And she chronicled that with a woman named Dr. Jan Sherman, at the University of Memphis.

And Carol Lynn was our – sort of our mother feminist. She really proclaimed that the women marching on City Hall was probably the beginning of the feminist movement in Memphis, Tennessee. And of course, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of that, in, you know, 2009, because it was the year later than the strike that brought Dr. King to Memphis.

Video Cut: 01:04:38

Jocelyn Wurzberg: The Concerned Women of Memphis and Shelby County drew a – kind of like Common Ground did the other night. We had about a 25-point plan of things that would help solve the problem. We wanted to end poverty, hunger, and the racism in the City of Memphis. That was our goals.

The hunger part was very interesting. There was a wonderful, wonderful two women here by the name of Myra Dreyfuss and Selma Lewis. And they – they worked their hearts out to help get the City school system to provide breakfast and free lunches for children who were too poor to eat in school. How in the world can they study and go to school all day if they come with hungry stomachs, and even during the day, when everybody else could go to the cafeteria and eat, they didn't have any food to eat.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: Now the Memphis City School System is 80 percent free lunch, free food. That's amazing. So these two women were working on the hunger portion, and we all backed them up. And it was called the Funds for Needy School Children, and with the power of all of us women behind them.

The *Press-Scimitar*, which was our evening paper at the time, had a cartoon about us. It showed a City Councilman coming home, and in the window, with the shade pulled down, was a picture of a woman with – what do you call it, a rolling pin? You know what a rolling pin is? You roll out your pie crust. Sitting at the window, getting ready to beat that City Councilman over the head if he didn't acquiesce to what we women wanted. So it was interesting.

[1:06:41]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Wyeth Chandler was the – was on the City Council, and he said, "Oh, I know you women have seen people who live in poverty when you'd take your maids home." And I said, "No, sir. We see it when we go and visit our friends who are black and have to live in neighborhoods because we don't have open housing here in Memphis."

And for me, I was the spokesperson, and for me, it was like an out of body experience. And I swear to you, I was the spokesperson, and I was tarrying with the City Councilman's questions, and it was like me watching this person, and somebody was speaking through me, and being sharp and answering these questions. I've heard other people talk about this before.

[1:07:42]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I had never done anything like that, except talk on the panel, you know, and I took speech in high school. But I mean, this was – this was a different experience. And it was also a very disconcerting experience for so many of us. The leaders of this, including myself, got harassed terribly. One of our leaders, Ann Shafer – y'all've got to interview Ann, if you haven't. Ann Shafer had two tons of sand dumped in her yard. I had – poor things. I had different salesmen scheduled who arrived at my house every 30 minutes to sell me things. That is a cruel hoax on somebody, to send you a vacuum cleaner salesman and a upholstery person to redo – and a drapery person. I ended up buying a vacuum cleaner, I felt so sorry for the guy.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: I bought a Kirby vacuum cleaner, and I redid the couch, and all these people – I said, "I did not call for you. You are the victim of a hoax. But come on in. I'll see what you got."

And so it – we had to get another telephone line. Hate calls. People aren't very nice about this. And we got a lot of threats, and my children's itinerary was sent to me in the mail. And that scared us, and my husband yanked me from the leadership of this thing and said, "You're too easy to find. You cannot do this anymore."

And the company was being threatened, and people canceling orders for our business. And so my girlfriend – and that's another long story, but I won't go into that – Happy Snowden Jones, she was out of town, and she came back in. And she said, "What have you gotten yourself into?"

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: I says, "A lot of shit, and you've got to take it over. They can't find Jones in the phone book, but they can find Wurzberg real easily." She says, "Okay." So she took it over, and then – well, she and her husband got their divorce before my husband and I got our divorce. But anyway, my husband agreed with everything, but he didn't want me the one doing it. And it was hard on him, and it was hard on the family. And it's a family business, and the cousins were yelling, "Shut her up," and I wouldn't be shut up.

And it's – it's hard. It was hard. And you kind of wondered sometimes if your new black friends were really understanding that this is hard on everybody.

Video Cut: 01:10:49

Jocelyn Wurzberg: You know, when you – when you do speak out and the majority doesn't like it, they're not real nice, you know. So – anyway, we got through that, and the last thing, unless y'all have other questions – that I can say as a result of the panel, Winfield Dunn, who was Governor of Tennessee back in the early '70s, and I had worked for him, appointed me to a commission called the Commission on Human Development, a State commission. And the idea of it was to address employment discrimination.

And I thought, well, that's interesting. This is systemic, institutional work. Yeah. This is good.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And so I joined the Commission, and I said, "Now how does this work?" And they said, "Well, somebody files a complaint of

discrimination, and we go to the employer, and ask will he voluntarily quit discriminating." And I said, "Voluntarily quit discriminating? I mean, we don't have any power?" And they said, "No. We don't have a law." And I said, "Well, what would it take to get a law?"

They said, "Well, someone needs to write one, and then we try and get it through the legislature." And I said, "Okay." So I proceeded to write a law. And it took months. It took nine months. I keep birthing these things in a nine-month period of time. It took nine months to write this legislation.

Well, let me tell you. This legislation became very important, because there were 11 states in the Union that didn't have an enforceable law addressing employment discrimination.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And those states looked like the southeast football conference states. And the civil rights community nationally was concerned of how the first southern states would go, so might go all the others. Okay?

So the EEOC helped me write this bill. The Lawyers' Committee Against Discrimination helped write this bill. People from North Carolina came over and helped me. People from Kentucky who did have a bill, but not a very good one, came and told me what was wrong with their bill, and don't do it in my bill.

And this became – now this is before computers. And this is with carbon paper. You know what carbon paper is? It was paper that had purple layer of gunk on the back, and you would type on it, and that purple stuff would make an image of what you were typing on the piece of paper beneath it.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And sometimes you could put two of them in at a time. And so hardly anyone had a copying machine, you know. So anyway, it took a long time to write it and to make it just – it is called the best state bill in the country, not because I knew anything about it, but that's a great story about it. When I finished it, I took the bill to a man named Avon Williams in Nashville, Tennessee, who was a State Senator, and he was sort of the leading civil rights man in Nashville. In fact, I think at Fisk there's a Avon Williams – or maybe at Tennessee State. There's a –

Kadija Hassan: Tennessee.

Jocelyn Wurzberg: – Avon Williams building. And so I went to him, and he didn't stand up when I entered the room. And he – well, he looked up, and he says, "Yes?" And I said, "Mr. Williams, may I sit down?"

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: "Yes, of course." I said, "I have written legislation, a fair employment practice enforceable law, and I would like for you to be the sponsor of it." And he took the bill, thumbed through it. "Wurzberg?" I said, "Yes, sir." "Ms. Wurzberg, where were you when I wrote my legislation?" I said, "Playing bridge at the country club," which infuriated him.

And he picks up the Dictaphone, and he says, "A letter, please, to Mr. William Robinson, Lawyers' Committee Against Discrimination, something something, Washington, DC. Dear Bill, please review the following legislation and get back to me and let me know what you think about it, sincerely, Avon." And put it down.

He says, "I will get back with you in a few weeks." And I said, "Yes, sir." And I got up and left. And he calls me on the phone.

[1:15:39]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: "Ms. Wurzberg?" "Yes, sir." "Why didn't you tell me Mr. Robinson helped you write your legislation?" I said, "Mr. Williams, I was so afraid of you." I said, "You scared me to death." I said, "I wasn't going to open my mouth to anything that you said." He said, "I'll be happy to sponsor your bill."

Well, that was in 1972. In 1979, the legislation finally passed. And he called me up to say, "Ms. Wurzberg, I'm happy to announce to you – " Now I went and lobbied this for two years, and then I just gave up. He said, "I'm happy to announce to you that your legislation has passed the Tennessee legislature. It is now law." I said, "Oh, Mr. Williams, I wish I had been there to see you debate the bill on the floor of the Senate."

He said, "Ms. Wurzberg, there was no debate. I traded it for a trucking weight bill." That's how the Tennessee law...

Well, the process of writing the law, I decided I wanted to be appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and since I had all these Republican credentials, and it was Nixon in the White House, I went to Bill Brock, and I went to Howard Baker, and told them I wanted to be appointed to the Commission.

Video Cut: 01:16:47

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And would you sponsor me? And they said, well, okay. And so they forwarded my name to the White House. And I thought, since the vacancy wasn't going to be up for a year, I would go to law school if I could get in to learn a new vocabulary and command of a library. I did not want to be a lawyer.

Well, as you know, Nixon got thrown out, and I did not get the job. And so then what? Well, I had two semesters of law school. I would go on back to law school. So I went back to law school, and Gerald Ford, who took over for Nixon, appointed me to what's called the International Women's – the National Commission for the Observance of International Women's Year. The United Nations had declared the Decade for Women to be the '70s, and every country had to somehow commemorate the Decade for Women.

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Jocelyn Wurzberg: And so the United States formed a commission to do the International Women's Year, and Gerald Ford appointed me to sit, since I didn't get appointed to the other. And went to it for about a year and a half, and I got to meet people like Coretta Scott King and Gloria Steinem and Jean Stapleton. And it was – it was tremendous fun. And we put on the conference in Houston that was the first national conference for women. So all of these things led from the Panel of American Women to all these other things.

Kadija Hassan: Well, to sum up and to wrap it up, what has been your greatest contribution to the Memphis community, and how do you feel you will be remembered?

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Oh, my.

[1:18:41]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: Well, probably the Panel of American Women, if for no other reason, while the panel quit doing panels in 1979, we have

remained friends. These were new, life-long friendships. And I, who had never had non-Jewish real friends, except here at Southwestern, my close friends were African-Americans, Christians, Catholics, Greek Orthodox. That's the greatest thing for me.

The greatest thing for Memphis? Oh, I don't know. I chaired the King Memorial, which is sitting in front of the Cannon Center door.

[1:19:46]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: It's a wonderful piece of art in public places. I chaired that with Lucius Birch. Started the Jazz Society of Memphis. We had a good time doing that. That was integrated and a lot of fun. I guess Concerned Women – I guess averting the second threatened garbage strike had – if it weren't us, it may have been someone else, but it happened to be us.

I think helping to avert that strike was probably the most important contribution that we women made at the time. How will I be remembered? That's going to be a mixed bag.

[1:20:41]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: I don't know. Just – I don't know of a whole lot of people who know about all this. I mean, you know, not a whole lot of folks. I get occasionally a – I keep – I have an archive at the University of Memphis. They selected me as one of their archivists, so every piece of paper about all these things are deposited over at the University. And occasionally, students find out about it, and I get kids who come over and want to interview me about some project or another. Somebody's done a term paper on Concerned Women.

There is a woman now doing her doctorate thesis on the Panel of American Women. And I don't know. I just – my kids never really got into what I was doing.

[1:21:41]

Jocelyn Wurzberg: And as they said, "Mama, you've got to remember, you weren't home a lot, running off and doing these things, so we aren't as excited and enamored with a lot of your work." And I kept excusing myself for not being a stay-at-home mom, thinking I was doing this for my children, you know, but I don't know. I've kept a

lot of scrapbooks, and I've got the archives. Maybe they'll read about me and like it. They're more conservative than I am.

Kadija Hassan: Well, Ms. Wurzberg, on behalf of the Crossroads to Freedom, we'd like to thank you for agreeing to do this interview with us. It's been our pleasure.

[End of Audio]