

## Oral History

### Justin and Debbie

July 3, 2020

**Justin:** Alright. Are you there?

**Debbie:** Yes.

**Justin:** Hey, so today, the reason why I had to merge the call is because I'm using an app to record the phone call...our conversations and it goes through this phone number. And I have to call it and then call you to make it record. Just up front, is it okay if I record our conversation today?

**Debbie:** Sure, sure.

**Justin:** Excellent. I'm going to go over a release form with you. At the end of it, just give your full name and say if you agree to it or not. From what I understand, I think professor E---- told us today, there will be somebody from Forsyth County stopping by to provide you with the actual physical copy of this release form to sign, but we're going to go ahead and cover it on the phone in case something happens and they don't get a chance to do that.

**Debbie:** Ok.

**Justin:** Alright, so it reads as follows: I grant to University of North Georgia non-exclusive license to archive and make accessible the submitted materials according to accepted archival standards and principles for future generations of students, researchers, and scholars. This includes creating metadata, finding aids, and full-text search interface required for preservation and discoverability; making them accessible for researchers and UNG faculty/staff; using the materials in exhibits and displays, both physical and online. I retain ownership and copyright of the materials and thereby retain the right to use all or part of it in the future.

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**Debbie:** Ok.

**Justin:** And that's it.

**Debbie:** Ok. So, my name is Debra Rankin and I agree.

**Justin:** Alright, thank you Debbie, I appreciate that. So, how's the week been going? How was choir practice?

**Debbie:** Oh, it was awesome. We're going to sing God Bless the USA and America the Beautiful on Sunday.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** We all need to wear our red, white, and blue.

**Justin:** oh, ok. Do you already have your outfit picked out?

**Debbie:** Of course, of course.

**Justin:** I had a feeling, yes.

**Debbie:** Yes, I do.

**Justin:** Very nice. Did you guys have a good lunch, yesterday? Or do you do lunch with the Sunday school group on Thursdays?

**Debbie:** Yeah, we do lunch. We had our meeting yesterday and we're gonna have it next week on Tuesday because some of the folks couldn't come on Thursday. So, we're gonna do it next week on Tuesday at lunch time.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** It's been good. It's better than the Zoom.

**Justin:** I...I know.

**Debbie:** And we've had really good attendance. There was probably 11 or 12 people there. And our class is maybe 15 or 20. Most people are coming, so it's really good.

**Justin:** That's good, I'm glad to hear that. I know with the spike with the resurfacing of the corona virus, these new daily highs and stuff, are you guys doing anything to kind of...are you wearing masks doing precautions or what are you guys doing?

**Debbie:** They do the masks, and in the church what they've done is removed several rows, like they have a bunch of chairs so they can move the rows easily. So, they moved out some of the rows so each row is more than six feet apart. Then they seat people by families, and you know, your family can sit together, but then they separate with at least six feet between each group that sits there.

**Justin:** Ok

**Debbie:** And we're doing the same in choir. And most people wear their masks until they get seated. And then while they're sitting there, they take their mask off.

**Justin:** ok. That sounds pretty good.

**Debbie:** I mean, that's the best, I mean, I don't know. Sometimes I wonder about you know, the numbers they use for covid-19. I'm not comfortable that those are very accurate to be honest.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Debbie:** So...

**Justin:** I definitely understand that.

**Debbie:** I'm not even sure the number of people who die from it really have it.

**Justin:** Mhmm.

**Debbie:** So I think they're...I think the government is kind of blowing this more than it needs to be and that's just my opinion, for what it's worth. I'm still staying pretty much home, but my sister was saying are you sure you really want to go to church? And I said, "look I feel just as safe at church as I do at Kroger, or safer." So...I've been going to Kroger since the whole time, so you know. I know at the church they're doing everything possible because they have a lot of elderly people that they do not want to, you know, take any chances at making them sick. So I feel like they're doing everything they can and to me that's, that's all you can expect, you know.

**Justin:** Yea. Ok, alright. So today, we're gonna hit on some of the questions that we kind of breezed over a little bit in the past.

**Debbie:** Ok.

**Justin:** So now that kind of gives us the opportunity to you know, get some idea of what we want to talk about. So today, I'm going to do two of the questions. The first one is gonna be about the most difficult times of your life and then we're going to talk about after that, if it's ok with you, the happiest times of your life. So we can kind of end it on a happier note.

**Debbie:** That sounds good.

**Justin:** Before we end the conversation. I would rather structure it that way if that's ok with you.

**Debbie:** That's fine.

**Justin:** Ok, good. Alright, so what...so go...just, you know your earlier years, all the way up. It doesn't matter what period, and I definitely encourage you to pull from multiple times and multiple eras of your life. For both of these questions. So what were the most difficult times of your life?

**Debbie:** There's probably been a couple. One more than others. But I guess starting from back as a child, I was overweight as a child and I was very self-conscious of that, and I wasn't like really

bad if you look at the pictures, but I was still kidded a lot in school. And kids can be so cruel. I really never felt like I never felt good about myself until I got into my sophomore year in high school and I got into choir. And I excelled in choir, so that was one of the things that you know brought me out of this, which I guess you could say. I don't know that I would really consider...I think that's what teenagers go through all the time, so I don't really know that that is the most difficult, right?

**Justin:** Oh no, I mean even they can...

**Debbie:** It felt that way at the time.

**Justin:** Well yeah, I mean just because it's a shared experience with other people doesn't mean it was any less impactful to you dealing with that yourself. Absolutely.

**Debbie:** Yeah, like I see the stuff with the bullying on tv and you know how they do it now on the internet. Of course back then we didn't have the internet to do it that way, but, so I felt that way a lot. And so it's, you know, I don't...I appreciate when people I see people go through stuff like that. You know, it just shouldn't be that way. People should...we need to love everybody and the differences and whatever it is. It's like we just shouldn't judge people like that. But, anyway. So I guess the second time that I can really say was difficult for me was when I had the cancer. The liver cancer was difficult because I was very sick during that time. I was sick during the chemo some and had liver surgery where they removed 70% of my liver and then of course you know I had to recover from that and that's not easy surgery to recover from because it's across a foot, probably across my stomach that I had that injection and I had staples and all that fun stuff. And I know my husband was very worried at that time and because most people don't survive liver cancer. So I'm very lucky to be here and that I did survive it. That was in 2007. So I've been liver cancer free since they did the surgery. They had me do chemo, which was rough.

For six months, just to make sure they had gotten it all. And then in 2013 I had, I was diagnosed with lymphoma and I went through two years of treatment for that and I just recently found out I've got it again. So I'm still trying to figure out what treatment I'm going to have to do now. I...the doctor is waiting on the PET scan. I have a PET scan not this coming Tuesday, but the following Tuesday and he'll determine what to do after he has the PET scan. So that treatment was not as invasive and as difficult as the liver cancer treatment was. It was a lot harder on my body. And I really believe and even the oncologist believed that the lymphoma was caused from the chemo. So, who knows, I mean it's one of those things where they don't know for sure. But he, they think the lymphoma was caused from the chemo. But I guess the absolute most difficult time of my life was losing my husband and that was a combination of three things. Like they always say, it comes in threes, you know. Losing my dog, losing my husband, and losing my job all within in the matter of a few months. So, I really lost my whole identity. I can't explain it any better than that. I just feel like I lost who I was. And I'm still trying to figure that out. So, but losing him was the...I mean I still miss him. He'll be gone two years this month and you know, they say it gets better, so far I haven't...I haven't found it to be where I miss him any less or anything like that. So, I mean I still you know, have days that are good days and bad days. Still lose it sometimes. But those are probably the what I would consider the worst days of my life.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Debbie:** You know, it would have been 45 years this July that we were married, so. It's a long time to be with somebody and not have them around.

**Justin:** Yeah, well when is your anniversary?

**Debbie:** July 19<sup>th</sup>. And he passed away two days before that, so that makes the anniversary just that much harder.

**Justin:** Mhmm

**Debbie:** July is not a good month for me.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Debbie:** And it used to be a good month and it's not anymore. It's not a good month for me. So I just manage to get through it and August is his birthday month, so that one's not the best either, but. But it's day at a time, and challenge at a time and having supportive people around me. That gets you through the day sometimes.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Debbie:** So, I guess that's the worst times. Is there anything more you want me to say about...

**Justin:** Oh no, you're good. Whatever you want to share is is ok with me. So, let's spin it back so we can do some happy stuff. So, let's think about and once again, things from before from any...if you want to start chronologically from your earlier years and kind of go through some things that kind of stand out to you as some of the happiest times. However you want to tell it.

**Debbie:** ok, I guess my happiest times as a kid...I mean I was okay as a kid...I mean Christmas was always good for me. I told you about my dad always playing Santa Clause, you know, so that was always a happy time for me. I really had a good childhood, I just was, when I started school I started being a little introverted a little bit more and always worried people were talking about me and that kind of stuff. But then when I got in choir in high school...I dated one guy all the way through high school until my senior year. And we broke up my senior year and I was pretty happy all through that. I mean, I was not, you know...nothing big, you know. Nothing really stands out that I can say, you know. I made all state choir when I was a senior in high school and that's what broke up me and the guy because he didn't want me to go and I said, "I'm going." And he said, "you're not." And I said, "I am." You know, me being...I cannot stand for

somebody to tell me I can't do something. My husband learned that really early, you know. He would say "I'd rather you didn't," but he'd never say, "you can't."

**Justin:** He learned how to phrase that.

**Debbie:** That was one of those things that just didn't set well with me. And so I...he says "well I won't be here when you get back if you decide to go". And I said, "well this is a big deal, making all state choir was a big deal," I mean there was only six sopranos out of all of east Tennessee that got selected and I was one of them, so yeah, I'm going. You know, it was the most beautiful choir and it was, imagine the best of the best in the whole state, and it was just such a beautiful choir. I'd never been in anything that great. And we were there for, I don't know, maybe four or five days in Chattanooga, that's where they met, and so I just felt like when I went home we were broke up and that was a done deal. So when I actually saw him with somebody else, I realized...because mama had been saying all along that we were just good friends, more like brother and sister than we were boyfriend and girlfriend, but we were just been together so long we had just grown up together. And she just kept saying it's not it's not what you think it is. It's not your soul mate or whatever. And so when I could see him with somebody else and not be upset, I was like, ok well, evidently this one wasn't for me. But he ended up marrying a girl that I swear if you put our pictures side by side you wouldn't necessarily which was which. She looked more like me than even some of my cousins do. But she was two years younger than me and he got married to her. So, it worked out for her and he...his parents were really religions, he ended up becoming a preacher, himself. But it just wasn't right for me, you know. But I figured that out and went on to college and that's where I met Phil. I met Phil in college. We immediately had a connection when we met, and we were friends. But he had long hair, not long hair, but hair down to his collar bone and my dad just didn't like that. So, I was

nervous to date him because of that. And so, we were good friends and we talked a lot and shared a lot of things, but we didn't date. And he went to the service, he joined the Navy and I quit school. And when he came back from the Navy I was working at like a Burger Chef and he came into the Burger Chef when he came back home and of course he had all of his hair shaved off and I was like, "oh my gosh, you know, what was I thinking?" We had three dates and got engaged and six weeks later we got married.

**Justin:** Oh, I love it.

**Debbie:** So, you know. Stayed married for all that time, so would have been 45 years this year.

**Justin:** Mhmm. I love that you tell the story as in like you know, he came in and just he was this vision, you know like usually it's like...

**Debbie:** I mean it was like, "oh my gosh, what was I thinking? Why was I not interested in him," you know? And we'd been writing and it was nothing more than just two friends, you know, at the time. But, as soon as he walked in that door, I was like, "oh my goodness." So, funny how the hair made that much difference, but my dad was just so against that that was always a reason in the back of my mind because I wanted their approval, you know. And so that was always in the back of my mind and I don't know. It just was the weirdest thing when he came in that Burger Chef. But, you know, he was definitely...there's no doubt about it, he was my soul mate and we had a really good 43 years together. We lived in Connecticut, we lived in California. We started off in California. We lived in San Diego, California, first. Then we moved to Vallejo, California, which is near San Francisco. And then we moved to Connecticut, and then we moved to Idaho Falls, no we moved to Idaho Falls before Connecticut. Idaho Falls. There was a nuclear power plant out in the middle of nowhere in Idaho Falls so that's why we went there. He was a nuclear machinist mate.

**Justin:** Oh, wow.

**Debbie:** Yeah. Then we went to Connecticut and lived there for almost two years and that's when I went back to college and got my degree in computer science. Then we went to Hawaii and lived in Hawaii for almost two years. So, he was in the Navy for six years and he had got out of the Navy when we were in Hawaii. And then we came back home and we didn't stay home very long. And then we moved to Texas for a little bit. We were in Texas, in Bay City, Texas which is 80 miles south east of Houston. And neither of us liked Texas that much. Phil used to say, "the best thing about Texas is seeing welcome to Texas in the rear-view mirror." He was not crazy about Texas. The mosquitos were terrible. WE always used to say that the mosquitos were the state bird. I mean, they were so bad. I mean, I could go out and hang up laundry on the line and just be eat up with mosquitos, they were just so bad. Because it was a very low area and it was a lot of like...the yard was swampy a lot, you know. And so of course mosquitos loved that kind of area and then we moved back to Tennessee and we stayed there for a little while and Phil went back to college and got his degree in computer science. And I was working for a company called Tri Data which we did computer software for different things. For the restaurant industry, for the newspaper industry, we did a couple things for them. And then that...my company that I worked for as Phil was graduating from college, the company that I worked for was moving to Georgia and he didn't have a job because he was going back to school and so we figured it was better to move with the company, at least one of us would have a job. And he felt like in computer science he would find better luck finding a job in Atlanta than he would in Tennessee where we were in Kingsport. So we decided to pick up and move to Georgia, so we started out in Kennesaw in a trailer and then we bought a house in Marietta and lived there for 11 years, I guess, and then we bought our house in Cumming and lived here ever since.

**Justin:** Ok. So when you...what were some of your fondest memories of being in Hawaii? Because that's...not a lot of people get that opportunity to live somewhere like that. What was some of your favorite memories there?

**Debbie:** That was a wonderful place to live. Because we were in the military, we lived in military housing. So, housing was what was most expensive there. Because when we started to leave, we loved it so much, we started looking to find out, you know, how much it would probably cost us to live there. Oh my gosh, the cost of living is ridiculous in Hawaii. But because we were going to the commissary and all that, we were able to live very comfortably there. And we lived in housing right across from the airport and there was a tennis court, there was covered parking, there was like four little apartments together and we had two bedrooms. It was a two-bedroom apartment so we could have people come visit and of course everybody wanted to come see us when we were in Hawaii.

**Justin:** Imagine that.

**Debbie:** So we got to do a lot of sightseeing, you know, because people would come to visit. We would take them to luaus and you know, different places like that, so we really got to enjoy Hawaii. We didn't have a lot of money, Phil being in the Navy and I worked at a...I worked for Monarch Roofing Supply. I worked as a...I started off as an accounts receivable clerk and they weren't computerized and so by the time I left, everything they had was computerized and we didn't have our own computer, but we took it to a safeguard system that did all the computer work for us and so we were able to...he was able to scale down because the computers did a lot of the work and we could have our accounts receivables done really quickly; whereas, when you do it manually it took hours and hours and hours. I'll never forget, when I first started working there I walked into this office full of receipts that hadn't been posted, and he goes, "well, we've

been without an accounts receivable person for a little while.” And he goes, “I want you to be able to figure out whether people...you know...how much people owe us, so that when they want to charge more roofing material, we can say yes or no.” I said, “well, you’re going to have to give me a little bit of time to get this paperwork caught up, you know, before I can say who owes how much money.”

**Justin:** Right.

**Debbie:** And I had to do all of that manually.

**Justin:** Oh, wow.

**Debbie:** But I got it done and I was able to say who could charge and who couldn’t charge, and he pretty much left it up to me.

**Justin:** Oh, ok.

**Debbie:** Then he decided...guy was a really good guy, but he could cuss like a sailor, like oh my goodness, he was just something else. And he was building a house in Maui for his kids. He was divorced. Of course, it was for his ex-wife, too, but it was for his kids. He wanted his kids to have a good place to live and so he didn’t trust his ex-wife, so he put money in a bank account had me manage it and she had to send me receipts and I had to approve them. Oh, she hated that so much. But I mean, he, he even took me to the bank and put my name on his regular bank account because he wanted me to pay his bills for him. So, I paid his bills, like his Sears bill, his...I paid all his bills. So, when I was getting ready to leave, he didn’t even know what he owed. All of them come to me I paid them, he didn’t worry about them. So I had to sit him down and not only go through the business stuff he needed to take care of, I had to go through his personal stuff. And, well, when they hired the girl, well, I gave him three months’ notice because we found out when Phil was going to get out of the Navy. I told him, we’re gonna take two

weeks off after he gets out and just stay in Hawaii and enjoy ourselves and then we're going back home. So, I told him, I need a good, at least a month, to train somebody to do all of this. Getting all of the stuff ready for the computer and submitting it like it's supposed to be done and all of that. I need a good month to explain all this. Well, he started looking but not really that hard. So he didn't hire anybody until I was...I think I had a week, to train the girl. So, you know, here I am, trying to train her everything and I'm talking a mile a minute, "you need to do this, you need to do this, you need to do this." And she went to Jim and she says, there's no way one person can do all of what she does. And he says, "she's been doing it for a long time." And she said, "no, you have to hire two people." So, he ended up hiring two people to do my job. When we came back from Hawaii, I got a phone call from him, begging me to come back. He said they've got this place in such a mess. I said, "I told you I needed a month to train somebody."

**Justin:** Now see, if they would have had the internet at that time, you could have kept your job remotely, probably, and still worked and did all that. Right.

**Debbie:** It was such a mess. I mean, I used to have to go to job sites and collect money and all kinds of stuff. I mean it was a fun job, I really had a good time working there. And I loved the people I worked with, they were really cool people. And they kind of pick up that Hawaiian accent after a little while. And I'd be in my office and maybe mom or dad or somebody would call and I would come out and say something to one of the girls up front and they'd say, "you've been talking to those Tennessee people again, haven't you? That accent comes back as soon as you talk to them." I'm like, "yeah, it does."

**Justin:** It does creep out like that.

**Debbie:** It does. It does. But Hawaii was beautiful, we went to the beach a lot. Phil, being in the Navy, he had duty every third day he had to spend 24 hours on the boat, but he was, they didn't

go out for sea very much, because we were on a new commissioned boat. And the longest we were apart while he was in the navy was the trip to Hawaii. Because the boat had just got out of dry dock and they took the boat to Hawaii. I went to Tennessee and stayed with my mom and dad for a few weeks while Phil got settled in Hawaii and he was trying to get housing before I came. And that was the longest we were apart. But he was on a fast attack submarine. So fast attack submarines don't stay under water a long time, but they're gone a long time, typically when they go out, they're gone for like on a nine-month west pack.

**Justin:** Oh, wow.

**Debbie:** And so, we were very fortunate we got out of the Navy in March. In June, they went on a nine-month west pack. It took that long to get the boat in good enough shape to do that.

Because when they come out of dry dock, there's all kinds of problems they ran into when they were going into Hawaii. So, they went straight into dry dock when they got there and worked on the boat. And they'd go out for a week or so at a time, but they never longer than that. And then he...so we were very fortunate that he didn't have to go out all the time on long, on a long duty.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Debbie:** But we took advantage of being there, you know. Enjoyed... Loved going to Waikiki beach and just sit out. Both of us loved to sit out on the beach. We did a lot of that while we were there. And the last two weeks I did nothing but stay on the beach.

**Justin:** Oh, I don't blame you.

**Debbie:** I was like these are my last two weeks here, I'm gonna...we stayed at the Holly Cove, which is the Navy hotel in Waikiki and man I was on the beach from sunup to sundown and I was as brown as ginger. And I'll never forget, we didn't, when we left to go to Hawaii it was in the summertime, so we didn't take any coats or anything like that with us. We left them back

home and so we didn't have any coats when we came back home it was March and it was cold and I had on this little sun dress. I'll never forget it and this was before Tri Cities had indoor air...you know where you come in you don't have to go outside. I mean, you would actually exit the plane outside and walk across the tarmac, or whatever, walk across that and into the place. And I was freezing to death. Everybody was taking off their coats and giving them to us because... Your blood thins out when you're in a warm place like that. Christmas, I remember there a lot because, you know, because it's always warm weather, they go extra out for Christmas. They go all out for Christmas, and the floats are made out of real flowers.

**Justin:** Oh wow.

**Debbie:** So, you talk about the Christmas parade... oh my goodness, it was phenomenal and the floats, you just couldn't imagine how beautiful they were because it was all real flowers.

**Justin:** Did they do lights a lot too, like you see here on the main land, like you see Christmas lights?

**Debbie:** Yeah. Every neighborhood was lit up with Christmas because everybody went... you tried harder to make it feel like Christmas because the weather didn't feel like Christmas. But it was so pretty over there. Like I said, everybody came to visit. Phil's dad and his new wife, Phil's mom and my mom and dad. My grandmother came, my sister came, my great aunt came. We had a ton of people every time we turn around and Phil's brother and sister in law came and he proposed to her in front of Diamond Head while they were there.

**Justin:** Aww, that's so sweet.

**Debbie:** I don't remember anything bad about living there. I mean, it was just great place to live and we enjoyed every minute of it. And would have stayed if the cost of living wasn't so bad. But it there wasn't much we could do with it.

**Justin:** Right

**Debbie:** oh and that's the other thing. When you get a job in Hawaii, it doesn't pay a whole lot either. And you would think with the cost of living they would, but they don't because everybody wants your job. You know what I mean? I mean, there's people wanting to work, some people have to work three jobs just to make ends meet for people that live over there. And so, Jim paid me, if I remember correctly, it was \$700 a month is what he paid me. The girl he hired to take my place, he paid \$900 a month. And then she told him she couldn't do the job, so the girl he hired to work with her, he paid \$1000 per month.

**Justin:** Oh my goodness.

**Debbie:** And they could not do my job.

**Justin:** Wow. He shouldn't have told you that.

**Debbie:** Well, I mean he told me it over the phone. He said, "I can't believe I paid them all this money and they couldn't do half of your job." I'm just shocked. But well, you...sometimes you don't always get what you pay for.

**Justin:** Right.

**Debbie:** And he felt bad because he even said, "I never realized how much you did because it was just done, and I never had to think about it." And then he said, "when you were gone, it was like nothing was getting done." And he said, "I just never realized..." and he said, "you were just so underpaid, and I was so unfair." He was just, you know, going on about "please come back, I'll pay you anything you want. Please come back." I was like, "no we can't..." But anyway, it was funny. We went back two years later, and he had retired at forty. He had sold his business to an Australian guy.

**Justin:** Mhmm.

**Debbie:** He always said he was going to retire at forty, and he did.

**Justin:** Oh wow.

**Debbie:** He must have sold the business for a lot.

**Justin:** Did he move or did you get to visit with him?

**Debbie:** Yeah, I did.

**Justin:** Oh ok, that's good.

**Debbie:** Yeah, he was a good guy, he really was. He always liked Phil. Phil used to help him sometimes when he would work on his truck on the weekends. He had trucks that had wood... that had wood flats down in the back of the truck to haul wood shakes and stuff and shingles and stuff like that go on the roof. And Phil used to work on the weekends sometimes and do work on his truck and repair that truck bed. He did that a few times for him. And he let us stay at his house one time. He was gonna be gone and he had this house on the north side of the island that was just, oh my gosh, the house was beautiful. And my brother-in-law and now sister-in-law, she wasn't at the time, came over to visit and he let us have that house for the weekend. Oh my gosh, they still talk about it. How beautiful it was it was just right on the beach and of course it was our own beach because the house was right on the beach. And it was so beautiful, and he let us stay there for a weekend.

**Justin:** Oh nice, wow.

**Debbie:** He was really good to me. I mean, he didn't, you know what I mean, he just didn't pay me enough.

**Justin:** Yeah, clearly.

**Debbie:** He just didn't pay me enough. But Hawaii was wonderful. I would recommend it to anybody, as far as living there. I guess the worst part about living in Hawaii, which is not really

what I would say bad, I'm not a prejudiced person at all, but the Japanese people were taking over Hawaii when we went back ten years later. I never noticed it when I lived there. I mean, they would literally push you out of the way if you were in line to pay for something...I got pushed, I mean completely pushed out of the way by this little Japanese woman. I was like wow. So, it was...that was kind of I guess a little sad for me to see that happening because they...I'm not saying everybody from there is rude, but a lot of the ones I ran across while in Hawaii were very rude and I guess they're used to being all together, you know what I mean, that they don't, they just get in your space.

**Justin:** I think culturally, from what I understand, it is.... people in other countries, and just many other countries, don't have the same personal space norms that we have here, and so sometimes that can be a little shocking. Yeah.

**Debbie:** Yeah, I think that's the thing that kind of sort of shocked me the most was that. But I enjoyed my time there. Internal market place is great, loved to go there that was really right down there in Waikiki and that was a really fun place to go shopping and you see all different cultures and all kinds of different things. We did a lot of that because, mostly what we did on the weekends was go to the beach. We'd work during the week and then go to the beach on the weekend. But, that was about it for us.

**Justin:** Ok, so I guess I'll ask one more question since we've got a little bit of time left. So this one is pretty simple, uhm, what is something that has made you smile and feel good this week?

**Debbie:** This week?

**Justin:** Mhmm. Something that has made you smile and feel good this week.

**Debbie:** Let me think for a minute. Being at choir always makes me feel good, and my girlfriend, my friend, Marge was the first person that welcomed me in choir, kind of took me

under her wing to show me, you know, where everything was and what I needed to do and all of that. She's been very, she makes me smile just being around her.

**Justin:** Uh huh.

**Debbie:** And she's back in choir as well. She came back Wednesday night to choir. So I would say that's something that made me smile. And I guess the other thing this week that I was trying to put together something for tomorrow and a lot all of my friends are gonna come. I just found out today that they're all gonna come.

**Justin:** Oh, ok.

**Debbie:** We're gonna have a cookout tomorrow and I just made a Harvey Wallbanger cake this morning.

**Justin:** Ok, what's that?

**Debbie:** It's a... It's a bunt cake that has the Harvey Wallbanger drink inside the cake. The Harvey Wallbanger is orange juice, vodka, and Galliano.

**Justin:** I'm going to have to try that.

**Debbie:** And because of all the liquid, it makes the cake really moist. It's a really moist bunt cake. Then you take powdered sugar and a tablespoon of Galliano, a tablespoon of orange juice and a teaspoon of vodka and mix it and you pour it over the cake while it's warm. And that gets absorbed in the cake and it's just really a good, moist bunt cake.

**Justin:** Oh, mmm.

**Debbie:** I made that for tomorrow and we're just gonna cook out and do a little karaoke.

**Justin:** I knew that. I was gonna ask if you didn't mention it... I was gonna ask.

**Debbie:** Oh, yeah. Karaoke always makes me smile.

**Justin:** Nice, because your friends bring it over, right? They have like a nice set up.

**Debbie:** I'm sorry, say it again?

**Justin:** Don't...your...a couple of your friends have a really nice set up and that's who brings it over there?

**Debbie:** No, no, no, I have the setup. Yeah, I have one setup upstairs that I use when I'm at home and I want to sing, myself. I mean, sometimes I'll sit in the house and sing for over an hour.

**Justin:** Oh.

**Debbie:** Turn on the karaoke and pick out some songs. So, I have one upstairs and then I have one downstairs.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** And the downstairs has four microphones...and the one upstairs I just have the one wireless mic, but the ones downstairs, I have four wireless...I mean four wired microphones and big speakers and everything is attached to a pc that has PC DJ on it. And we have, oh my gosh, I bet there's thousands and thousands of songs.

**Justin:** Well that is really cool. Are you guys going to shoot any fireworks off?

**Debbie:** No, but I think they have them on Lake Lanier. Typically, I can just stand on my back porch and see them on the lake. And so, I'm sure we can just stand back here and watch them. I'm not much of a fireworks person for me to set them up and set them off. I mean, I'm not against people doing it, but I'm not brave enough to.

**Justin:** Right, you like all of your fingers staying just where they are.

**Debbie:** Yeah, I, yeah. I love to go watch them, but I'm not one to set 'em off, so.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** Usually we can see them from the lake.

**Justin:** Well that's really cool. Sounds like that's gonna be real fun.

**Debbie:** Yeah. Yeah, I'm looking forward to that and doing that. My sister and her husband is going to come over, my friend Carmen and Wayne, Bonnie and Steve, and Margarita and Evo are coming.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** It will be a pretty good-sized group.

**Justin:** Nice.

**Debbie:** At least one out of each couple likes karaoke. So, except Shawn and Ron; my sister does not do karaoke. She'll find something.... they'll play pool or something because we have a pool table, so they'll play pool while we do karaoke.

**Justin:** Ok. That sounds like that'll be a lot of fun.

**Debbie:** And actually, you know, Margarita's husband Evo has a really nice voice, and Wayne has a really good voice. Bonnie has a nice voice, so it's...it's not like your typical drunk karaoke. It's you know, enjoyable to listen to. Because I've been to some of those drunk karaoke.

**Justin:** I feel attacked.

**Debbie:** We were on a cruise one time and oh my god, it was awful. This one guy kept going up there and we were all like, "let's pay him to go home, or something." I mean, he was so bad. It really hurt your ears. And there were so many other people that were good, it was just like, please stop signing up for more stuff.

**Justin:** Oh, that is too funny. I love it.

**Debbie:** Karaoke is not always good singers, right?

**Justin:** No, it's not. It's never been when I attended or participated. It never was. Oh my goodness. So, if you want, we definitely talked about adding photographs...including them into

the narrative project, so if you've got anything you want to send us that you would feel comfortable with us publishing for other people to view, definitely send that to my email. You know, anything like the photo you text me with you and your parents their Christmas outfits. Anything like that that you want to share from any era of your life, please feel free to share that with us so we can try to incorporate it as we go through this and start making it. So yeah, that would be really awesome if you wanted to do that.

**Debbie:** Ok, I will do that.

**Justin:** Ok, well is there anything that you want to ask me before we get off the phone, or is everything good?

**Debbie:** Everything is good. Oh, one other wonderful thing about my life is my dogs.

**Justin:** That's right. How can we forget about the fur kids?

**Debbie:** I would not live without these two dogs, I'm telling you. Especially during this Covid-19, I'd be just crazy without them. And they make me smile every day. Just seeing their little faces make me smile every day.

**Justin:** I understand that.

**Debbie:** They're always doing something funny. Little stinker.

**Justin:** That's what they are.

**Debbie:** But yeah, that's about all I can think of.

**Justin:** Well, what day next week would be a good day to give you a call back?

**Debbie:** What's...is there a day that works better for you?

**Justin:** Let me look at my schedule real quick. Tuesdays are always kind of funny because I work...so that's not usually the greatest. Oh, there it is. It would help if I looked in the right notebook for my schedule. Bless my heart. Aww. Tuesday...Monday I have two clients I'm

already doing that day. If Tuesday afternoon would work, I could schedule you in after I get off work and we can do two o'clock or I can do Wednesday.

**Debbie:** Let's do Wednesday just because that Sunday school meeting, since they're sometimes doing it on Tuesday, it runs sometimes two or two thirty.

**Justin:** Ok.

**Debbie:** But Wednesday, I'm open all day except for choir practice at six thirty.

**Justin:** So do you want to do, let's say, one o'clock again?

**Debbie:** That's fine.

**Justin:** On Wednesday.

**Debbie:** On Wednesday, ok.

**Justin:** Mhm. And that's gonna be at one o'clock. Alright, I've got you down, Debbie. And once again, thank you so much for talking to me and taking the time out of your week to do this. It's definitely very much appreciated.

**Debbie:** No problem. I look forward to talking to you, Justin.

**Justin:** Same here. Same here. And I will be visiting with you on Monday and I hope to hear you had a great weekend, okay.

**Debbie:** Alrighty well I'll talk on Wednesday and hope you have a great weekend, too.

**Justin:** Thank you, bye, bye.

**Debbie:** Bye.