Washington State JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Sylvia Angel

SUMMARY

Sylvia Angel shares about her longstanding relationship to the Stroum Jewish Community Center, including working with singles groups and senior groups, noting her children's participation at the SJCC as well. She discusses the role of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival as well, and describes the growth she's witnessed over the past thirty years.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: My name is Ruth Kodish-Eskind. It's March 30th, and we're at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. Can you state your name, please?

Sylvia Angel: My name is Sylvia Azose-Angel.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um, and may I have your consent to record this interview?

Sylvia Angel: Yes, you do.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thanks. So we're at the film festival at the JCC. What's your relationship to the film festival or to this community center?

Sylvia Angel: Well, [laughs] it goes back many years. First of all, I'm from Seattle, born and raised here. I used to work at the JCC many, many years ago for about seven years total. I, um, used to be in charge of, um, the singles groups, there were like four different aged singles groups at that time. Uh, then I graduated [Laughs], and then I became the seniors, um, uh, person that was in charge of the seniors programs at the North End Jewish Community Center when it was still there. It's no longer there. So I was at the J for like seven years before I moved on, and I loved my experience here at the J. But let me just back up and say, even before that, we were members forever. And, um, I actually was the racquetball pro here way back when. Then I graduated and moved on to the Bellevue Athletic Club after that. Anyway, um, so I have a long relationship with the JCC. All three of my children were actively involved here. Um, they didn't all go to camp, but they were very involved in gymnastics, for sure. Uh, and, um, as I say, I was into racquetball, and I worked out here all the time, and I'm an athlete. I was an athlete. I don't know if I'm still am an athlete, but we'll see. Um, so I love the J. And I've been closely, um, associated and affiliated with the J, especially because and through the film festival, because it's something that's very near and dear to my heart. So I've loved every year that I've participated in. I can't say tha I've been here all of the 30 years, because there may have been a couple or three years, possibly, that I was out of town and I couldn't, I wasn't around for those times. And, uh, I was always a volunteer and loved every minute of it. And I love film, first of all. And it was really great being a part of it. Um, and so I've seen it grow every year, and I love to see as many films as I possibly can. We were just here last night, and here I am again today. I'm in the middle of my cancer treatment. That's why I'm wearing my mask and I'm sorry about that. Um, but, uh, I just have loved the J and have loved the film festival, and, um, it's just grown exponentially over all these years. Uh, and it's been so successful, uh, especially under Pamela's leadership. And I've loved working with her and everybody that I see and know. It's like for me, for many people, it's like a second home here. And, um, I feel always so welcome. And and it's so good to see old friends and, and make new friends. And, um, it's always been such a pleasure to be a part of it.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Beautiful. Um, I understand you've been part of the film festival since day one. Can you speak a little bit to

how you've seen the role of the film festival in Jewish community?

Sylvia Angel: Well, it's put Seattle, Jewish Seattle on the map. I really feel that way because I remember way back when, when it started with Nancy Weinberg, because I think she was the first, uh, film festival director. And I loved working with her, and I love her. And she's no longer here. She's on the East Coast, and I haven't seen her in years. But, um, it was so successful even at the start. But it continues to become more and more successful year after year after year after year. Now, under Pamela's leadership of I think it's 20 years for her or something like that. So I've just seen it grow. And, um, I wish I could have taken more of a part of it this year, but I haven't been able to. Unfortunately, I'm really not even supposed to be here but don't tell my doctor [Laughs]. But I'm wearing my mask. I'm at least following those orders. And I always sit way in the back, away from everybody. And so I'm always almost at the last row in the back.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um. All right. Well, I want to make sure you get into your movie, but do you want to say anything about Carla the Rescuer, and why you chose to see this film?

Sylvia Angel: Oh, well, uh, mainly because I've heard about her and know about her and know a little bit about the story and the history. But I really wanted to see the movie because I've heard so much about her. And, um, I'm here really because of that. So I'm looking forward to seeing that movie and to being a part of the film festival next year. I hope to be back full time as a volunteer again.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Of course. Thank you so much.

Sylvia Angel: Thank you for the opportunity.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Yeah.