Washington State JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Lucy Pruzan

SUMMARY

Lucy Pruzan discusses her longstanding relationship with the Stroum Jewish Community Center and the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. She mentions her role as a former president of the board and her consistent attendance at the festival since its inception 30 years ago. She reflects on the significant growth of the SJCC and its impact on her family.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: I'm Ruth Kodish-Eskind and it's March 30th and we're at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. Would you state your name and yeah.

Lucy Pruzan: Lucy Pruzan.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you. Can I have your consent to record this interview?

Lucy Pruzan: Yes.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um, so we're at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival at the JCC. What's your relationship to the film festival or with the community center?

Lucy Pruzan: Well, I've been a member of the center since before this building was built, and I was a president of the board. They call their chair now, um, several years, many years ago. And, um, uh, I've been attending the festival since it was created 30 years ago.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Amazing.

Lucy Pruzan: Yes.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Did you grow up in this area?

Lucy Pruzan: No, but I've been in Seattle for many years. Since the early 50s.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um. How do you understand the role of the film festival in Jewish community or in Jewish life?

Lucy Pruzan: Well, I think it's a wonderful opportunity for a Jewish community and others to be together. And I over the years, I've noticed that a lot of the attendees are people that you don't normally see at the regular fundraising events, necessarily. And, um, you know, it's just it's it's a great, um, thing for our community.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: A time to be together.

Lucy Pruzan: Right.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um, you're on your way into Beethoven's Nine. Why did you choose to come to this film?

Lucy Pruzan: I chose it because my son, who's with me, Alan, who, by the way, was in the first preschool class in this building. Um, wanted to come and see it, and my husband didn't feel like coming, so I came with him.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Do you have anything else you want to add about the history of the JCC or what you've seen change over time?

Lucy Pruzan: Well, the growth has been tremendous. And, um, I can see that we're kind of bursting at the seams. So it's a good thing, and I hope it can continue to grow. Um, we you know, both, my husband was also chair of the board a number of years before I was. So we have, uh, a very warm relationship with the J. And our three kids came here during their school years. They learned how to swim, they did basketball, theater, everything. Yes. So we, uh, as well as my parents, who are now deceased, and my in-laws, who are now deceased. They were also big supporters of the J and spent a lot of time here, especially my mom. She loved to come here for, uh, exercise classes. Yeah.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Do you want to say your mom's name?

Lucy Pruzan: My mom was Frieda Sondland. Yes. And so, yes, it was an all family affair. That's great.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thanks so much for sharing.

Lucy Pruzan: Oh. You're welcome.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Yeah.