
Bonnie Bishop

APRIL 27, 2025

SUMMARY

Bonnie Bishop describes her connection to the Jewish community through her family, and the importance she recognized in celebrating her family's Jewish heritage and overcoming prejudice. She shares her appreciation for Passover and the tradition of adding items to the seder plate.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Mind just stating your name.

Bonnie Bishop: I'm Bonnie bishop.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Okay. Can you spell your last name, please?

Bonnie Bishop: B I s h o p o.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: You got a buddy? Oh, I heard the door open. Me too. It's okay.

Bonnie Bishop: Should we start again? Um, I don't know if you need.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Yeah, I'll edit it.

Bonnie Bishop: Okay.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um, so you can look at me and I'll just ask you, um, a few questions about, um, your relationship to Jewish community and Fiddler on the roof. Okay. Try to keep it quick. Okay. Can you give me your consent to record this interview?

Bonnie Bishop: Absolutely. Sure.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you. Um, so what is your connection to the Jewish community or to Fiddler on the roof?

Bonnie Bishop: So my connection has been, um, one in terms of my own family. My husband's first wife was Jewish. He had they had two daughters, and they were raised Jewish. Even though I'm not, um, we felt it was really important for them to have that connection, that continuation of the religious and cultural heritage. So, I mean, and it just goes along with how important it is that we let go of, of prejudice, that we let go of those boundaries that are barriers that we put between cultures and religions. Because it's my belief that we are all in this together. We're all walking each other home. And it's important to encourage that in the family and in the in the culture and society.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you. Um. Fiddler talks about tradition and change. Are there any traditions that you keep alive or traditions you've changed? Um, family traditions?

Bonnie Bishop: Um, I think there's values that have become. Yeah. I mean, they're kind of traditions, things that we have. We have meals together that we spend time together, that we also. Another thing is in culturally, um, all I, my entire family, my husband, my two daughters, My son and I are all bilingual, and we've lived in other cultures and felt that's really important to get to know

not only your own community, which is very important, but the larger community as well.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Yeah. Are there any Jewish traditions that you've come to love?

Bonnie Bishop: Oh, this is very good. Um. Let's see. Well, we do celebrate, um, Seder. We have Seder with Jewish friends. And one of the traditions that I loved was, oh, my goodness. On the Seder plate, there was. There's something, oh, something different that was on the Seder plate. And that was because, um, there was a saying that when this item became on the Seder plate would be the time that there would be, uh, women on the bimah and, um, and now there are and now there are women. And so I, I thought that was really lovely.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you so much. I want to make sure you get back to the play. Oh. Is there anything else you want to share?

Bonnie Bishop: No. That's it. Thank you for doing this. Very important. Yeah.