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Christina LeStage and Michelle Demjen

Interview with Holly Severin and Zada Louis

C=Christina M=Michelle H=Holly Z=Zada

November 7, 1998 Saturday 10 am

M: If you guys want to introduce yourselves because there are going to be two voices on the tape so it'd be nice to...

H: OK. This Holly Severin.

Z: I'm Zada Louis

M: OK. You're going to have to speak up a little bit. We kind of have general questions so when I say "you" who ever wants to answer first, we can just do it that way too.

H: We get along pretty well, I think we can fight it out.

M: OK. How old are you?

H: We're both 12

M: And where do you guys go to school?

Z: Mt. Vernon Middle School

H: And before that we went to Wiggins Street

M: And what grade are you in?

H+Z: Seventh

M: Who are your parents?

H: Howard Severin

Z: Michael Louis and Mary Stan (?)

M: And what do they do?

H: Teachers. Well my mom's a free lance editor and my dad teaches sociology at Kenyon College

Z: My dad's a professor at Kenyon College and my mom's a professor at Ohio Wesleyan University.

M: Are both your parents Jewish?

H: Mmm hm.

M: And are they practicing?

H: Yeah

Z: Yup

M: How important are the traditions at home?

H: You can answer first

Z: Ah, they're like important but they're not like strictly put on. We do the services and the cedars and so on so forth but I don't know. It's not strict but we still do it. And it means a lot too.

H: For me I have to say it's kind of my choice, actually because my dad said one day we were discussing do I want to have a batmitzvah he said if you don't want to have a batmitzvah fine we can not even practice but I said no I want to so he said OK. So it's kind of up to me but both my parents come from very conservative families. And my dad still remembers every Sunday spending the whole day at services. And my grandma worked at the synagogue and the couple we go to isn't that strict.

C: So you're not, are you conservative Jew or reformed? Or you don't really have a...

H: My parents are conservative but I've just grown up reform. I don't really like either of them. I wish... if there was such a thing I would go to a temple... see I hate the ways that the conservatives deal with women and they're very you know slow like old days. Reform is just a little too light. We go to the reform temple.

Z: Well I have to say we go to a reform temple but um if we could find either a reform temple that does more Hebrew in the service and or if we could find a conservative temple that didn't like there are some conservative temples that have very strong opinions on like gays and lesbians and so on. Leaving that out of it would probably be a better idea and so we go to a reform temple. It'd be nice if there's a little more Hebrew.

C: Do you guys go to the same temple?

H: Yeah, we car pool because it's an hour away.

M: Where is it?

Z: Columbus

H: Columbus because there's no temple here. I mean they have a couple college services they just use Gund and do the service thingy but...

Z: It's a nice temple.

H: Yeah. I don't know about her but it's pretty much our decision even though it's a drag we want to do it.

C: Are you both working to be bathmitzvahed?

H: We're doing one together.

Z: We're doing a double.

C: So do you have to go to special... you have to go to school for that right?

H: Yes.

Z: Yeah, it's fun though.

H: We've been working on it for four years or so. Since third grade.

C: Do you have to go an hour away for that too?

Z: It's the same place.

H: We go to services and then we go eat lunch at McDonalds and come back.

C: So you don't have to keep going all week.

H: Somehow our parents didn't like that idea.

Z: Yeah, like my parents, like we'll all come to Friday night service. They meet once every two months. Cause it's really nice and...

H: But it's a big commitment so it's like and they have work to do.

Z: Both our parents are really busy.

H: And we have tons of homework. It's a commitment, it really is.

C: So you are almost done right?

H: No you keep going after the batmitzvah

Z: the training

C: You're almost done with the training right?

H: Six more months

C: And then you've made it huh?

Z: It'll be fun though

H: Well you haven't made it until it's over.

C: OK.

Z: You're looking at it like it's boot camp or something.

H: It's a lot like the SAT's, it's not done until it's done. At least I think so.

M: You had said that your parents aren't necessarily that strict. I don't remember what you had said but that...

H: Well when remember we do the Sabbath thingy where you light the candles. When we remember but we don't remember all that often.

M: Why did you decide to be batmitzvahed?

H: Because it's like, you can go...

Z: I didn't decided. I've got two older brothers and they were both barmitzvahed. Maybe a little against their will but they were both barmitzvahed I mean they're good kids. But I don't think they care as much about the religion as some people might. And I mean, I'm sure if I was strongly opposed they wouldn't have like forced it but...

H: Your parents are just so cruel.

Z: Well my dad was, my grandfather was raised really conservative. I mean like all Sundays and Saturdays all they would do is sit in the chair and go to the services. And that was it and so um when it came to my dad they kind uh...

H: Did the opposite.

Z: Yeah they kind of gave him a choice and of course, I mean there's not many people that when you're in like third grade would like, they made him go one day to like a school thing and if he liked it he could stay and if he didn't... Well most people wouldn't willing stay in third grade, you're really active and stuff and so he wasn't really raised that Jewishly.

H: And her mother converted.

Z: And so... and then my mom knows a lot about it because she teaches medieval history and it has a lot to do with religion and mystical figures and so on and so forth so... I don't know, I don't really think I have much of a choice. We observe the Sabbath as much as we can.

H: Me, well, I just kind of wanted because it's like a really special thing. I mean I make my family to a lot like unreligious but I guess we kind of are it's just. Well, I don't know. I chose because I think it's important to my religion because I practice the religion and if I didn't want to I could definitely not. But I want to. So I just kind of wanted to do it. It's like a really special thing.

C: It's important to you...

H: mm hmm. Especially like when I look at the old like barmitzvah and batmitzvah things from my grandparents it's like so beautiful. Like looking at the old barmitzvah cups and stuff, it's so neat just inspires me I guess.

Z: I've attended like five bar/batmizvahs over the past few years because both my brothers and then we have relatives in California that have four kids. And so it's like back and forth between barmitzvahs because we're like really close age range. So...

H: I've attended her brothers'. And that's all.

Z: That's two though.

H: Yeah but Seth's I was three and Cory's I was...

Z: Well, maybe I didn't have a very good experience at Seth's but that's OK...

H: She did break a wrist.

Z: Well, the barmitzvah was really nice. It was at the party what one of my brothers he had.... I fell on the hill and fractured my wrist but that's OK.

H: There's a hill and she just fell off that.

Z: It hurt.

H: And we both attended a batmitzvah party recently but that didn't do much for our education.

Z: It was really fun. Nice country club.

C: Around here?

Z: No everything. Probably every barmitzvah we'll be attending all we be in Gahana...

H: See... I can't wait till our batmitzvah party because who come are going to have to see what we have to do every week.

Z: Yeah we'll have to give like road maps to everybody.

H: And then they'll have to wait an hour and say oh gees we pity you. So now they know where we're coming from.

M: So do your friends understand what it means to be batmitzvahed?

H: Well I think they remember holidays and it's like oh my gosh you remembered? And they're like yeah. And everyone surprises me but I guess after 12 years they remember.

Z: I think they understand.

H: They definitely understand. I think they think it's neat to have friends in different groups. I mean we have friends in all different groups. And some of them are really intersted in stuff and they like ask us questions about it and whenever it's passover they always eat our... we have to eat this flat bread cracker stuff and they always eat it. It's like fine take it take it.

Z: Motzah.

H: Thank you, I couldn't think of it. Every year I just have to take an extra piece to lunch for them cause they're like oh wow this is great. But yeah you don't have to eat it for a week.

M: So do you have any other friends in the Mt. Vernon Middle School who are Jewish?

H: Yeah, but there's about 4 of us and that's it.

Z: Semi sort of

H: Well, let's hear it, we have this friend, he's half he gets...

Z: He's not as close a friend now as before though

H: Yeah but, yeah, he's double lucky because he like celebrates Chanukah and Christmas and he did batmitzvah training with us, barmitzvah, in third grade but I don't think he's doing it, I dunno, Z: But that was just Hebrew school that wasn't training...

H: But with _____ we were learning our (Unintelligible)

Z: Oh yeah

H: And uh we have this sixth grade friend, she's Jewish and her brother's Jewish and their Jewish the Fenigsteins and the Marklies. One of parents isn't Jewish right?

Z: No I thought it was her mom...

H: I don't think her mom is but she practices Jud..

Z: Yeah she's studying for training that's what my mom said.

H: Well, that's about it. It was really funny in like first grade we were doing this ceremony thing and the guy goes and like.... and so let's like take a minute to thank uh like Christ or something. My mom comes up to him and said, you realize that about a fifth of the kids that just said that are Jewish. And he like oh oops. It was funny.

Z: It's kind of weird for sports also because I know for my brother, like usually, he plays football in high school, and usually like I don't know if you see it in the movies or whatever, before a football game, they'll do like a little prayer or something yunno like a little why don't we win woo hoo and then run out into the field. But he said, he'd kind of like observe it but you're not really like a part of it. So it's like you're there but you're not really taking part of it...

H: See when I was little, I made a big point of telling everyone I'm Jewish! I mean people said Merry Christmas and it's like, you mean, Happy Channukah... it's like yunno thanks, I mean they're just trying to be nice. What do they know? I mean... It's alright because you know it doesn't matter I mean we're still friends.

C: It is hard soemtimes that people just assume you're Christian when you're not?

H: It's a little annoying sometimes at least I think. Um...

Z: It's an honest mistake

H: I mean there's only one place in the whole world that the major population is Jewish and that's Israel. I mean....

Z: Gahana has a pretty big Jewish population.....

H: Well I mean of the country... I mean last year in Russia I was kinda hoping that you know I

mean, when we were studying different places, and we got to Russia I thought, maybe, maybe it'd be Jewish or something. Because Russia is Russia I mean come on there's a huge Jewish population. At least there was until Hitler but um then he got them killed. Oh well.

M: So there is not much mention of it in school?

H: No, well, it's just like right now, we're studying the Hebrews in Social Studies class.

Z: And they teach you how to be Jewish, that's another thing...

H: Yeah it's really. Ms. Hansen or Mr. Hansen, but she's really nice, see it's kind of a real touchy subject when you get into religion because we have a whole bunch of Christ-crazy people in our school.

Z: There's three, I don't think most people are like them...

H: No, I am serious, it was so funny, you know what I do sometimes just to be mean to them? Like they were in my art class and one time, I just thought this was so great, a couple people to do it so I did, I went up to them and I said, hey was Christ Jewish? And they're like, one said of course he was. And the other said no he was like so I never heard of this. They started arguing about it, it was so funny. But these people, every single art project had to do with Christ. I mean we had to do these little things --

Z: It was hilarious...

H: We had to make a kalidescope and they made little Jesus fish(?) Um I mean, we had some of these life size puppets, they made Christ hanging on a cross bleeding and everything. I mean it was so.... I mean they're twelve! It's really scary.

Z: It's about like, I wouldn't want to say it's a big population but there's like 3 or 4 and that's enough! But they're not exactly like um, they're not exactly like, high standing people.

M: Do they give you a hard time about being Jewish?

H: See one time I was alone with them in the art room because I said I had a project to finish but I didn't I just wanted to get out of math class. So um I just was cleaning tables and I asked them so many questions. They were like they must have been experts I swear. It was really funny because I like to see... and they said like most religions other than Christianity going to Hell. It was like OK, this is interesting and why I mean it's like oh my gosh. They're talking about these....

Z: The weirdest thing about here, like the one thing I've heard, is that like, how you should really worship God and stuff. Which I believe in but thing is that it's like really odd to hear these Christian people like saying you better like maybe you should convert or something because that way...

H: You'll be saved

Z: Yeah, yeah you'll be like saved or something. It's like a bad thing but it's like, you want to go back to them and say like OK so who, what's the religion that started the belief in one god?

H: Oh yeah! See they think the only two religions that are not going to hell are Judiasm and Christianity. The only reason Judiasm is safe is because Christ was Jewish. Otherwise ooh you're going out the window.

Z: Yeah I don't really talk to them any more. I've talk to them once this year.

H: See they were in our class last year, well kind of, close enough to being in our class...

C: They stick together in a group too?

H: We have a bible club at our school...

C: You have a Bible club?

H: I don't know why they're allowed to meet in school but they do. But whenever they have prayer meets they have to go outside.

Z: And then there's also...

H: And you see, some mornings you see this huge circle of people just around the flag pole prayin'...

Z: That's different, that's not the group, that's just like they'll do a prayer like once a month or something. Not for people who are I guess you would say Christ-crazy or something. It's just for like anyone that wants to --

H: We have a Bible club and I mean it's OK, they don't like force you into bible club, I mean it's about 7 people in it. There's about 10 people.

Z: Yeah, there's like 7.

H: And then none of the Christ-crazy people are in it. Oddly enough. We have like a, Zada has a really good friend who is in it and he's just like a totally normal person, I mean. He's an interesting kid cause...

Z: What about Trevor?

H: He's in Bible club, he was last year...

Z: He's not this year...

H: Well he was. It's neat because like he's not being mean but sometimes he asks like about Hebrew and it's like OK fine. He's just being weird. He's just a strange child.

Z: I don't think he's that strange.

H: Seriously though, you don't sit behind him in math class...

Z: I did all last year.

H: Be quiet. He's weird anyway. And he's just being weird. I think the hardest time we had was in like third grade.

Z: That's was just odd, that wasn't...

H: That was just awful.

Z: That was often.

H: See had two kids in our school who thought they were sooooo cool. And they sent us mean notes. They were so mean to us because we were Jewish.

Z: That was for like a week. And then they --

H: nah unh. It was for half the year.

Z: No 'cause....

H: Maybe for you, but they tortured me for like half the year. And then they were my best friend. And B_____ see she rode my bus and she tortured me all through the bus ride.

M: Do you think it had anything to do with their parents? How did they know you were Jewish?

H: I don't know. I guess it was just common knowledge. Don't ask, please don't ask because I have no idea. But they tortured, at least me, for like half the year because we rode the same bus up until middle school. But she got off pretty early and then I had to ride the bus with her...

Z: I got on early and off early. No on early in the route but then I got off early in the route -

H: And then it was like, Oh SHUT UP! And just got mad and I just yelled at 'em. I swear I almost punched 'em one time. But I'm not a violent person, well I take that back.

M: What were they saying? You don't have to say if you....

H: They were just mean. They sort of said everything mean. Also in third grade and second grade it was a little hard 'cause they didn't really understand, nobody understood. I mean what do you know as a kid? I mean you fall asleep in Sunday school. I mean that's about it. They just thought it was different. I mean they didn't really understand. But I remember this one JERK of a kid um he and his friend... Oh my gosh, one time in art class we were just coloring our little stick people and he's like "Are you Jewish?" And he's like, and we're like yeah. And he's like, and he asked us do you believe in God? And we're like yeah, and he's like oh I thought you didn't. And we were like, he just kept pestering us and I'm just like SHUT UP OK?! And so he never bugged us again. He's just stupid.

Z: They would just ask you about ones...

H: Nah unh, they were buggin' us. They were too!

Z: OK! OK! I'm just sitting here being quiet and....

C: What do you think made 'em stop bugging you?

H: I yelled at 'em.

C: 'Cause you yelled at 'em...

H: Yeah and for some reason people are scared of me because... I don't know it's just people always think I'm really tough and so when I threaten them they think I'd actually do something.

Z: I think another reason they would have stopped though is just thatas they got older you get more knowledge about things...

H: They're jerks! They don't get more knowledge!

Z: No, but you do, I mean it's just like something that happens.

H: M.L. is not going to get any smarter than he was when he was born. I'm telling you, he's stupid.

Z: He stopped.

H: Yeah

Z: That's fact.

M: Did the teachers ever get involved?

H: No. I didn't want to involve anybody in it because I figure (Unintelligible)...

Z: I guess the arguments we've had, non religious, not me and her but one us or the other gets somebody... I mean we went to the teachers it's not like...

H: We did?

Z: Yeah

H: We did?

Z: Yeah

H: when?

Z: Like in third with WJ and the whole fiasco that happened then.

H: I told my parents.

Z: Yeah went to her though.

H: We did?

Z: Yeah. I remember we had to go into the music room and talk or whatever.

H: oh yeah!

Z: Yeah, so. But it's not like we were against teachers...

H: See the thing is we haven't had much of a problem. But when we do we don't really have anyone to back us up. Not that bad, haven't had a problem in like four years.

C: Yeah, what do you mean people to back you up? People who understand what it's like?

H: Yeah and Jewish people don't really exist in our school. I mean they're practically non-existent.

Z: It's odd because if you really think about it, I mean -

H: We never did-

Z: In our elementary school, there's like, not only would I say that the majority of people are like Christian but they're also like the majority of people are white too. If you think about it. And that's not on purpose. That's not on purpose and there's no problem but it's just odd if think about it -

H: We've been lucky no one really bugs us or anything except the idiots. And they're the easiest.

You just yell at them and they're like Oh my God! We have been... people don't bug us that much. When they do I yell at them and they stop. I think they're scared of me. I just a tiny little short kid.

M: What about your social group? What about um, I don't know if you've had boyfriends before or if in the future, um do you that would be a problem or has it been?

H: Uh, one time. One time. I had this, I guess I didn't know who he was and then I found out who he was and I broke up with him. (Laughter)

C: Poor kid.

H: He was a jerk. And one time he asked me, are you Jewish? And I said yeah. And he's like I thought so. And like why? He's like Idunno. And said, 'cause my parents won't like me going out with people who aren't Christian. It's like OK fine, bye bye.

M: How about you?

Z: I've never had any problem with it. I always, I dunno I like grew up in a family of guys. I mean there's, I've got two brothers, my dad, and my grandpa moved in and it was like me and my mom. And mom was like, she's like, she teaches classes on like feminism and stuff. And so um, I'm like, I always grew up sort of like, kind of a tom boy and stuff. And always into that sort of stuff so.

M: What about your parents? What would they say if you dated someone who wasn't Jewish or like later on you wanted to marry someone?

H: I don't think I've ever dated someone who was Jewish.

Z: Yeah, that's what I was thinking (laughs)

C: Or if you married someone? Have you talked about that?

Z: Well, I don't that, I especially don't think that would be a problem with my parents. When they married one was Christian and one of them was Jewish. So...

H: My parents... I lost my train of thought.

M: Your parents... getting married to someone.... not Jewish.

H: Hmm I don't really think that will really make all that much of a difference.

Z: It wouldn't be a big issue.

H: All they care about is they like to tease me and say, you will have no say in your wedding,

'cause they had no say whatsoever and they hated it. And so 'cause I asked them, do you like want to talk about ... what we want sometime and they were like no, because that would be unfair because it'd be like your wedding, kind of. So you're gonna have no say in your batmitzvah or wedding. Period.

Z: My parents joke about that too. They're like you better make all the choices now because at your wedding we like designing the whole thing. It's funny because I know they wouldn't, they just joking.

H: Because that's what thier parents did and my parents are miserable. They got married in like the seventies so they wanted so you know all this you know, the hippie thing, my parents were hippies.

Z: My parents' wedding pictures are sad. They're both wearing platform shoes.

H: See my dad

Z: and my dad's suit's like plaid

H: My dad was wearing and blue and white striped suit. I think we're getting off track.

C: It's OK, it's interesting.

M: Um, have you ever spent time where there was a bigger Jewish community? Where there were more Jewish families?

H: Yeah,

Z: Yup

H: Yeah. Sunday school.

Z: I went out to California...

H: Yeah well, the biggest Jewish population I've ever been in company with is probably family reunions. Well, actually the biggest time was when my like, four of my cousins, me, my grandma, three sets of aunts and uncles got together, that's the biggest, other than Sunday school that's the biggest Jewish population I've ever been with.

Z: I mean it's probably been where there's been a bar or bat mitzvahs in California, because they're like, it's not only a family reunion, but the temple that relatives go to in California it's hard to comment on it. I wouldn't say it's like better than the one we have here 'cause they're they have problems of their own but, they have a huge congregation. So... and so -

H: We have a congregation of like a hundred and ninety kids.

Z: Yeah, we have a big one but where they live it's right outside of San Diego.

H: But the bigger our congregation gets the less involved our Rabbi gets.

Z: HUH? I think our Rabbi's very involved and he had a heart attack and stuff -

H: Yeah, I know he had a heart attack but, yeah he's like, he got a heart attack over the summer but he's alright now. And he's just taking a little break you know. He went to Israel. Even though I don't know why you'd want to go to Israel in the middle of everything. You know! Oh gee I really wanna go there. I mean my cousin she went before they fighting started and that was fine.

M: Would you guys ever want to go there?

H: Um, if

Z: Yes.

H: there was no threat of bombs or Palestinians, yes.

Z: Depends on where you go though, I think.

H: I don't know. Bombs can blow up a lot of area.

Z: they are a lot of people I know, they come back fine.

H: Miriam... I know this! I'm still not going there until there's no threat of being killed. 'Cause I don't like being killed, it's not fun...

Z: It'd be interesting though. I've never been the country though...

H: Been to Mexico, three Islands, four times, England, I travel a lot.

Z: We had too big a family. (Laughs)

H: Well, there's only three people in our family and my aunt and uncle have this special time share thingy so it helps. So all we have to pay for is the plane.

C: Getting back to when you're with people, with more people that are Jewish, do you feel different around, like when you're at a family reunion or when you're in California?

H: Well, actually, they're all just kids like us. I mean, I kind of like it because like well, you know, I know that we feel like, I don't know. No one actually bugs us about it but I guess it's just like we're all Jewish, yea.

Z: I difference

H: We're all teenagers, we're all kids...

(End of side A)

(Start of side B)

H: It's recording now because I can see the little..

C: Yeah, it was on pause. The batteries are probably fine. Oh well.

M: OK, so, extend family.

C: Gandma...

H: She's Kosher.

C: She's Kosher.

H: Yup. Doesn't really care that we're not Kosher.

C: Does she ever come over to your house and eat with you guys?

H: Um, she comes over at Thanksgiving.

C: Is she Kosher then? Keep Kosher?

H: Yeah.

C: She does at your house?

H: Yeah. I mean, she doesn't eat uh what's it called, pork. I'm having mental difficulties.

M: What about your granparents?

Z: Well, that's kind of odd because um, I've got two grandparents, and one I have my grandma on my dad's side and then I have my grandfather who lives with us, on my mom's side. But he's sort of, non religious, because he doesn't observe any religious thing.

H: But um, I guess he's Christian.

Z: I wouldn't say so. He doesn't observe anything like that, he doesn't have like a copy of the bible or anything.

H: Your mom doesn't really have -

Z: So.

H: Your mom's mom doesn't really have any -

Z: And then um, my dad's , she's in a nursing home and so doesn't the ability to I guess anyway...

H: Doesn't she have Alzheimer?

Z: Nope. They don't know what she has, it's similar.

H: Yeah. She's just got like no-

Z: She has a lot of problems. But, I mean she's not like hurt or anything, I mean it's not like blood loss or anything. It's more like stuff in her head. SO I guess, she's like, she is, I mean if you were to look at her in one way it would be Jewish. 'Cause she's, it's sad because was like a really active person in the community when she was like in forties and below and she was Jewish. And then her husband who is passed away, um he was like the only person that could um, read the Torah for services. And so like he was the person that like went every week. So, but now she doesn't really I mean we have her over for Passover Sedar sometimes and things. Yeah, but, I don't know. She's not really able as much anymore.

C: You wanna kind of ask the big question? Which is uh, we're gonna kind of wrap it up I think but um, we wanted to kind of know, you guys wanted to say a little bit about what being Jewish means to you? Does it mean anything to you?

Z: Do you wanna go first or should I?

H: No, go ahead.

Z: OK, well, being Jewish actually means a lot to me. Um, I really like the religion and I believe in the beliefs that the religion shows. I make my own judgement on some things and I don't like go by the book on everything, but it's important to me. And...

H: OH! Now I get it.

Z: Things concerning religion um, are usually - what are you doing to my chair?- I usually ask my parents if I have a question about something. But I don't know. It means a lot to me, in a lot of ways. It's really important to me.

H: OK, now I get it, because before when she said I don't go by the book I thought she meant she was gonna buy a copy of some book, and like now I get it! Well, it's um kind of my choice if I wanna have religion or not. And I think it means a lot to me because it just does. And it's important, as she said. I like and I believe most of the things and most, not everything.

C: What are some of the things you don't believe?

H: I don't know, there's just a couple.

C: You said about how you don't like how the Conservative doesn't like gay people.

H: Portray...

Z: there's a lot of stuff going on with Conservatives

H: Basically the people they like are men who are hetero...

C: sexual?

H: yeah.

Z: So that's.... the Conservative we were looking at, it's I mean there's a lot of nice things about it, but it's like there's only one flaw, that would be it. Which I mean it's not a big thing, they don't like dis them or whatever yunno public or anything. But I'm sure if someone like that joined the community it would be small and quiet but they would not let them in. They wouldn't. Whether you like it or not. So I don't really, I don't approve of it.

H: I have this friend who goes to this church and it's like, it got kicked out of being a church because they welcomed gay people.

M: What church is that by the way?

H: What church does ____ go to?

Z: I don't know.

H: I wonder if he still wants to be called _____

Z: I wouldn't say that I was against conservative people though, you know. But it's just that like it wouldn't be the people, I guess that go to the Synagogue.

H: It's the belief

Z: It would be the people like sort of administer. 'Cause I'm not like against conservative people.

M: What about when you grow up? I mean what do you think about passing it on to your children
The traditions and....

H: Well, I don't know. I guess I'm stubborn. If I want my kids to be Jewish they will be Jewish. And just like I know if I had any kids, um, I'm guessing, and if my husband would live, the first one is going to be a Severin. I mean if he wants to live.

Z: Well, I don't know. I'd like my kids, if I have kids, to observe Judaism, but I mean, I, it's really odd because it's hard. It really depends on who you are, it doesn't depend on how you're raised. Like, my brothers for instance they're so much different from me as far as Jewish observance or whatever. Like I don't see them as observing it quite as strongly as I probably would. So I know if my family doesn't want to I probably still would myself.

H: I guess that if um, if do, if I get married to a Christian dude or whatever, um, and I have kids, then I guess I'll let my kids decide. Probably. 'Cause you know it's their lives.

C: What do you think you guys want to do after high school? You gonna go to college?

H: I'm gonna be a teacher, she's gonna be an artist.

Z: I have like dreams but, I like sports. Basketball.

H: Hey, how did try-outs go last night?

Z: They still (unintelligible) today.

H: She tried out...

Z: I like basketball and I like what I see, track, I think volleyball is a cool sport. But as far as like actually getting sports as like a job or something, that's like a big dream. Because it's like, you have to get like a scholarship and then... I mean it's a big thing so, not exactly one you should actually go by.

H: See, I feel, I tried out for the team and I didn't make it but I'll make it next year, I hope.

Z: I tried out, I didn't make it either.

C: What else are you involved in, you play cello?

H: I'm a cellist. I was an oboist until I got kicked out of band.

C: What'd ya do?

H: I didn't do anything! (Laughter) She plays saxophone. She survived the mean band teacher.

M: What happened?

H: I didn't do anything!

Z: Holly, why don't you just say it?

H: Well, I really hated, it's really a pretty we had to (untelligible) saxophone reeds like you can get like 5 for a dollar or something and get how much obo reeds cost? For one reed it costs 23 dollars. And guess who had to pay for them? Parents paid for the instrument I paid for the reeds. I would have rather paid for the instrument, it was cheaper!

C: Did you break reeds a lot?

H: They're paper thin. There's no way you couldn't, I mean even if you never played it they'd still break. I mean it was really hard but um, I really hated it. And I wanted to do percussion but and um I told 'em, hey I'm gonna switch, OK, so this year he's so mean.... his wife's OK, 'cause there are two band teachers. He was just mean and he he never explained anything he jsut blew up at me and said bye bye. So oh well, Ilike cello much better anyway.

Z: I was like last year I played both, I was, I started out playing cello in fourth grade and that continued until last year.

H: We're both in choir...

Z: And then I played saxophone in sixth grade and it was kind of weird because I originally like I was thinking in fifth grade about that was like.. . it was a hard instrument to learn and then I got to sixth grade and I had a lot of stuff going on, I had cello, saxophone, I had all sorts of stuff and so at the end of the year, like the very last week they said next year things have to change. They said you have to pick one or the other, it wasn't my choice.

H: You could either have sports, or saxophone or cello.

Z: I decided to drop the cello because I was really getting behing a lot.

H: She was last chair.

(More talk about music)

M: So do you like growing up around here?

H: I think it's a good experience being in a small town. I mean, you know everybody.

C: That's kind of bad sometimes huh? (Laughs)

Z: The first like three or four years of my life I was in Gambier and then in my kindergarten year we moved to Mt. Vernon. In the house that we're currently living in now. It's a really nice house, compared to the one we had before.

H: It's California style

Z: But our parents have lived everywhere around here.

H: I mean, eventually my parents we have a house in Gambier but we just don't live there. We rent it. OK, you know where the apartments are? Well you know the grey house across from it? Light grey house, directly across from it...

C: Which street are you talking about?