

Transcript – Candace Heald, class of 1974

Narrator: Candace Heald

Interviewer: Amanda Knox, Pembroke Center Assistant Archivist

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**Part 1**

Amanda Knox: All right. Good morning, everybody, our listeners, it is Thursday, June 4, 2020. It is 10 o'clock in the morning. My name is Amanda Knox. I am the Assistant Archivist at the Pembroke Center at Brown University and I am here today recording another oral history interview via Zoom in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic and several other pandemics that the world is experiencing in this moment. Would you like to introduce yourself to our listeners, please?

Candace Heald: Sure. I'm pleased to be with you today. My name is Candace Healed, and I am a proud alum from the class of 1974. Which for those of you who are counting means that I was actually one of the last classes that was, not, the last, a member of the last class of Pembroke College in Brown University.

In terms of my professional resume, [1:00] I see Amanda looking at me expectantly. In terms of my professional resume, right now I run a program called AHA, which is Arts, History, and Architecture. It's the second Thursday arts and culture program, free arts and culture program, in the city of New Bedford. I started it about 20 years ago, and it still is a model for creative placemaking throughout the country. And so I've been very fortunate throughout my career. I've worked in a variety of museums, a variety of public program settings, public history settings. I've done educational work for the National Park. I've done a variety of consulting things.

I did go on to get a master's in history as well as a PhD. And that has stood me in good stead. I've published on a variety of intellectual issues. I've taught at Tufts, UMass, and I have done a variety of things and I've been quite fortunate and blessed. And I'm still loving the work that I do. [2:00]

AK: Perfect. So, thank you. Before we talk about current events as there is much to discuss, I'd like to go back in time a little bit. And if you would like to talk about being the last class admitted to Pembroke, and maybe even starting with what drew you to Pembroke and Brown

CH: I am a legacy child, so many generations of my family have gone to Brown and Pembroke. My aunt, one of the reasons I'm doing this is my aunt Virginia Prescott was actually the first Archivist of the Pembroke archives. She was the class of '38. My mom's 70th anniversary is next year in the 01s, we always go by the ones, the twos, the threes, the fours, in which family. So she was class of '51, my dad was '52, and [3:00] my son will walk down the Hill after the COVID. He graduated this year from the graduate school and so hopefully he and my mom are going to be together doing that.

And, and it just, it never occurred to me that I would go anywhere else. I'm one of those people who came from Rhode Island, it was a different time in both the University's history and the way higher education goes. I applied as an early decision student. I was actually 15 when I was admitted to Brown and the way it goes. And as I always say, I interview students now and when they ask about my experience, it's tricky because I said, you know, my aunt, who was head of the Alumni Association at that time, walked me into the Dean's office and said, "I present my niece, Candace, for admission to the class of 1974." And it just never occurred to me that I wouldn't be admitted. I mean, I had the grades, I had whatever, I was the early admission, which at that point you applied in May and heard in October. So, [4:00] so it, it, it was always a great fit for me. And it was the only school I applied to and the only school I ever want to go to. And I think there are very few people now who can make that statement and have the sense of security and ease that I did.

It was funny though, because I started out as a math econ major, and I was a great student. I got all A's, I was young, I was diligent. And by the end of my freshman year, I was bored with my major. And so, I changed to American history, which was my passion. I always loved history, and I was not a great scholar, I will say that. I was not a straight A history student. I took some bumps along the way. I benefited from the pass/fail or drop it from your record. And so, it's a new curriculum. I was the first, I was the first class that graduated with the full new curriculum. But it was always a purpose and passion for me and over time, I think that that has made all the difference. [5:00] That the ability to choose and experiment and have the trust of the

University in you that you would succeed and you would find the way, that you would find your way and you would make your way. I've actually always pretty much been the first person in every job I've held after the first entry level job of working at Mystic Seaport and teaching sailing and doing boat repair. My family was into boating. So, I think that that was a real gift that Brown gave me and really part of the new curriculum that has stayed and been manifest in so many different ways with the centers and the interests and the mentorships and the capstone programs and things that we didn't have. But it was a huge opportunity for me and the right fit.

And I, I think that I came because I was a local girl, I was from Rhode Island and, and it was a family tradition. It was really an expectation for those of us who are able to go to go. And so I came in with a very conservative, traditional [6:00] background about Brown's education and coming out four years later, I really benefited from the progressive and the liberalization, in so many ways, of the requirements and the expectations and the camaraderie with faculty. And Dean Hazleton spoke at our reunion, the 45th reunion last year. So, I mean, I, I can't say enough about the Brown experience, although I think if I were there today, it would be a very different opportunity and experience for me.

Remember, so when I was a freshman, you had to, you had curfew. Gentlemen were not allowed beyond the upper floor, you know, the bottom floors. We used to leave notes in the back of the door of your dorm, where you were going, if you were going out on the weekend. The rules, you had gentlemen, you know, had to call for you. I mean, the whole organization that was so different. And then by sophomore [7:00] year, the bathrooms are coed, the dorms were coed, it was just this really huge c-shaped change in what the expectations were and how people acted. And you know, it was the early '70s. It was that time period. So, I think it offered great opportunities. Every generation has their confusion around a variety of things. And I think that that was really a generation to think about the Maxwell Magaziner report and what that meant and to think about the options. But I will say that Brown did it in a peaceable and conscientious way. And I think the faculty and the leadership were always, I've always felt that Brown's faculty and leadership were out in front of the contemporary issues and had really good responses up until the present day, I think. Present Paxson is fabulous. So, so lucky us.

AK: Do you have any stories of [8:00] students going around the parietal rules?

CH: Oh, yes, but I would never, I would never tell. I would never tell. One of the funniest things and, and again, I was, I'm from a small town, small family. The first, there was a tradition of doing panty raids. So, yeah, exactly. The male students came over to the female dorms and people threw out underwear, which the whole thing I mean, it was a thing. And, and I was just, I was, I was both shocked and amazed. And so, we had a group of male friends who came up and kind of were on our side of the team and it was just, it was such a funny, it was just that whole shift of, you know, is this real? You know, are we, is, are we doing this?

And I also always loved Miss Gordon was the physed teacher and because I was so young, she had always, she had also [9:00] been there from my mom when my mom was there. She would say, "Oh, it's so sad that you're not in," you know, they rotated, was it blue, green, red and yellow bloomers? We actually had those little pinny bloomer things for freshmen required physed, and she said, "Oh, it's so sad you're not in your mother's rotation year, so you can't wear hers." And I thought, "How would you know? How would you remember?" But it was small. And so, you know, people kind of knew those things. There were mother daughter teas at that time. You know, it was a very, it was very, it was just it was so very different. And it changed so rapidly.

I mean once, '76 was the first class that Brown admissions admitted both men and women. And so, the whole social structure, the infrastructure, and I think society around was changing so dramatically. And so, you know, there were houses where people cook their own food. It was at that time, that by sophomore year, Brown had absorbed Bryant [10:00] campus. And so, all of those dorms came online for the sophomores. So it was, it was an interesting place.

And I actually went abroad my junior year. So, I went to the University of Edinburgh, because by then I was a history major. And I thought, well, why not just go abroad to take your history, your European history requirements? So, I was fortunate enough to be admitted to the honors program, but at that time to leave Brown and go abroad, you actually had to resign from the University, and then apply for readmission and get your credits certified. And at that point, I was a full scholarship student. I was enormously fortunate for a variety of reasons that I was on full scholarship and full tuition and room and board. And that was a real risk for me to be a scholarship student and resign from the University. And my family was supportive, but it was tricky. And so when I came back, I really, that was the beginning [11:00] of being able to take special programs for your junior year. A bunch of us went into the Dean and said, "You know,

it's tricky because it's not, it's not an equal playing field. Because if you're a scholarship student, you don't necessarily feel the freedom or the opportunity to leave Brown because it's, you know, you can get back into Brown, certainly, but are you going to get the fellowship and the financial support once you've taken you know?" And so that changed dramatically, too. So I mean, it was just the time that the traditional structures, because there was no organized program that you went to. There, very few of them at that point. So I just applied to be a special student at the University of Edinburgh and took full course load. So I mean, I think that those, those kinds of opportunities have gotten easier and people are more thoughtful about what access and equity looks like in higher education. I think Brown's been fabulous about stepping up and owning the need to provide the foundation of access [12:00] and equity for all students who are deserving. Yeah. So those may be not the stories you wanted, but those are the stories that go for public consumption.

AK: Yeah, no, those are perfect. Before we segue into current events, is there anything else you'd like to add about your time at Brown?

CH: Right after I graduated I thought that I should have done a better job of being a scholar. I had always been a fabulous scholar. And I think, I mean, I was, I graduated when I was 20. So I was a brown from the time I was 16 to 20. Many children, many children, many students, many young people, and they're increasingly looking like children from my advanced age. Many of the students who had like taken a gap year or taken a PG year or gone to a prep school were significantly older. And so I think that they had done a lot of growing up and the questioning [13:00] and is it black or white? Or actually it's a shade of gray and what does that look like? And I really came up against those questions at a time that if you had already done what your shade of gray is you really buckled in and looked carefully at what you were going to do. And I was always amazed when the people came in and they knew they were going to be a doctor and they started out freshman year and they went right through. I really used the time at Brown in a really, a traditional sense have the luxury of having a fabulous liberal arts education. So I really grew up as a person. I used the experience to ask a lot of questions. I ranged far and wide. I made a variety of friends. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience and that questioning experience, it wasn't always easy. And when I got out right after I got out, I thought you know, did I waste, did

I not use it? Now over the course of my life, I think that actually I used it in a fabulous [14:00] way because I, I went on to get a PhD easily and well. I went on to a master's degree and exceeded expectations for scholarly output. And I've published and I've written grants, and I've directed this and directed that. So I don't, I have no regrets when I look back from this part, which I think is one of the fun things about going through reunions and kind of keeping up with people and what they've done. And kind of not every decade of your life is perfect. And so people take their bumps at different times.

I had my children very late. I was eight weeks short of 40 when my twins were born, and as I said before when we were talking, my son has just graduated from the graduate school at Brown and my, his twin is at Yale, halfway through. So having kids late worked well for me. But I always had that idea, and it really came from Brown, that you could kind of do, do whatever [15:00] you wanted to do, you were chosen, you had the resources. The open curriculum really taught me how to marshal resources and organize both the transactional side of work as well as the relational side, and how to really think about the end product and work back. So, I mean, I learned a lot of things. And so, I think that that's what I would say about my time at Brown that it has meant different things to me, as it has mellowed, and as I have experienced it, and I think the great thing about Brown keeping track of alumni and having such fabulous like workshops and opportunities to move around at reunion is every five years you kind of get to reassess, rethink, reconnect and see yourself differently. So, the first five years that maybe heartache walking around thinking, "Oh, I wish I had." And then you, you sort of think, "Oh, actually, I did. I did what was right for me." And so I mean, if that would always be my message. And [16:00] I am, I'm thoughtful and concerned particularly, I mean, I saw my own kids go through undergraduate and they were very focused, they did very well in a variety of ways. Nathaniel had Fulbright, you know, we've had fellowships and whatever. But this generation I think, is particularly pressed to both find themselves in a supportive environment of the humanities and the liberal arts, as well as have the skills to succeed in the contemporary world. And as an older person, I really think about that with some, with some concern, because you're only young once, and you only get to make those kinds of mistakes and really integrate your personality then. And so my wish for people is that they really, at some point in their lives, hopefully in an undergraduate education, there's space to really articulate who you are and grow into the person

that you [17:00] will increasingly be as you move forward. So I think that's what I would say about my time at Brown.

AK: Wonderful.

CH: It's the little things over time.

AK: So now as we fast forward to the end of 2019, the start of 2020, and the, the COVID-19 pandemic –

CH: [inaudible]

AK: How did you first hear about COVID-19? And what were you thinking when you first learned about it?

CH: I, I run a program called AHA, as I said, and it is every second Thursday. And so, in March, it was March 12, and we were in fact, the last public event in the city of New Bedford. And all during that day, as the news start to roll out, people said, "Are you going to close down?" I said, "Well, no, because we're, it's a voluntary thing to come and so, if people have to concerns, they should stay away." [18:00] And the whole exposure wasn't there. My son at Yale is a bio-chem major and his wife is in Yale med. And so they were talking about it. My son, who was at Brown was in the Masters of Public Health Program and he's an epidemiologist. Actually now he's an epidemiologist for the state of Rhode Island. He started the day after his final exams. But I mean, so we have a conversation in the family about what's this about? And as my children would like to point out, I am now over 65 and in that group. We also as a team care for my mom who's turning 90 on Sunday. So I was thoughtful, you know, both ways. But you know, I thought, well, it's an outdoor program, whatever, whatever. On the Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> the mayor issued a note that said there will be no more programs in New Bedford that collect more than 10 people. So I was kind of on the first wave of what's this going to look like? [19:00] And clearly, you know, an arts and culture program as a community placemaking program is kind of the heart and soul of the community. It's also a very successful economic engine for the south coast. So, while we're

not frontline people, we certainly are visible and hold a space in people's lives. And so that, that weekend, I thought, "Okay, well, what's this all about?" I kid about I've gone from Boomer to Zoomer in one week. If you knew me, well, you know that my technology technological ability is not my strongest suit. So I spent the weekend, I went to you know, classes online because I used to be Director of Education at Plimouth Plantation, they were doing things. I went to a concert in Worcester, it was box birthday and they were supposed to do the, some cantata, but they couldn't get the chorus there, so they did a concert. I was in my garden, playing this wonderful music and I thought, "Well, this is great. I would never have driven to Worcester." And then on Sunday, I went to church [20:00] with a couple that my family hikes with. He's a minister in New Hampshire. And he and his wife were, she was the pianist, he was the minister in this lovely little church in rural New Hampshire by themselves. And I thought, "Well, I would never have driven to New Hampshire to go to church with Bill and Kathy." So I started to start thinking about, you know, what's this world going to look like? And I came in Monday morning and said, "Okay, that's, that's it, we rock, we're taking this virtual." So, we went from AHA to virtual AHA, which is VAHA. And we were one of the first programs because we're a whole platform of 70 partners, and the symphony came on and I, one of the, UMASS is one of our partners, so they did their graduating class exhibit on Zoom. So they came in one at a time and explained their piece and put it together. And so we had this whole Zoom thing. People did virtual wine tastings, it was house concerts, it's whatever. And one of the people who had [21:00] done a dance party for UMass Dartmouth as part of her classwork, the Dean said, "Why don't you call her and see if she'll be part of AHA?" And so I called Salty and said, "So, Salty, could you do the same thing for AHA? I think it would be really fun." And she said, "Well, I have to go home." And she said, "But I think I could do it." She said, "I live in Singapore." And I thought, "Yes! That is the new world that we embrace." And she's, she said, "You know, it's 12 hours difference. So if I do a dance party for you at eight it's eight in the morning for me, I think I can do it, it'll be fine." So then I started thinking about, okay, we're going to be virtual, we're going to rock this, you know, people need to have joy. They need to have celebration, they need to have thoughtful articulation of what it is that binds us together. Because we all, we keep saying, "We're all in this together. We're just separate." So it's like, okay, well, let's make that true. Let's all be in this together. So, we put together this program and then I thought, well, we've always been a walking footprint downtown, part of the cultural district. [22:00] I thought,

you know, this is great. We can actually go to the Buttonwood Zoo and meet the animals. We could have a whole day of stuff. We could go the Lloyd Center and take a walk. And so we started to include all of these partners that we haven't, and looked at the geography. And then when the night came, the for instance, the Fishing Heritage Center had I think about 60 people, some of whom were from Gloucester, some were from Maine, some of the people who went to Salty's dance party were all over the country. And I started to think about, you know, when this is all over, it's not a new, it's not going back, it's going to be a whole new normal because we are going to be accessible. It's the equity and access moment. We're going to be accessible to a variety of people who don't want to go out, who want the content. I went to a great lecture at the Whaling museum yesterday. It's about an artist that I've collected some pieces. I was in my jammies with a cup of tea, the video wasn't on and I thought, you know, there's a moment that this, and you're up close and personal with the art. You can touch your [23:00] screen and make it go bigger, you know.

So in terms of the COVID, it is a pandemic. It is dreadful, it is unimaginable. We live in such challenging times. But I mean, I always ask two questions in general, you know, all crises that come to life is what do you learn about this crisis in this moment in your life or in our collective lives? And what do you learn, what is it that you're going to do during this time period that you can't do other times? So you come out of surgery, you look at books on tape. You, you know, you have some sickness, you clarify, you know. I've always talked to the kids about you know, you're only going around once. So let's kind of use this time and really think about how to maximize the output of it. And then what are you going to do in this –

[recording froze]

AK: You've frozen on me here.

## **Part 2**

AK: All right, so we are back after a brief internet pause here that this is part of the world that we are in now. So I'm glad, this is not the first time that has happened. And it's just, it's, it's the world of Zoom and everybody working from home on different internet connections. But to pick

up where we left off, you were commenting on what people can learn from different challenging times.

CH: Yeah, no, I think it's important to always have something that you can learn and also look forward so that you not only think about what you're doing now, but how does that kind of move forward to whatever you want to do in the future? Because, because there will be a future and there will be an after and so what are the things that you want to do after? And so we've tried to look at that with the program to think about what the opportunities are because you're looking at all different people. I mean, the people in my generation are now a lot more tech savvy. And I think that some of the people [1:00] who are more in your generation or my kids' generation have had to rely on different kinds of ways to connect because there isn't hanging out, there isn't just doing, there isn't being. And so I think that as people slow down and both look internally a little bit and think about what they're habits and opportunities are. My son said to me, "This is the triumph of the introverts." And you know, if we're in an extroverted world, this is the triumph of the introverts, of the people who know how to be happy by themselves, who know how to have habits of reflection and downtime. So I think that it, there are lots of ways to think about how this balances out, you know, a trajectory that was kind of going this way and it's like all of a sudden there's a tamp down and kind of a flattening. So people are at home with their families, more people are spending more time connecting with friends they haven't seen in a while because they can't really see the people who are in their normal social orbit. [2:00] And, and it's more about conversation and thinking than experiences because we're all kind of Flat Stanley-d out on the Zoom platform. So yeah, I think, I think that there, I hope that there are lessons that we will take away from this, as well as thoughts of preparedness. I mean, Bill Gates was saying a long time ago that the next real crisis is going to be a global pandemic. And here we are with sort of a sliding scale of both understanding and political awareness of the impacts of this.

AK: To the end of preparedness, as you were kind of transitioning your work and the things that you were doing in that sphere, were you personally planning or preparing to be kind of at home for as long as we have been? And if you were, what ways were you doing that preparation?

CH: I'm kind of a plan ahead girl. And so as I saw it coming, [3:00] I did all of the, you know, the meetings with the tax and, you know, and the investments and, and the health checkups and the meds and, you know, it's like, okay, if you really can't get out of the house for two months, what does that look like? And I do care take so I have some responsibilities in that way. But I tried to kind of clear the deck. And I went to the public library to check out a whole stack of books. I'm the president of the local library Trust and so we kind of encouraged people to take the books out and give them an airing during this time period. So yes, I think that I could have, I upgraded my iPhone, I looked at my technology. I looked at the home technology, although I live in a little village so the technology's not fabulous. But I really looked at those things thinking okay, if this is going to happen, and if not, it's probably good for me to do this.

At work, we went, we did not have an interactive website [4:00] so I immediately got some funding so we could WordPress and think about how to revise the website. And there are a lot of people writing songs about social distancing, so we've archived a lot of local singer songwriters, and kind of given a place for people to put up their pandemic efforts.

So yeah, no, I prepared like that. I did buy some food, just in case, thinking if I were sick, I wouldn't be able to get out and I would be quarantined so I mean, I sort of thought about, I didn't do panic buying but I did think about what would be a reasonable thing to be quarantined for two weeks. But that was really it. I was supposed to be traveling in the end of March so I canceled that trip. I was supposed to be traveling in April so I canceled that trip. My kids had to call off their wedding because it was going to be in public property in Yale and Yale closed down. We've made other arrangements. First celebrating the graduation. We listened to President Paxston on you know, MacBook Air, with, in the backyard [5:00] for graduation. So, I mean, those things have come over time. But yeah, I think the main thing is it's important to be responsible for yourself and your health.

And it's so interesting, I'm in a lot of book groups, a lot of people love book groups. And there's been a whole run of fabulous fiction about living through World War Two and living in occupied countries and you know, *The Nightingale* and the this and the that. And all of a sudden when you went into stores, you know, and, and you saw the shelves not quite full, you think, you know, we think about okay, this is going to be two weeks, three weeks, now it's been several months, but it brought home that what is it to live in a wartime experience, when, how do you prepare for that long? And how do you kind of think about marshaling your resources? And

again, I'm totally grateful. I'm still working. Everyone I know is still working. Lovely [6:00] home, fabulous yard, lovely garden, which is really benefiting from my attention this year. But I mean, it's a very different, this pandemic has really shown some of the fissures in American society because you know, working in New Bedford and downtown, it really affects people very differently depending on your economic situation, depending on your access to health and healthcare, depending on your physical health yourself and how well you've been able to keep yourself, the density of where you live. You know that, that is hugely important. And also your expectation of what the situation is and will be and how you understand that. The school system here had to give out unnamed numbers of Chromebooks because in the technological divide, you can do work from home for school, but you know, if you only, [7:00] if you don't have a Chromebook or connectivity or hotspots or those kinds of things, it's a real disadvantage. And then you know, families get one, well what happens if you've got three or four kids for all trying to be online? And so those who are set up and able to connect and you know, get streaming programs online, or Hoopla from your local library with a library card, you know, I mean, it, it has really shown both opportunity and access as huge differentiation. Personally, and professionally, I have been able to think about this in a different way. It's tricky.

AK: So, again, to that end, we are in another moment. COVID-19 is still happening. There's still this urgency for social distancing. [8:00] But I think we're going on at least a week now of protests throughout the country against racial injustice, racial inequality, primarily spurred by the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. Would you be okay with commenting on any of that and how that is maybe impacting your work or, or your life, or just the things that you're thinking about in your day to day?

CH: Yeah, well, where to start, right? So I totally believe in peaceful protest. I think it is one of the great, I mean, I'm a historian of the American Revolution, right. So I think it is one of the great differentiators in our society. I think it's also a great opportunity. It is amazing to me that [9:00] this particular president has caused people to be out in the streets around a variety of things. I don't think you've seen this since the '60s and '70s. So the women's marches that we all did, the science marches, the you know, right to truth, the, the marches around race. And I, I am, I mean, it gives me chills that there's so many people who are so willing to be out and about

and one of the things as I listen to the news, I am a news person, that people talk about is that the people who are out being present and being visible for civil rights issues, particularly around the George Floyd moment, there's a much better mix of ages and races and cultures. In the '60s, as they said, most of the people who went out were people of color looking for rights [10:00] for people of color. And I think what we understand in our contemporary world because we're so well spread out is that if you are part of an interest group, you don't win, you don't move the question forward by speaking to people who are like yourselves, because they're all believers, and you really need allies and friends and family and collections of other people to spread out and share your concerns and think about the fact that it makes us all whole. If everyone has an equal playing field, and, I mean, I speak about this as a female. When I was at Brown, I was on the sailing team and it was before Title IX. Louise Lamphere didn't sue until the year after I got out and so access and opportunities were very different. Abortion wasn't legal, thank you. Birth control given out at the health center, but not, not, [11:00] not, not in your local doctor. And so you know, you lived through a variety of situations with your peers and colleagues. And that was the issue of my generation of people like me. And, and again, we were privileged and entitled because we were graduating with a fabulous education from an Ivy League college, what could, and the confidence to really go out and do magic in the world. And so, you look around and you think, okay, so now this is this cultures question. And I think if you listen to young people who explain the story of their lives, it is compelling. And I think it would be time to have that story compelling and out anyway, because there's so many things with technology that can equalize the playing field and this, that, and the other.

I find this President particularly problematic because I think he is divisive. I think instead of looking for solutions, he is, as they say, pouring gasoline on [12:00] a problem that has, was probably always there, clearly time in an economic strata to make that work better for everyone. I think that we are a country that has the capacity if we choose to use it that way to have access to health care, to have access to education, and to be welcoming to people of other cultures and other countries. I, I feel that we do have the capacity to do that, and that is the best of us. And so I think that we should think about that.

So I am all for the peaceful protests and being out. It is, it makes one thoughtful, particularly the experience of Providence recently that you know, there are probably outside agitators, and how does that play? Are these people who are whatever, whatever, and I don't

know that. But I do think that the people who are out in numbers have been, have been seen, have been heard, are powerful. And you [13:00] know, President Obama speaking yesterday, I mean, he is really the presidential voice right now, and really talks about this is an enormous opportunity that we are seeing clearly that there's a conjunction of race, health, economics, and kind of how we move forward and that really, we will be stuck as a larger group. No one is going to get out of this. This is a boat that's going to you know, the, the, the tide rises and floats all the boats and the divisiveness is not going to serve anyone well in either the short or long term. And so this is really something that we need to – I don't know if solve, I don't think there's a solve, but I do think there's a work on, and I do think there's a being heard and acknowledged. I mean, there's a whole gradation of how people think about and are understood as people. And so that's kind of my personal view. And I have frankly [14:00] encouraged my kids with social distancing to be out and about. The son who's working for the Department of Public Health in Rhode Island, they are going out as a whole group with T-shirts that say Black Lives Matter and the Rhode Island Department of Health on the back. And I think, yeah, go be safe, be smart, be socially distance, wear a mask, hand out hand wipes, but I don't think that COVID is going to stop people from doing it. I would hope that they'd be smart about it. One does, in one's reality check, feel for the doctors and nurses who are going to have to deal with the inevitable spikes that are coming out. But then there are people going to the beach in masses that are going to cause the same spike. So I mean, it's, you know, whatever. But I do think that we should as a society, protect the vulnerable and, and give what we can. I mean, I think my grandmother always said that, [15:00] "To those who much is given much is expected." And so I think particularly, you know, the alums of great universities who have had great opportunities really should step up and talk about it and be heard.

So the other question you asked me makes me tearful because it's so huge, is how does that work in my professional life. And so we are about to have a meeting of all of the partners, and all the cultural people from this area, and we have invited people from Washington to speak – it's Zoom so we can get them to come and speak – to speak about, you know, what is advocacy for arts and culture in this pandemic, in Washington, and what's the state of a state, and what's the state of the city. And there are three of us hosting it and we have a call at noon today to sort of say, "Okay, so we're going to start this meeting, and we're going to acknowledge and talk about that and what is it we want to say?" And doesn't have to be a do, but I think it does have to

be a say, and I do think it has to [16:00] be an acknowledgment of the current, I think we cannot ignore it. I think we dishonor it if we don't bring light to it. So I, you know, I encourage, I mean, I encourage not just conversation, but kind of like, okay, who are your allies? And who are you going to stand up for? And I try to mentor a variety of young people, including women of color because I think that that is my gift. I'm good at mentoring. And so, here's my experience, you know, let me help you think about yours. So it's, it's a challenging time. And, but there will be an other side of this and so I hope that people really take the challenges on all levels quite seriously and think about what the other side is.

The other thing my grandmother said is, you know, "When I graduated from college, I did not have the right to vote." [17:00] And so she encouraged all of us and I have really encouraged my kids that you know, you need to vote. It's a hard, one right. It is the way that change happens. And you choose wisely, those people to represent you. The image that horrifies me right now is the stormtroopers who are on the steps of the monuments in DC. And I look at that, and I think, I cannot believe that this is the country we live in. It is frightening, it is inappropriate, it is scary, it's all of those things. And that's the image that you also see on the split screen, with people taking in the, and people spending, you know, the nine minutes that George Floyd was asphyxiated, in thoughtful reflection and prayer. And so it's kind of, I see both, I see visually and experience both things happening. And I'm enough of an optimist that I think in the long term [18:00] it dents the exceptionalism of the United States as a democracy, this whole thing has dented it, but I do not think it has destroyed it. I think there's a great, yeah, I think the millennials are a great new generation, I'm proud to be a mom of two. And I think that there's great energy around truth telling and getting to the other side of these things. These are kids who kind of know how to manipulate the world, and the world is coming to them. And I have great faith that they will do a great job. And I actually vote for the people that they want to vote for. So, not I can't make up my own mind, but I think well, people my age are really voting for a world and a system that they're going to inherit. So, you know, off we go, let them do it. Okay, what else?

AK: So as we start to kind of wind down here, if someone were to listen to this interview tomorrow, [19:00] what is one thing you would want them to know? And if they're listening to this interview 50 years from now, what is one thing you would want that person to know?

CH: Well, tomorrow I want them to go out and vote. You know, if they hear this tomorrow, that's my message. Go out and vote, be active, be vocal, be visible. And if you're not somebody who likes to go out and vote and be vocal, visible, and all those things, be a mentor, contribute, be a friend, be an ally, you have that power. You can do things large and small. You can watch out for people. There are lots of different ways that you can give back to the community and connect with the community. It doesn't have to be around racial issues. There are you know, homelessness, there's, you know, food insecurity, there is production of great art and literature, there is trail work for the outdoors. I mean, there's lots of different things. And I've always volunteered a lot myself. I've insisted that my kids do it, both locally [20:00] and nationally because I think it's really important to be part of society. So, I think if you're listening to this tomorrow, that's my message. And there's no better time ever than right now and you're the person to do it. So go.

If you're listening this to this in 50 years, I'd like to once again say that I have been grateful and proud of the connection to Brown always, Pembroke and Brown. It, my education gave me the courage to follow both a passion and to have some productive piece in the world. And that really, that courage, and that enabling, and that support has really made all the difference. And so I would hope that still in 50 years, Brown has continued that tradition of supporting its students in a way that makes them – Vartan Gregorian always said “citizens of the world” – But citizens of the world, citizens of your community, whatever. [21:00] use this opportunity to do something that you really want to do. Because if you do that, then you will find purpose and you will have longevity in whatever the pathways that you choose and you should make it your own. Because if you're looking at this and you're at Brown, you are bright, you are chosen, you are enabled, and you need to be grateful. I guess that's it.

AK: So then finally, I just want to leave some space for you to share anything that you might have been hoping to get into the historical record today that I did not ask you about. Anything, any kind of last words or comments.

CH: I, I would like to thank my family. You know, everyone always does that. I mean, my aunt was class of '38, my cousin was '68, my mom was '51, my dad was '52, my cousins were '08. You know, I mean, there are a lot of people who went before me in generations before that.

[22:00] My great aunt was the first PhD female in the chemistry department, whatever, whatever. And it created a legacy. And I think Brown is both supportive of that legacy, but I also want to acknowledge that I think I wouldn't have been at Brown if I hadn't been part of that continuum of legacy. And I think it's important for the community, as well as the University to acknowledge that. And I, and I do acknowledge that. So, grateful to my family.

AK: Well, thank you so much for your time today. I really appreciate it.

CH: Amanda, thank you. I think it's a great opportunity for people to be on the record and to talk about their experiences.

AK: Thank you.

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