

Monterey County Theater Alliance Oral History Project

Theater in Quarantine: The play of Terry Blum

HCOM 350s: Oral History and Community Memory SL
California State University Monterey Bay
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Preface

The following oral history interview was conducted on April 24,2020 with Terry Blum by Michael Egan. recorded through Zoom. This interview is part of the Monterey County Theater Alliance community project.

(00:00:00)

Q: Alright, this is Michael Egan on April 24, 2020 here with Terry. How are you doing today?

Terry: Good

Q: Right, that's great to hear. Very glad, glad to interview you. Alright, so my first question is, you know every great story has a beginning which is always the best place to start. With that in mind, could you tell me the beginning of your story?

Terry: My story, I grew up in Los Angeles and when I was Twenty years old I got married and I had one daughter in Los Angeles and then we wanted to get out of LA. My husband was in aerospace but he kept getting laid off for driving long distances. And in 1972 we moved to New Monterey and then uh while we were there we had our second child, a daughter named Sarah. And uh we bought a house in Pacific Grove and so were at the house and my daughter became friends with a girl down the street and named Becky. And then the mother said, I think my daughter was about the fourth grade. And she said well Becky is going to Carmel to look into this uh theater that teaches drama to young kids. You want to go and check it out. So I thought sure. So I went and watched like the kids, the girl and Sarah liked joining the class and they looked like it was great and they were having fun. And that was called Children's Experimental Theater and that's how I first got involved with theater. You want me to go on from there?

Q: Yeah, keep going.

(00:1:44.640) - (00:6:52.590)

Terry: Okay so basically I'll tell my basic story. Okay so Sarah went to what was called CET from about when she was in about the Fourth grade. She was, it was about 1982 I'm guessing on all these and then in the late 1980's she was in a play and if you went to CET she was in till she was in the 12th grade. When you were about 15 you could be in a production called Step Players Repertory Company that put on plays at the indoor forest theater. And that's where the classes were and you could be in a play. Where she was in a play and while she was there they asked if I just wanted to help with the box office. So I helped with the box office at the indoor forest theater set players and I continue doing it like even after she was in the play for, gosh, maybe 10 years I was. I ended up becoming head of the box office for step players and there was a man that did box office with Norbert and one day he said Terry why don't you go to a meeting of this organization called the Monterey County Theater Alliance and when you go there. While you're at the meeting see if you could talk them into suggesting to the theaters to put in programs about other theaters in the area. So we can help spread the word about the different productions. So I went to the meeting, it was at a woman's house that was. And so I was at this meeting and it turned out that the woman was on the board who was the secretary. She and her husband were in a serious car accident on the way to the meeting so then this woman who knew me from Step Players Susie Burn. She used to be stage manager, managed separately. She says Terry I know you're secretary on the board for CET. How about taking minutes, so I took the minutes and then they said, Terry how about joining the board because we're going to need a secretary, so I joined the board in, I don't know maybe late 1980's, early 1990's. I joined the board and I've basically been the secretary on that board on and off. Ever since I'm up there, I don't know why. Sarah was a student at CET, I was also on the CET board and that was well promoting CET and Step players. And I did that, I think I was on the board for 28 years and I'm always on board for a

long time. So, um that's how I got involved and then once I was on board I started besides Step Players. I started volunteering helping at Pacific Repertory Theater. Which in Carmel, but it was originally called Grove month and it was a new Monterey and I never, I never was in any play I was only in one play as an actress. I was in a play called "The Man Who Came to Dinner". I don't know the name of the part, I was a woman that had come in with a jar of beeflets jelly or calvetes jelly and I had to drop it and it breaks on the floor, I don't know and they made me wear a really ugly costume. And I really didn't want to be in the play at all but they did need somebody to fill the part. And that's the only time that I was ever on stage. The funny thing is I read a review of the play and they said some of the actors were really good and some are pretty weak and I figured they were talking about me. I'll tell you another funny thing, so I had to wear this really ugly hat and at that time I was working at a supermarket and this guy that worked at the supermarket with me. He said, Terry, he says I saw you in Carmel, um it looks like you just came from church cause you had this hat on. Well this woman and I were in the play, we were only on at the beginning and we had to get back in time for curtain call. So we went out to lunch in Carmel and he thought that I was actually, I would actually dress like that to go to church. So anyway, that's sort of my theater story, but the reason that they suggested, I'd be interviewed is because I've been on the board of the theater alliance for a really long time and I saw lot's of plays and I sort of saw what was happening over time to see it or around here. So that's basically it . Okay>

Q: Alright so you talked about leaving Los Angeles and coming to Monterey Count. What influenced that decision, was it did you want a breath of fresh air or was it something else?

(00:07:05.130) - (00:08:52.080)

Terry: Ah, yeah we, uh my husband was really sick he was an aerospace engineer. He was sick of aerospace and he wanted to get out of there and he was driving like two hours a day back and forth and we came up to this area, he thought maybe he'd get a math job, which he didn't get. Uh what happened was he didn't find a job. Then I had a daughter, and then I finally got a job. I actually had gotten a teaching credential, but I didn't want to be a teacher. Because I don't, I can't control kids very well and I hated the idea that you had to do like a bulletin board every month and stuff like that. I didn't like that. Anyway, I got a job selling candy on Fisherman's Wharf and I did that for three years but then I left there to get a job working at that time. It was called Alpha Beta Market. And I did, I worked there for 28 years and I had goods like health insurance and stuff like that. I think we wanted to get out of LA, because we just wanted to. I knew somebody who lived in Pacific Grove. We visited her and we really liked her. So we looked all the way as far as Seattle looking for a place to live. And then we ended up deciding we wanted to live in the Monterey Peninsula cuz it was away from family enough, but close enough so we could see family. So that's why we moved here. First we lived in Monterey then Pacific Grove, that we are. We're here.

Q: Okay was there any kind of adjustments that needed to be made living here, or was it just kind of like a seamless transition?

(00:09:00.390) - (00:10:49.380)

Terry: I think it was pretty seamless. I loved it. I loved it. Our first house in Monterey had some land and my husband was growing some vegetables and stuff like that and now the only, I'll tell you the only thing that was bad is when we lived in LA. We had a lot of friends, where we would

go out and do social things and it was like a lot of married couples. And they got divorced, they went different directions. Well, when we moved up here, we didn't know anybody and so we didn't and we have one child at that time. And we didn't have anybody to go out and do things with. So I think that was I that bothered me. But then I think working at the, oh let me just say after I was there for three years. My husband started working at the candy store. He made candy. They're there for 14 years, so we started meeting people and I think my daughter started doing children's theater. And when I got involved doing box office and met people. I think that's how we met people and made friends, and then my husband from way, way back he has been a musician. He, his when I met him, he was playing banjo. He was playing bluegrass and old time music and when we came up here pretty soon we met other musicians and started going to music jams and started having them at our house and Celtic jams and all this. And so I think the main thing was, was not having people to socialize with.

Q: Okay. Okay, so this ties into another question I also have. Um, so theater is a social environment, you have an audience to view theater. Is it better to go, do you go by yourself, or do you go like a group of friends to the theater or does it really kind of depend on what the show is going to be?

(00:11:10.500) - (11:57:00.00)

Yeah, so if my husband doesn't want to go to a play. I will find a friend who wants to go to it and some plays, I'm also involved with something called Jen train at Monterey Peninsula College which has classes for seniors on Western Civ and also a social and so usually a group of Jen Train it's something that my husband doesn't want to see. So, a lot of places. But I suppose

my husband doesn't want to see. So, a lot of places, But I suppose my husband and I prefer the place in the little theaters, you know it's like a Pack Rap or the Western Stage like in your small theaters.

Q: Oh ok. Um so this is also another question theater has like different genres, do you have a particular genre of like plays that you like or you can watch anything It'd be entertained or enjoy?

(00:12:12.810) - (00:12:41.760)

Terry: I don't like things that are scary. Ah, let's see, well in different genres I love like oh all year comedies. That's the Easter their children six players used to do those and plays I like really well done musicals I like. No, I think and sometimes like small plays in small places.

Q: Hmm. Alright, and do so do you have like a particular favorite playwright?

(00:12:53.490) - (00:13:15.390)

No. Okay I can't think of anybody um I just like a variety, like I've seen like I like some of the Shakespeare plays and I like some of them all year plays and I like more modern plays no.

Q: Okay, well you mentioned Shakespeare, do you have a particular favorite of his or are any of his good?

(00:13:25.780) - (00:15:04.320)

Terry: I'll tell you, I'll tell you one thing because, there I discovered that I like some Shakespeare step, a long time ago, like 1990's Pacific Repertory Company would put on something called theater fest. It was by the war Custom House claws by the war and there's something there that is called the memory garden and it's got itsGot grass and it's sort of been close with bushes and so they Pacific Repertory Theater. They put up folding chairs and they did something called Henry the Fourth Part one. Which I'd never seen before. It was one of Shakespeare's histories and it was and like one of the main characters is a very funny guy called can't remember his name. Um, It's not Gandalf. That's Lord of the Rings. It was, it was really well done and it was funny, and only like about maybe 30 people would go to that and was so well done any was answer you sit and folding chairs and we were sort of like groupies for that week, we would go. It was about three weeks in a row. And we go to every performance. So I really enjoyed that yeah, and they did Part two. But I like Part one better.

Q: Okay. All right. So you mentioned that you and your husband like to go to like the smaller productions sometimes was the biggest production you've ever attended

(00:15:18.780) - (00:15:20.550)

Terry: And around here?

Q: Around here or like or if

(00:15:24.840) - (00:16:10.530)

Terry: I guess the biggest theater that I allowed into our forest theater. I don't force theaters to be the biggest theater. I've seen pack wrap up put on plays for families for kids like they would do like Alice in Wonderland. Wizard of Oz was very popular and that would fill the outdoor forest

theater that I think that seats left was a 450 and then there was like, like, like a Summit pass on the side and people actually pay to sit on that. That place will be packed so that was the biggest Apple force theater.Oh.

Q: So that was a good time to have like?

(00:16:13.470) - (00:16:42.060)

Terry: Yeah, yeah, you know, the thing is, Pack rep. I think sometimes Theaters made more money from their children's shows than they did from their adult shows because families would go And the Friends of all the kids would show and people would pay to come, you know, and so it's always good. There's a theater company. It's really not very active now called a unicorn, but they would put on Children's play and they said the only thing that was really holding a theater together was the kids performances.

Q: Okay. So would you say that's an advantage. Some local theaters might have brought in play, or do performances that I tried to like the younger kids and all that to bring your families?

(00:16:54.750) - (00:18:36.420)

Terry: Yeah yeah, yeah yeah exactly and like with us. So the cedar lines. So let's see. So, but let me just say I. Can I tell you about how I joined the board of the theater alliance, like the story of me joining the course at the theater. Why is it represented like I think almost all of the theater companies and it's commodity county theater so mostly right now we go as far as Salinas, and Before I joined. I knew about them. They were doing something called the bars that they would

put on like Academy like awards for two theaters. And they like I became a person who went to play to see play so that I could vote to see how good they were. And then the people that the theaters. Places that did the best they got awards with the barbs and that's how I found out about it and then I ended up being on the board and I ended up being Like editing their newsletter, because a woman that was doing the newsletter moved away. And so I forgot what I was thinking. Anyway, um, what we're doing in our newsletter, we tell about and on our website we tell about What plays. There are going and the future plays going on all around the county, but we also are starting to pull in Reporting on high school because there's so many probably middle school, too. But we're sort of concentrating on high school plays because a lot of kids get started in theater in high school. So maybe it's a question answering question.

Q: That no. And that was actually going to go back to a question. I was actually gonna ask, what was your involvement in that theater as the leader alliance and so that answered that question.

Um, What are some good arms and some memories you can give about that air time in the theater alliance, like where there's some particular people you've met?

(00:18:57,240) - (00:24:10.980)

Terry: Was really interesting as I started going through and I found like old newsletters from way back. I couldn't find minutes from night in the early 1990s. And so the first meeting that I went to, as a senior alliance that I think Stephen Moore was the book, who's had a pack rat was the president of the board and he led the meeting. And at that time, The people that were the members of the board were mostly like the different producers representing the different theatre companies. So for people who know theater. Let's see. It was Stephen Moore and it was John

Newkirk And it was Peter De Bono from MPC and hey, Mitch, Tyler from course theater deal. And that's what I remember now. And so that was a woman's house and then After that, I think we started having people's houses and then we ended up at the first theater. And so it was Laverne who ran The California first theater and the place there and she let us have the meetings there and she led the meetings and we did that for a long time and then Julie Hewitt From pack rep. She joined the board then then we eventually needed a new president Julie said we could have the meetings at In the, in the lobby of the golden bow in Carmel, which we did for a long time with Julie as president, and it It just sort of, what's the aim. I'm seeing differences. I still occasionally having meetings at the Golden Bough, finally Julie that being president and Well Peter Everhart was president for a while and then Andrew McDonald's, who's the current president, she became a prisoner. We and I've seen like there were periods when we were very active when we have sort of projects like let's have we had Like ideation workshops which we did and we did auditions at the first theater and we spread the word about our auditions. But, and we would get people like producers to come to the auditions, but We didn't get that many people coming mostly high school kids came to those that wasn't real successful and then .What else we had like where we invite our members to go to plays as a group and then afterwards, they would talk to the actors about the place, but we didn't get too many people coming to those things either the main people were there were the people that were in the place the sort of fun and now we're actually have bigger projects. So right now, our, our current Board. What we're doing is number one, we're doing what you're doing it for, and it's called the saving Monterey County theatre history program and which Andrea got it worked out that we're doing, along with the CSU MB oral history class. And so, which is, I've always thought about it. There's been so much theater around here that will be nice to sort of record the history of our local theater. It's well I've heard.

Okay. CT going back to children's experimental theater. There's a lot of people that are involved in local theater now. Who are either students at children's experimental theater or they are interns there. So, they and they're the ones that are either actors or So let me just say Stephen Moore went to see the time he was in middle school, I think, Stephen Moore went there and he's a pack rat and Carrie Crocker was there. He's unicorn theater and Packed, packed with McAvoy who was an MPC but now he's helped working at pack rap and Then there was so It just seems like it would be nice to preserve the hope somebody said, Norbert who shared box office with me said that The reason that we have so much local live theater around here is because a lot of the heads of the theaters were students at children's experimental theater. So I forget what the question is. I get off.

Q: Um, whoa. Okay, no you can go.

(00:24:17.100) - (00:25:11.760)

Terry: Oh, I know, I remember. Okay. So one thing we're doing is the history of the local theater and the other project we have is called, Technical theatre program where we're inviting people to come and get trained. They come and learn a little bit. And to sort of volunteer to work at different theaters on technical aspects of theaters. There's always a need for volunteers. So that's another project we have. So our current board is pretty active. We also do a lot of tabling events to get more people to become theater alliance members. We have a really good website that tells all about you to know what places are on. Now, in the future, and about additions and so we're telling people to go to our website. So we're much more active this most active board time that I've been on the board.

Q: Okay, um, So with your involvement in the local theater alliance. What would you say makes the theater cult leader here different than maybe say somewhere else?

(00:25:36.270) - (00:28:21.030)

Terry: Pack rep, especially that a lot of people that are here doing theatre had done it in other places. And when they have auditions, they get actors from all over the place, so I'm not sure it's that different. I, I, I just have a feeling. I mean, I look at newspapers, when we travel, it seems like we have a lot. I mean, we're different from San Francisco theater, you know, we're sort of there's this a little bit more R rated than ours. But, I don't know why. You know, we're small towns. So we have a lot of other things that's, I don't know if they have these other places. There's a lot of things like reader theaters. That there's various small theater groups. It's like there's a place. There's another group really great called listening place readers theater that the do Read plays at the Monterey Museum of Modern Art, they're doing a la mirada now I just really, it's really fun, especially I love their Christmas, they do. Like they do readings of little excerpts from all fashion Christmas stories and the people that are the readers are their dress. They're wearing traditional costumes of the time when they're reading and they get really good actors from all over. So that's one of the things, and like I think at, The western states in Salinas, they have something called legacy players, which is older actors from the area when acting for a long time get together and I think they might put on plays. I know they replace me. And so there's a lot of differences there's very interesting. I mean, you know, I'm sure each town has its own, I Like type of theater, we have something here recently I think they've been here, maybe three years called paraphrase productions and they are now rented a space on the third floor as the

American 10 cannery and the sort of invite young people to come and get training and then they can be in place. And so, and they'll do. They'll do various plays they leave. Sometimes they do outdoors, they'll go to different venues, they can get it isn't too expensive to put on place and they it's good for people, For you don't have to go to a theater school. You don't have to start at, you know, a small children's theater. So, you know, I think each town has its specialties.

Q: Okay, like I'm from Salinas. So when you hear the Western stage, I noticed often have you been to the western states theater?

(00:28:31,290) - (.00:29:27.870)

Terry: How often, um, I probably been there. I don't know. I don't go there often maybe once every three, four years. You said board meetings out there too. I go to a lot of times they really have fun places as I say in their studio theatre, interesting places and really well done and well rehearsed. So we will go there and I've gone to Like some of the plays in larger theaters, not very much with my husband usually more by myself or with a friend. I forgot there's another theater company in Salinas, which is called area theatrical which teaches. I don't know if you're familiar with them. They have classes for children and they put on really cute children's productions. That's a very active Children's Theatre in Salinas.

Q: Oh, okay. Would you, like a particular favorite local theater, go to, I might have. Already asked this?

(00:29:39.360) - (00:31:48.720)

Terry: My favorite. It's hard to play. It's by the, well, you know, I used to My husband and I used to edit the newsletter until about a year ago. And then I turned it over to another board member who is doing a great job. I sort of kept track of what was going on in place. And so I've been going to less But if something sounded interesting, we would go. That, you know, there, there are theatre companies, you know, I started making a list of all the theater companies. That is no longer here anymore. Let me just say I found these when I was going through things we made. We made two books. one is 96 and one is 98 and There. I'm just telling you, these are all the theaters that are no longer in existence from 98 so magic circle Theater, which was in Carmel Valley and mute. We used to love their places in the village of Carmel Valley and they did. Really good place. They would take a very long time on rehearsal and they were really interesting. Well done. So the magic circle is no longer here. And the search studio did sort of the real thorough sort of fairy tale type things. They are no longer here. They moved away. Unicorn theatre carry Crockett is still around, but he's, he was doing it at the Hoffman play house, but he built sets, he would do your record if something came up, but it really isn't anymore. The Bruce areas where theatre is no longer in existence and that sort of sad. So I guess it used to be my favorite magic circle and everything. Magic Circle. Did we only concede? Maybe about 60 people and they could only have a certain number of performances, because they were in a residential area. So I'm not sure if they were or they could do that names, but they they could have like feel bigger houses, but it was nice out there and Cavalli

Q: Okay, so is there local theater culture or would you not already say there really isn't one?

(00:31:59.970) - (00:32:52.560)

Terry: So the directors know who the actors are at the different theaters. So when they're going to look for a casting place. That's a bit of a culture. I mean, I think, for each theater. I heard that there's a place called Poulos Hawaiian sort of in In New Monterey and it's sort of like where actors hang out some actors from some theaters and I'm sure there are places in Carmel where actors hang out. And I, my daughter, was once in a showboat if the outdoor course theater was packed and corrupted after each performance. There was some place where people in the play would go after the performance Other than that, I don't know. I lost you, Michael

Q: Sorry, my webcam kinda went out a little bit. Okay. Um, alright, so What would you say is important for the younger generations to kind of appreciate with theatre, like what's the best thing they can get out of it?

(00:33:09.420) - (00:35:29.940)

Terry: Oh well, I think. I'm just thinking about my daughter. Let me just say that when she went to CET Let me say what was good about doing theatre for her and I probably did the same thing for being an actress and a high school student in high school, so She learned to sort of appreciate classic plays that she didn't quite understand. She learned to think like improvise because they did a lot of improvising games. So she went to improvise, which made it easier when she was in school and had to write a paper. She could almost fake a paper because she was good at improvising and She learned. You know, it was good socially. She made a lot of friends. The interesting thing is you're in your, your local Let's say you're in your local middle school, but you

meet kids that are not at your school so you meet kids for all over. So you sort of have two lives. The one eight years school and what your friends or your theatre classes. So, and then, and you learn, you know, to put your time into memorizing things. But if you're a young person theatre Gore a plague, or I think it's really good to see there's other stuff. Besides going to movies, which choice? It sort of introduces you to subjects you wouldn't see in movies. It's different than what you see on TV is different. What you would play in video games. So it's just an addition also there's like places that are older plays that are historic i mean it's it's sort of saving history. You know, for kids that otherwise young, they wouldn't know anything. I mean, to see a Shakespeare play or even a play for the 1920s or early Rodgers and Hammerstein play or or or or like see It's just really good for kids. I just feel like People are losing history. Okay.

Q: Yeah, okay. That's a I really, I really enjoyed the way you articulate that was a very, I could. I agree. Because I went to see um What was it, what's my story at the Was it the theater in Salinas. I remember saying, oh, the Western stage.

(00:36:03.570) - (00:35:49.590)

Terry: Presence in here.

Q: And I thought it was well done and it was definitely a different environment than watching a movie watching the movie or watching like a. So it was a very different environment. It was a very enjoyable one.

(00:36:03.570) - (00:36:55.200)

Terry: Yeah yeah yeah you know what's really interesting at the Western stage because they have like A lot. They're sort of in the middle of a Hispanic area. So they put on a Zoot Suit. So they were getting people who Would not normally go to places and then I think some of us in Spanish and they laugh at jokes that those of us who didn't know Spanish didn't get jokes about. And so it was really wonderful to get people to the theater. Who wouldn't normally go to the theater. And I think they've done it. They've done some others. The western states do more sort of, oh Salinas Valley type historical stuff. The western states are really good at trying to get historical stuff. I think it also helps getting grants.,

Q: Yeah. What would you say about local theater excites you?

(00:37:02.340) - (00:37:29.070)

Terry: What excites me and I like seeing the variety of people that go to places You know mostly older people. It's hard to get younger and even middle aged people. Lots of older people like going to places that excite me. Certain plays, I think, Archie. They did such a good job on that. And I love that story. And it was wonderful being here in this audience with these people that are enjoying it. So how's that

Q: That's great. That's great because I was curious about that because, you know, London, find different reasons to enjoy theaters. I was just curious to what, like, what you are excited for. So I was curious to what years let me see. Okay, so on your day on the issue we had we mentioned you're involved with the rainbow speakers? Yeah, I just want to know what kind of what got you involved with them.

(00:37:57.720) - (00:41:30.870)

Ok ok so My younger daughter, Sarah, who is not that young now she was 47 so when she was in college, so when she was about 20 she'd been dating, guys. And then she said, Mom, I discovered what I really like. women or girls more than guys so I'm gonna start dating, guys, so she decided she was a lesbian. Now she considers herself bisexual. So she's in a relationship with men and women and raising a child, all that but When I found out when she said that that she was going to start seeing women. I went to this place called Monterey County AIDS Project, and I asked if they had any information about HIV being spread between women any literature and they gave me literature and they said, If you're new to being a parent of a gay person. There's an organization called people like parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays. So I started going to those meetings. And as usual, I joined their board and became the secretary so became a board secretary and we didn't have a newsletter and website. And finally, we weren't getting we were having; we are getting enough people to stay on the board. And we weren't getting new people coming to our meeting, the only that valuable thing that P flag seem to be doing, was they were Involved with this organization called triangle speakers out of Santa Cruz that since speaker panels to primarily to schools, they'd send like maybe a gay per day male transgender parent to schools briefly telling their stories and letting the students asked questions. And so they were but so people from people like we're doing it through triangle speakers but triangle speakers didn't really want to send their speakers down to Monterey County, so We decided to disband RP flight chapter and start something that we call rainbow speakers and friends. We continued having monthly meetings and we're meeting at it's called epiphany preschool and Lutheran Church in Marina, we have and we don't have to pay to use the space and We have meeting still sort of

social meetings, but we still send out speakers we get invited all over the place to schools, it could be like health classes. I don't even know why. What's interesting is we didn't, I'm not a panelist. I'm not a panelist, but I I send out notices for the meetings and and and to sort of involve me the meetings that are me but we get more People from schools in Salinas, and South County wanting powerless rainbow speakers panelists then Monterey County Pacific Grove really does schools don't invite us at all. So it's interesting. So that's what rainbow speakers do in this organization.

Q: Sounds like it is. Um, would you recommend other people to get involved in volunteering with that organization?

(00:41:38.460) - (00:43:21.720)

Terry: What Rainbow Speakers? Yeah, respect timing. Yeah, the thing is, okay, so I will have our last meeting. We did zoom, which was really fun, actually. I liked zoom. I'm learning about zoom when it actually feels Like, well we have it at the church, we're sitting in a circle, but if you zoom in and I'm doing it on my computer where I can see i mean i think i could see four rows down and for cross. I just see quite a few, but. The thing is that I maintain email lists and I invite people about our meetings. And so if anybody wants to come to a meeting, then they let me know and I just add them to the list and they're really. What's interesting about this is when we were P flag, which is a national, maybe even international, national organization they wanted. They wanted to know like the makeup of your bar. They wanted money. They want to do's and They also are very When you have what is like a circle support group. They call it when you're in a circle. You cannot cross talk, you cannot give advice, all you could do is tell your story.

Well now we're rainbow speakers. We are not any nonprofit, we're just People to get together that are sort of supporting the rainbow speakers. So we have our meetings week can give advice we can cross talk and we talk about everything we don't we don't just talk about gate. Hello. Come back.

Q: And I'm still here. My webcam is a little.

(00:43:24.480) - (00:44:36.540)

Terry: Okay. Terry: We don't. A lot of times we don't talk about gay issues will talk about political things was that that we're, we're at the Catholic Church Father John is the minister of the church and he he's began. He is married. So he has a husband. So Father John explained the city in some detail. Everybody has such interesting stories about their life and so better people come to the meeting. Sometimes we'll get new people and they'll say, gee, I didn't even know about rainbow speakers, I'd like to become a panelist. So that's sometimes the way we get new panelists. Or maybe, maybe I'm they'll go, let's say they will go to College and do it for a class at a college. Let's see it hard. Now, somebody who's in the audience says Can I join us as a panelist? Let's share so they'll get student panelists. So it's very cool. We recently got somebody that I've known for a long time, who recently came out as transgender and we actually were sort of helping her tell her story. So it was nice to just do something that was sort of LGBT related.

Q: Okay. And so this can kind of mix the idea of local theater in the LGBT q plus community together. How would you, how would you feel if, like, say, a local theater and put on a Performance revolving around the LGBT q plus community.

(00:44:59.520)- (00:45:00.210)

Terry: And put it on.

Q: Their local theater company will put on it.

(00:45:04.020) - (00:46:36.030)

Terry: Yeah, yeah. I mean, that that would be really interesting on there are some theater companies might be more interested, perhaps Paper wing maybe uh Yeah yeah I'm you know where I will, you know, we think about Topic, maybe some theory could do that or or or if there was some reason to do it to sort of inform people, you know, I mean, it's such a crazy world world now. I mean, it would be good for people to learn just more about the LGBT community and live. What's interesting, so we've been, I've also been involved for a number of years on the committee for a moderate Peninsula pride and we're getting tons of people from all over coming to that and There's sort of a need to Be out you know people sort of for people to just sort of have a gay community aware, they're gay, but we're also part of the larger community and people just accept them. You know, it's like anything else.

Q: Yeah, um, I was actually going to have another part of the panels and ask if you think of a theater theater group or theater production. Was made. Do you think it would be better. That would be one of the better ways to kind of inform and open people's eyes to like either the issues and say the struggles of the LGBT q plus community.

(00:47:01.440) - (00:49:34.530)

Terry: I know their lgbs because I know people go to plays. There are players. About that the people go to probably more in the San Francisco area. I think it would be really good. I don't know which theater would do it. And, and, you know, the thing is that it gets down to the bottom line. Are they going to give the audience. I mean, there's a chance that they might be more likely to get like high school age kids attending They, you know one thing they do periodically around here is The Vagina Monologues, which began, lots of people coming to that. And sometimes young people that are in theaters are not doing well. They are always sick, you know, we've got to put on something that we can get an audience coming to. So it's hard to say. It's, it's, it's an interesting thought. If you, if you know you know If there. If somebody was interested in winking up Theater and LG like rainbow speakers and theater to look into some pop up at our next theater line board meeting and see if anybody has any ideas. You're thinking of a play on an LGBT subject put on locally. Yeah, yeah It is there any town that you think it would be better at. You know, to get away, it seems, what's so weird is Salinas has a lot of religious people, but it's also seems to be the most accepting of this, you know, I mean, and what what's so interesting is, I mean, Our first project that we did was in in seaside all the Meijer center and gosh we got people from all over. And it was really good for the seaside town to be recognized as this little town. Could put on this big event with a parade and like we had about over 800 people coming anyway I met on that mentioned it. The next board meeting. Okay. And if you get a few if you get any interest in it or let me know, okay.

Q: All right, and so this is another question. I was thinking of it. So, um, obviously pandemic. We're currently going on. How is that really, how is that? It's, it's very, very well in fact a theater out better to the impact of theater is right now with the recent pandemic occurring.

(00:49:55.920) - (00:51:35.100)

Terry: Well, you know, I noticed on Facebook that some of the theaters are trying very hard to have a presence on I don't do Instagram. So I don't know what they are doing on Instagram, but they're trying to have a presence like paraphrase has been putting clips about. From different places. They've done different places on the past pack. I think something enters saying we're going to have auditions, which I don't know how they're going to do the auditions, they might be zoom auditions for plays we're planning. When we eventually open There. They're trying to have a presence on Facebook. That's what I notice and the theater lines. I mean, we're just Continuing, it was like a matter of figuring out like our newsletter that we Mostly send out by 90% of people get a digital. So that's easy, but I'm having trouble finding a place that will print it out for the people who get hard copies, because all the players pretty much closed down or they only want to prefer essential things. So yeah, it's affecting everything. Yeah, but I mean, If we get through this and people learn how to be more You know, maybe sit a little bit at a distance if we feel more protective in the future. Hopefully they will try to support theater and say, Hey, you know, let's try this. I know my husband says let's take in food. We got to support our restaurants, he will take them out. And so maybe it's the same thing. Let's support our theaters, but people get more to care about their local community and what's going on to support it.

Q: Yeah, I, I feel that's very important to look at and a very nice or very good view to have on this whole situation, how, how have you sustained your interest in the arts and during this time.

(00:51:51.630) - (00:53:04.860)

Terry: I've been busier than usual. Okay, so I'm not doing a newsletter anymore, but I've been trying to find a way to get the newsletter printed. My one of my main things that I do totally separate from gay rights and from theater is involved in something called Jen train at Monterey peninsula college and it's classes for seniors at MPC they have that sort of thing, tie in with something called Ali and CSU MB where we have Wednesday lecture. So I'm still trying to help schedule Wednesday lectures and We are having lectures that we were having on Tuesday and Thursdays on Western Civ are coming to us on the computer, you know, so I, I've just been involved in any of that. So you know I do whatever I can. And I, I, I just learned about zoom. I mean, have you been using it for a long time. It just seems everybody's using it now.

Q: Now, this is my first semester using it and I learned it a while ago.

(00:53:09.330) - (00:53:11.100)

Terry: What, what else, what else would you use it for?

Q: Oh, this is mainly just for classes. So this is my I'm learning as I go with it.

(00:53:15.930) - (00:53:56.340)

Terry: Yeah yeah yeah I mean i think it's amazing, I mean we had a Meeting of the Monterey peninsula pride planning meeting which we had to cancel this year's pride and those people were so used to zoom. I mean, there's one woman who's waiting and he says, I'm tired. This is the first zoom, zoom meeting. I went today. And so It's just, I'm getting educated, I don't know, I'm just

as busy as when I was able to go out and we still go out a little bit, you know, go to Trader Joe's which is just up the street. Yeah, anyway. Next question. Okay.

Q: Okay, so as this goes as a pandemic we today. It's kind of this pandemic innocence can well man separated people from like you separated people has it also connected people in you think

(00:54:09.690) - (00:55:14.070)

Terry: Yeah. Yeah, totally, totally families are doing like family zoom things. Let's say so families are checking in with each other, telling their stories like my husband's family is it started set trying to collect family histories and pictures and we had a family birthday party and I'm more in touch with my kids and I noticed we take a where I live, or close was called Sylmar which is by the beach and we take a walk there and people are walking And what people are out families are out like with their kids and they're all bicycling and running. They want to get some fresh air. They want to get out of the house and I think we're lucky where we live. I live in a house that gives me plenty of room. It is so different from living in New York where you've got these small tight apartments were in, and you don't have too many places to go. So I don't feel very constricted and all here.

Q: Okay. So you mentioned that you're able to connect with your family. Very well. During this pandemic. Um, do you feel like that's been a shining light in this dark time?

(00:55:32.400) - (00:57:25.290)

Terry: Why You Should I don't I look, if I talk to my daughters. Oh, once a month. And it's not that different. But I sort of check on them, my younger daughter, the theater daughter is much more counterculture and she actually owns one property and lives and rents another property and so she's got lots of people around living on her properties and so her birthday party. She invited people from the other property. So I worry about her being that careful. So, you know, you can only give so much advice to kids, you know, and My other issue is that my younger daughter has an anti vaccine which is scary. This is where she lives this like Grass Valley Nevada city is a very sort of counterculture area and they are. They don't believe they are sort of choking you know the whole verse and anti vaccine. What's interesting, so my daughter has suggested I get on this anti anti vaccination Facebook page and I read it, I don't like it. So I don't read it but it's sort of morphed into Open up businesses anti vaccination page, you know, so, so I worry about things like that. My, my, my older daughters. She Doesn't do well . She lives healthy and She does pet sitting, which she doesn't have too much credit for sitting right now, but they're managing.

Q: Okay. And you also mentioned you've had meetings. So how's it been, are you still easily connected with the community or is that a little bit more difficult. Let's go to the theater.

(00:57:38.670) - (00:58:44.460)

Terry: per square foot. Well, with a theater I've been writing I'm the one that checks a post office box to see if we get any checks from Member renewals which we haven't since it started and then I'm trying to see if a way to send hard copies of our newsletter. So I keep in touch with members of our board who are involved. Maintaining membership list mailing out newsletters and other than that. We're gonna you know everything sort of a standstill. We're going to have a board

meeting, probably, probably sometime in May, which will be what you know our board meetings have been . They've been before they were in person board meetings and if you couldn't make a try, join on a conference call. Splits there's a chance. We're going to start doing zoom rather than conference calls. So we'll have a board meeting, but that's, you know, there's still plays. I see what people post on Facebook and I do what I can.

Q: Heard you say there's also impacted the LGBT q plus community.

(00:58:52.950) - (00:59:57.030)

Terry: You know, it was really interesting. So we had a total we had the, The Pride planning committee meeting the other night on zoom and we there we always have to answer a question go around and ask your question. And so they asked everybody. How is the coronavirus affecting you? It was definitely the oldest one there and it was mostly people in their let's say 20s, 30s and they were saying. Um, I hate not being able to get out. I just, you know, I'm sort of lost and I want to go out dancing, you know and and I just I just don't like being cooped up, which doesn't affect me but it affects them. I think that was the main complaint. Was, was that they felt very cooped up, which I don't. My husband and I are both retired and really home a lot and just usually run around marketing and taking walks, not much. Besides that, and still doing the same thing now.

Q: Yeah, as a younger person I can definitely say I've felt cooped up a little bit. Sometimes. But, you know, other times it's like I just gotta go with the flow and make sure you know my household is safe. So, you know, Exactly when the things,

(01:00:12.660) - (01:02:23.490)

Terry: And I have a tendency to be paralysed. I watched a lot of MSNBC, so I watched a lot of what's going on when I get a chance. And so I try to see what's going on. I hear Andrew Cuomo Spock's know this and I'm concerned that we are just the khatri is not doing this is Mark Lee as we could, if we I mean the fact that they're allowing things to start opening up I it frightens me and and i'm not i don't get real scared. I don't really get scared, but I just like, and then I have a longtime friend. We talked once a week on FaceTime, we talked, maybe a couple hours and she's Pretty cuz she's become quite conservative she's aware of Trump supporters and she's much she's not worried about things the way You know, there seems to be such a political divide. How nervous. People are about what's going on. I don't know what you notice at the school but There's, it's just, and even I taught my, my older daughter. It's like they're sort of like she and her husband have sort of become Trump supporters. I think she doesn't pay too much attention and she sort of listens to whatever he says, and I asked her. She said, You know what, when we talk, which is, I don't want to talk about politics. Now we have great conversations. But if you ask her what she likes about Trump, she'll say, well, how do you know? That what they're saying is, is telling the truth. And so that's what discourages me because I think the people who say up. Well, I know that people have to get back to work, just for their livelihood. But there's people who sort of put their head in the sand when they see the dangerousness of it. I don't know how you feel about that, but I feel that way.

Q: I agree. It's kind of a weird situation where it's like people want their livelihood, but at the same time. It's a very awkward time at this point because the virus can spread and all that. So I think it's a very awkward time where there are some like people wanting to go to work and open

things up. People want to be able to provide for their families, which is never a bad thing, but then you could infect somebody if you get sick. Egan: Yeah, not right for your family and then someone else can provide for their family.

(01:02:55.560)- (01:02:56.340)

Terry: Exactly.

Q: Excellent. Very weird situation.

(01:02:59.280) - (01:03:28.110)

Terry: I think that's what makes me the most nervous now. I think what makes me nervous. Is there they're trying to start opening things up. I mean, I feel pretty safe here in Monterey County. You know and I and I tried to sort of stay in Pacific Grove, and let's just everybody so keep it in their area. So we can see where it is, you know, and which hospitals are having more and so. You know, but they say it gets worse. Yeah.

Q: What are your hopes for Monterey County. Once this pandemic as I don't want to say blows over. But subsided, I guess would be?

(01:03:38.640) - (01:05:49.350)

Terry: Like my husband,.he can't wait for restaurants to open And so on. Okay, let me think about that. Well, I thought. So what are we going to do, we're going to be able to comfortably go out to meals. And for my husband, the most thing is to be able to go out and play music he they have a

bluegrass band, the place where we have people that are at our house every Friday night for Jim they play at MPC farmers market on Fridays, and they play bluegrass in front of the train at Dennis the Menace, and he can't wait to get back to that as far as around here. I think that we have to really work to try to help our local businesses. To support our businesses to try to get them opening and to keep our colleges going in any way we can. Because you know I posted something on Facebook because I got an email from something called access as iOS and Sam interesting articles. I'll put it on Facebook and it was saying how hard this is on like universities are There, you know, they are going to be hurt so much because they're not going to get money, they're not going to get what they get from their students and who knows. You know what was interesting is. So Jen trained Alan Hoffa who is the head of the generated MPC is also on the Monterey city council and I posted this thing about Colleges. Not so be, And it had to do with, you know, big universities and how you know how they're not going to get the students. And he said, you know, and he says he has a feeling, the more students are going to just go to community college is waiting, should you pay all that money just go online, you know, To be able to say that you got a degree from Harvard or Stanford, is it worth it, you know, get least your fridge. Two years at a community college. Yeah, to ask what your major is

Q: History is. That's my major. So I understand the whole thing like the boat of Community College, you go, you don't have to pay as much as the university for online classes, but since I'm trying to work on getting a teaching credential. I was at a community college I've been a company called for about when I was going about two, three years because I wanted to make it. I got a lot of things I could get done at community college, you know, universities where I need to be. I don't want to go on the track to getting

(01:06:23.220) - (01:06:38.430)

Yeah, you've got. I know. I mean, that's absolutely true. But what if you were your first two years at a community college and then after that to the university. Do you think it looks better to have gone for years to a university?

Q: It looks better but I've seen more counselors for high schools recommend going two years to a community college and then go into university. Get, get the general lead out of the way.

(01:06:53.310) - (01:07:35.010)

Terry: Yeah, we've cut because we've got some great history instructors that we have this woman Elizabeth Mullins at MPC. She's really good. Yeah, so we've got some good they say one thing. I mean, I've heard this over the years that what are the reasons why you can get some good teachers at Community colleges, because they don't have like this was in the past, I have to say they don't have the Publish or Perish that that the Teachers at universities have to, you know, publish. And so there you know attention is divided. Yeah. I mean, I went straight to university. Anyway, I'm not interviewing you. Any, any more questions.

Q: Okay, yeah. So as I begin to kind of wind down here are some just like questions to kind of just, Give a little bit. What if there's anything left to give. I'm so you said your husband plays music

(01:07:53.010) - (01:07:54.270)

Terry: What say, what, how long

Q: Yeah how long was he playing music for?

01:07:56.280 --> 01:07:57.360

Terry: I first met him. We were married in 1963 so he probably bought his first banjo in 1962 well so he discovered bluegrass and was playing banjo and then he Decided he just got this was when they started having underground radio and a leg you discover that he liked blues. I mean, I think it was like Jimi Hendrix and Rolling Stone. So then he started playing blues, Mr playing electric guitar. Then he discovered computers and spent more time on his computers. But then he Got back into playing musical instruments and is around here in the first team. We were going to Celtic jams, because I saw there was, but he decided he really likes bluegrass and centered mountain music better so Anyway,

Q: And then I guess probably one of the final questions I want to ask is, if you could get it. Or is there any advice you would give to like future generations in regarding either to theater or supporting the LGBT q plus community.

01:09:07.620 --> 01:09:08.610

Terry: Any advice.

Q: Yeah, like, you know, words that they could use

01:09:15.990 - 01:10:37.890

Terry: Um, well, I'll say, I'll say I'm theater. Don't give up on theater. Please help us keep theatre going and I would like to see even the continuation of classic theater. Over the years, not just new stuff. So I hope that they start looking older, you know, and even like early 1900s places because those are very enjoyable to keep that going. And as far as the LGBT community. Just let's try to be like more out and and and lips, you know, socialize with people you know participate in pride things and you know My, my conservative friends that I talked to I tell her about things I'll tell her. Well, I got a regular speaker's medium working this Friday. She doesn't approve of it, but I say it anyway just to set an example so For me as more of an ally. I just try to set an example. I don't think that's answering your question. I don't have a real good answer.

Q: It was, it was nice to know you know something somewhere. It's because you know somebody can hear them. And it helps them in one way or another.

01:10:47.820 --> 01:10:48.810

Terry: Yeah yeah

Q: So this is Michael Egan for oral history, Terry. Thank you for your time and I really did enjoy this session to interview you. It was a very enjoyable experience.

01:11:02.490 --> 01:11:05.790

terry: Thanks a lot. This was actually fun, easy and high fun.