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Interview with Sharyn Lieth

Sharyn Lieth

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Interviewee: Sharyn Lieth

Interviewers: Christabel Cortes and Giovanna Corona Lemus

Date: November 16, 2020

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Collection: Auntie Sewing Squad Oral History Archive, SBS 112: Women and Social Change, From 1890s to the Present, Fall 2020

Length: 00:52:47

Overseen by: Dr. Chrissy Yee Lau

Biography:

Sharyn Lieth is a retired teacher, a mother and grandmother, and wife to a professor. She grew up in North Carolina, obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees, and currently resides in Davis, California. Since she was a young girl, she gave back to the community and continues to do her part to help those in need. From the beginning of the pandemic til now she has been sewing masks and she joined the Auntie Sewing Squad to provide masks for others.

Thematic Summary:

(00:00:00)The first couple minutes of the interview consists of Sharyn Lieth explaining her experiences sewing with other groups before joining the Auntie Sewing Squad. (00:15:00) The conversation changes to community service with the Yolo Basin Foundation and what Lieth has done to help others. (00:30:00) We discuss how the Davis community has handled COVID-19 and what policies have been put into place. (00:37:00) We go into detail on how the Auntie Sewing Squad has helped and changed the lives of not only the aunts but of others. (00:40:00) We begin to talk about the 2020 election and what steps the U.S. government has taken to help the people.

Oral History Transcript of Interview with Sharyn Lieth

00:00:05 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

So are you guys in Santa Cruz right now? No, not... Monterey. And where are you?

00:00:10 Speaker 2: Giovanna

We're studying for CSUMB, but we're back home at the moment.

00:00:016 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

And where is, where is back home?

00:00:19 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

Well for me, I live in the Central Valley so near like Fresno.

00:00:23 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Okay. Okay.

00:00:24 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

And I'm from Los Angeles.

00:00:26 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Oh, wow, okay.

00:00:29 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

Are you from the area of Monterey?

00:00:32 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

No, actually, I'm in Davis which is near Sacramento and I'm a little bit familiar with the online studies you're doing. My husband is actually a professor here at UC Davis. So he's doing his you know developing courses to either be all totally virtual or whatever. It's been, it's really interesting to see how Davis is different in the fall without all the students being back. So yeah.

00:01:05 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

It's uh, it's a real change.

00:01:09 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Yeah.

00:01:13 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

Okay. So our first question, um what influences you to begin sewing?

00:01:20 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

You mean sewing in general or sewing mask?

00:01:25 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

Um if you've sewed, um if you were sewing prior to the pandemic, I'm welcome to hear about it.

00:01:31 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well, I did my first- and I'm 61 now. So my mother would occasionally sew, she was not really very good at it, but she could do curtains or do mending or things like that and right when I decided I wanted to learn how to sew she had me take a class at Singer Sewing Centers, which they don't really have. Well, I guess it'd be kind of like a Joann's today or something like that where I took, take a class and then you know, it was periodically so on and off. I'm not really I'm not an expert by any means so I would sew some clothes for my kids when they were little but not much. It's just I just like to make things in general and I like to make things as a form of service like one of the things that happened right before the mask came up as I was sewing blankets for various animal rescues like Sierra Wildlife Rescue or there was I can't even remember I'd have to look up the list where I would take, you know old flannel sheets or would get polar fleece and they would ask for certain size blankets for the various rescues. And so that's kind of how I got back into it. I still have the same sewing machine I got in 1981. We still use that sewing machine.

00:03:23 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

So we know that you're part of the Auntie Sewing Squad and knowing that you're creating these masks and giving back to your community. How has that made you feel?

00:03:35 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well, I was kind of late coming to the Auntie Sewing Squad. I started sewing masks before masks became a thing, you know way back when when they were saying, "Oh, you don't need a mask, you don't need it, just professionals", and I remember thinking yeah, but I'm a little bit older. I'm gonna make a mask. And so I started looking for patterns and just making some for me and my family and then in our county, we are in Yolo County. Yes. There really is a county, Yolo. It's kind of like, what's the big deal with this Yolo thing. There was a COVID Community Response Group and kind of from that one of my friend of mine started a mask makers group because people were saying where can I get mask, you know, I can't find them, you know, we're social workers, we're you know, healthcare providers, you know, whatever and so I joined that group. I think I was the first member other than the originator and shortly after I joined and was making masks. I realized nobody was keeping track of who was needing mask and you know how that could be fulfilled because this was supposed to be kind of a loosely formed group, but there were people joining the group that wanted to make mask but didn't know who to give them to and then people that need mask but didn't know how to ask. And this was supposed to be for donated mask and so I kind of took over the organization of it. I mean in the sense, I started creating databases, you know such as you know, the Lutheran Social Services has requested 35 or Davis Community Meals and Housing which is our local homeless shelter. They're requesting some or empower Yolo, which is the domestic violence agency in the county or different groups that were working with farm workers. We have a lot of migrant labor because we're in part of the Central Valley too and so I started keeping databases because somebody needed to organize this stuff and also people would say who has a pattern that does this, who's got a pattern that does that, so I started making documents of just links to patterns in our group did not advocate for one pattern or another it's kind of like whoever wanted to, whatever pattern you wanted to use you were free to use and so it kind of worked as a clearing house in a way as well as I was sewing quite a bit and it made me feel good. I've always been involved with service and you know from way back when I was in Girl Scouts. I was in Girl Scouts for a bazillion years and I'm actually a retired teacher and the past few years. I've been volunteering at Yolo Basin Foundation, which is an outdoor environmental education place that works to protect wetlands and encourages people to learn about wetlands so I've been doing volunteer work, but then when this came it's like oh my gosh, you know, what can I do to help? You know, I'm not a doctor. I'm not a nurse or whatever. So it also gave me a way to cope with the feelings of helplessness. It's like I'm not just sitting around, you know, watching TV all day, which I have no problem with. It's what people need to do during these times, but it just gave me a way to help people that needed help. And then in this group that I was in, which is a lot like the Auntie Sewing Squad, is that there would be just one woman. She about once a week would say I have six yards of fabric, you know, and she would divvy it up and I finally wrote back to her because I got quite a bit of fabric from her and I said, oh are you sower or you know, kind of what's your story? We really appreciate this and she said you know that she can't sow, you know, she's got some disabilities so she would contribute by donating the high-quality quilt fabric. So it was kind of nice to meet other people. I met

another woman who is a retired doctor, who actually I have not physically met these people just met them, pretty much online, and she was working with our county, Yolo county Health Services or something like that. So she was part of her volunteer position as she was going to various small Independent Grocers. Usually, you know people that might not be reading all the mandates there. Maybe they had five workers. Generally, hispanic background and so people would be making masks for these workers. Maybe they didn't have that extra whatever it was to make masks because you couldn't even buy them anywhere that time. So it's been good being part of that and when our Yolo County needs, I'm not going to say they were all fulfilled but there became more commercially available products. And even from other sewers then I thought okay, I'm not ready to stop sewing and that's how I found the Auntie Sewing Squad and continued my sewing for them. I've slowed down, but it may pick up after Thanksgiving. So that was a really long answer to a short question.

00:10:20 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

So, how many masks have you created so far?

00:10:23 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Total and that includes family, probably a hundred. So I know there are people who have made a lot more but you know, I do it when I'm in the mood to do it. So early on I would probably spend you know, eight or ten hours a day, but now I might go to 5 or 4 and right now I'm having to empty out my sewing room because the holidays coming up, but it'll all be back out, but you know, even if people just made one to give away that's one more person that's protected. So, it's not a numbers game. I know my daughter, one of her friends is very crafty and does craft things for business and she's made like 3,000. I can't imagine that you know.

00:11:38 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

So, what ideas would you like to see implemented in the future of the Auntie Sewing Squad?

00:11:42 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

I didn't hear the very first part of your question. Can you repeat that?

00:11:45 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

What are like some ideas or suggestions that you would like to see in the Auntie Sewing Squad?

00:11:54 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

You know, I don't know if I have any particular suggestions. One thing that I have is, this is going to sound really weird, but one thing I have liked being part of that Squad is that me as a white cisgender woman to be affiliated with people of such diverse backgrounds and you know sexualities, you know that's been kind of fun, fun is not the right word for it, but I have liked being part of that because I'm just not as exposed in my community to that. So that has been a real personal benefit to me to see people of you know, of different ages, different ethnic backgrounds, different sexualities. Just being part of a bigger process, so I don't really know of anything particular. I know one thing that does bother me, but it's not really anything to change, it is that they'll do these exchanges and materials and have Auntie meet ups and stuff. That's kind of

based in the Southern California area. And I know there's one other woman in Davis who sews for the Auntie Sewing Squad. I'm trying to think, I might know of one other but both of these people are people that I've met through my other mask-making group. I kind of like the activism part of it and using sewing as a tool for transformation and change. I know that sounds kind of lofty but, you know, I'll just be honest I was not and am not a trump supporter. So I feel like this was a way that I could help the people that were being marginalized because you know people, I hate to say this, but the people that I know and see mainly they weren't having trouble. They're not the ones most likely to get COVID. So anyhow, I don't know if that answered your question. I don't really see any changes that I would make because I see that they're very accepting of whatever efforts that people want to do. I know one thing that has come from it is that there's a woman that I know and Winters I should say I know of and I've emailed her and she has been part of the sewing squad and she facilitated a GoFundMe account to buy sewing machines for the Navajo Nation. We were able to, you know, the way GoFundMe works, to get a couple of industrial sewing machines as well as some home sewing machines and there was a contact person that was kind of the chief sewing person that was in charge of organizing the various, I think it was mainly women but some men that were sowing, you know, and on the Lakota Nation to so that's been kind of fun. Yeah, I'm just rambling. I don't want to talk to too many adults.

00:16:02 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

So, I know you touched upon it, but can you elaborate a little bit more about like what kind of values and morals that you had before joining the squad and then continuing that throughout your journey with being a member?

00:16:32 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

I think one of the things that has happened is that I have felt that my values have been validated, for example, service is really big for me. Whether it's picking up a piece of trash that you see on the road, and that doesn't mean I pick up every piece of trash but doing things to help others when you can. I think that's an important value. One thing I've been able to do to some extent as I'm really into reuse and recycling things, early on when we could not get fabric, you know, back when the fabric stores were even closed. You couldn't go to Joanns, couldn't even order things online because the online shipping places were closed because I got involved right at very beginning of this, is that you could take things like a hundred percent cotton sheets or my husband donated a few of hisa hundred percent cotton dress shirts cut those up, you know to use either as a lining or do part of a mask. I know one time when elastic was really hard to get, I had an old fitted sheet and when I had cut the elastic off of that and you know taking it apart the elastic was really good. Let me see if I have that one here. No not here. And so I was able to reuse some materials or you know, maybe I had some kind of odd colors of thread that I could use, particularly early on when the emphasis was we don't care what they look like. We you know, we have nothing so you could use whatever fabric that you had that was of appropriate quality or whatever. So now I spend more time making them a little more special but I would think service is a really big thing. I went to Catholic school for 13 years, K through 12, which I don't know if that's a good thing or bad thing. I'm still still on the fence about that one. But one of the things that was emphasized a lot particularly is helping other people that need help. You know, people that are less fortunate or whatever. So that was never a big thing, if I needed to

spend money to buy fabric and fortunately I had that you know, I could do that and I think the value mainly is service. But as I mentioned early joining the Auntie Sewing Squad and I'm from the south so I might say auntie, grew up in North Carolina. So if I say Auntie the same thing, it gave me a chance to work with people from different backgrounds, you know to work towards a common cause. So, I think that has actually been a really good point for me. Personally. I'm sure I can still find places locally to donate masks. One place that is always needing them is the local homeless shelters and I've taken some there quite a few times. But Just to be with different people and they can see you know how they have these care packages. Have you seen how they do that to some of the others just what they send to each other. There's things in there, I would have never thought of or even heard of, different food stuffs or whatever. So, that's been really good for me too, learning about other people.

00:21:02 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

Has there ever been like a moment or an experience during this pandemic that has made you more passionate about certain issues?

00:21:12 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well, I have gotten frustrated about the lack of healthcare for some people and what our government is not doing to help those who, you know, who need help, you know, whether it's they need a mask or they don't have enough money. There's no appropriate healthcare, I mean I'm in a fortunate position where I could do that like just today I went and got an antibody test because I think I may have had covid in February that I could just, you know, get online, make an appointment and go and so that's one thing. I think another thing that is encouraging people, is to help other people and whatever way that is and again that's kind of goes back to the service. I know not everybody can sew, not everybody wants to sew, but can you call and check on your neighbor? You know what you know, what can you know? What can you do? Like I said fortunately, you know, I'm in a bit more privileged position. Okay, so we'll buy takeout food, you know. Increase our take out a little bit more. We don't eat out a lot but there's local businesses. How can you do that? I was helping my grandkids with some of their, at first with some of their in homeschooling because their school district didn't have a plan at that time when it first started. So I would once a week get online and I would have an art lesson and story time with the grandkids, but you know, I want to do an art activity and my daughter would say do you have those little box watercolor paints? No, do you have something else? No. Yes, she had crayons and paper and markers. I said what can I send the boys, an art box that has various art materials that we'll use for art lessons. You know, like I said, I was an elementary school teacher and she said sure you know, so I got things like oil pastels and a good, decent art paper not artist quality art paper, but something other than printer paper. Getting around to how this is helping is that I bought those from a local shop rather than ordering them from Amazon, you know that came, when we got some type of incentive. With however much the government gave us, I thought okay, I'm going to use this locally and I don't have an issue with the bill. So I bought the materials at an independent store or we have some housekeepers that come every other week that started way back when I was working and it's like okay, we don't want anybody in your house and it's like wait a minute. They're losing their jobs too so I paid for when they would've normally come and I increase the amount of money. I mean it wasn't a lot of increase but it was

and now they're coming again, and I was talking to the head person. She said that she calls him her girls. She said our girls are so appreciative. You know, she felt that everybody had forgotten them because they lost so much work. I'm speaking from a place of, here's that word again privilege, but you have that, you need to use that wisely to help others. And so, you know probably for about three months. You know I paid them. Well, we weren't going out to do other things so I mean, what's it you know, I don't know. It's just made me more aware of what others are going through too or when I would take stuff over to the homeless shelter to see what kinds of conditions they had there. I know they're building new things, but you know, and they didn't have much of anything and just kind of opens your eyes to that, but Trump is still an idiot. It's so funny, I've been married for, gosh about 37- 38 years and actually my husband is not a citizen. But this year I've never heard him talk, so politically you know about Trump, Trump is a pig, he's an idiot, he's a liar, he's never been involved with politics stuff. So it's kind of rubbed off.

00:26:39 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

Yeah, this election. This year was really intense.

00:26:43 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Yeah. Yeah and still is in many ways. So it's true.

00:26:50 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

So I know you're talking about other organizations like going to the homeless shelter, but are there any other organizations that you're involved with actively aside from the Sewing Squad?

00:27:05 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well until the pandemic came I was very active with Yolo Basin Foundation which I would do everything from weeding to cutting to Tule plants, which they use for their demonstrations when the kids come to help with paperwork. I was doing quite a bit of that and then I can't remember the name of the group but there was a relief sowers group, this started when the Australian fires began, do you remember? That was years ago and people were asking for donations for things for the animals. So another group was formed to sew things for animal rescues. And so I was doing a fair amount of that. Actually, I've got material now to transform into other things like, you know flannel sheets and stuff to get sewn into other stuff, but when the pandemic hit like everything else just went to the sidelines. I used to do a lot of crocheting to make what was called soap sacks. Let me think, I know there's a group. I think it's now a non-profit group, I can't remember the exact name but what it is, you take cotton yarn and you make it like a little pouch. Don't have one here. And put in a bar soap a new bar of soap and those would be distributed like to the shelters or food pantries or other things. Where else have I sent them? They collect them nationally to give to soup kitchens and you think okay. What's the big deal about this? It's a little bag out of cotton yarn and you can keep your soap in it and if you want to use the bag as a washcloth, you can, can't believe I don't have one right here maybe in the other room and it was started. I started doing that because I like to make things for others and that was something I could do while watching TV instead of eating chips because my hands are busy and one day. I took a box of 25 of these to the shelter because they were asking for you know, shampoo and stuff like that. And so I had this box and I tried to make different colors using different colors of

yarn and make them look attractive and you know, not all the same. And I walked by and one of the clients was a woman probably middle-aged. She said, Is that soap? and I said, yes it is. She said can I have one? And I said sure you know, and she you know, she picked one out. But when have we ever seen anybody get so excited about a bar soap, you know, so I will probably go back to doing some of that too. I've been acquiring yarn and sometimes I'll get my cotton yarn. Again, I'm into this reuse environmental thing too but those are some things I've been doing since I've been retired.

00:30:51 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

How have you seen your community handle the pandemic like where you're from?

00:30:58 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Actually Davis is handling it pretty well. First of all Davis is a university town. So people believe in science and you will see a lot of people wearing masks. There hasn't been much controversy about that in Davis. It's also a very liberal town but everyday I go online to look at the stats for our county to see how many new cases we have, where the cases are showing up at, so we have three major cities or towns. There's Woodland, Davis, and West Sacramento, and then there's a very small town and Davis has by far the largest population. But of those three towns, we have by far the least number of cases of covid. So we've had about 400 to 450 confirmed cases as opposed to 1600 or others. So our community is pretty good. But I have friends that live in other communities and they're very anti-mask. They're very anti closings and it seems to somewhat all down to political lines, you know, and One of the things that's happened is that this covid I think has made. Has separated people even more, you know, when it was the 2016 election the communities became more divided and it seems as the longer Trump's been in office and then the covid there's just very differing ideas about it. But overall our community here is doing well, but I could go, you know, 30 miles, 25 miles and it would be different.

00:33:11 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

What support systems have you and your family members created to stay in touch during the pandemic?

00:33:17 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well, there's definitely phone calls. So our families are scattered all across the United States. So there's phone calls, one of my daughters who does live independently. She has her own home and everything so she's but since she's been working from home. She'll now come and spend about half the week here, drag all our stuff and work from the house and then she'll go back to her house for a few days. So she's not so alone. We have family members that are on my husband's side of the family that are in California and North Carolina and Florida, Washington, DC and Germany. So we'll have family Zoom calls. Don't have those too often, but they're good. And the other thing you know for me personally is after a while, I was starting to feel pretty depressed. So I sought some mental health services and have encouraged other people to do that just because it's just so much, you know, you can't see people like, you know, one of my best friend's I have not seen her since the end of February. She lives in another town. She's about an hour away. I could see her but during this covid you're not going out to do that and my parents are in North

Carolina and they're 80 and 85 and my mother had fallen again, and she was going to have to have surgery and could tell things were not good. I need it to get out there. So I don't want to fly. So we drove. We have a small RV, 2007 I think yeah. So we drove cross-country to see them but you know haven't really seen anybody else, any other family didn't see my other daughter's grandkids for quite a few months. We could talk on the phone, but before covid I was going down there every week to help with daycare and when that happened, you know, I couldn't see them anymore. I think you know a lot of it is stuff we've done in the past but it's really just been more important. In matter of fact, this may be a bit controversial but you know Thanksgiving is next week. Some of us are getting together, but what we're doing we're all right now in our own quarantines, you know, we're not unless we have to go get groceries or like if my husband has to go into campus or whatever. We've all been working from home and isolating. Now you come in my front door, I have a little station there. I've got my hand sanitizer, I have the list of covid symptoms that the UC Davis staff and faculty are supposed to self assess every day. I have my infrared thermometer. I have my pulse oximeter, which I've got early early on and I have a big basket and brand new masks already. Sealed and individual Ziplock bags, you know, just trying to get ready for things and I got a little propane like a propane campfire so you can be outside and have a little fire pit, so we can encourage people to be outside. You guys have me rambling way off topic. My daughter tells me I do that a lot.

00:37:27 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

No, that's fine. I love hearing your stories.

00:37:34 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

Has joining the Auntie Sewing Squad given you a distraction from what has been going on?

00:37:41 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Oh, yeah, which is kind of why I started and I haven't been haven't pledged any lately, but I still like to look and see what people are doing or what fabric is going on and I was just going back reading some of the Facebook post about elastic because I'm just about out of elastic. So I was going to order some more. I know they will provide supplies, but I do know that there's people that have trouble. It's a challenge to pay for the different things. And I thought that's something that I can do on my own. So yeah, and it's kind of funny and it's given me glimpses into other people's lives in a way. It's kind of like a never ending book of short stories. You know you go and you read all this is what this person is doing or you kind of start to know the names and sometimes I'll go down the rabbit hole to look on their profile page and and just to see where people are or I'll go on the map to see how far spreaded it is now. I have not joined any of the yoga classes or anything that people have offered. I thought about it, but I just haven't done that. I'm much more of a watcher rather than a than a doer. So yeah, it's definitely a distraction. I'm actually watching a lot less TV than before covid and people find that amazing like, you know, how could have you gotten through covid without Netflix because we don't have Netflix and I know that's crazy. And it's like well, you know, I'm sewing, I'm listening to audiobooks. You know, it actually reminds me there's this one author, I started to read her books. She's been writing for forever and her book takes place in Arizona and it's a strong female lead. They're not really all that wonderful, but I found I couldn't handle a lot of the more serious stuff going on in

the world and I would just listen to book after book after book. I finished two of her series one has like 17 books and the other has like 19 books and I actually wrote her an email to say, you know, thank you for helping me as I'm sitting here sewing these masks. You know, right with me. It's supposed to go to the town one of the towns that she writes about that supposed to happen in March but didn't happen. And so that's been another good escape listening to audiobooks while I sew and just get those from the library and get them on the phone actually, you know, so for free which is best.

00:41:13 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

How are you able-, actually what differences has the sewing squad made in your life personally?

00:41:25 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

It makes me feel not as alone, because I don't know of any of my friends that have been sewing this much. I have an acquaintance or two, they've might have made you know, 25 or 30 which is still a good number but people don't seem to first of all understand why I'm making masks or you know, some of them are even saying you don't even need to wear masks and it's just been really good to be with people that understand. It's like it's been, it's been a place to belong like, oh these are kind of my people. I mean, in one way and you know, sometimes hearing about other people's struggles for and whatever way, has helped me, you know, maybe you've been able to they would say something I could give encouragement or when I was feeling kind of crappy, you know particularly when I was first seeking some help. They would say something positive, you know, back at that's the second time that Amazon truck is coming by in the past 3 minutes. What's going on? So that's been, that's been really good to be with people that get it, you know and to see people excited about fabrics, you know, and interesting fabrics and or hearing about the monks robes that they got. Did you hear about that? There's some Buddhism Buddhist monks. I don't know who was responsible for getting this but there was somehow this person obtained a lot of used Buddhist monks and in this beautiful orange red color and they and those were all being those are all being donated to be used for mask making and it's like wow, you know, that is so cool, who would have even thought that the color was lovely, but I couldn't help but think what spiritual power or good karma or whatever was embedded in this Fabric and how people have come together to do that. You know, I so so that's that's been really good just to not feel alone in this endeavor you know.

00:44:19 Speaker 2: Giovanna Corona Lemus

I know you touched a bit about this saying like how your husband is an immigrant. How has that election impacted you?

00:44:32 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Well in my community, it probably hasn't affected us a lot because we have a fairly liberal community as it's voted or it's a sanctuary city. You know, she's very liberal, but I do have friends and family that are Trump supporters and that's really challenging. How do you continue to be friendly and do things with people that think Trump's doing a better job, you know. That's one thing that I see, you know, I struggle with since 2016 and yeah. Like even my son-in-law, my brother and my good friend, they're all Trump supporters. So like it's going to be really

interesting at Thanksgiving, you know with my son in law, but he's a great guy. He's a great dad and he's not obnoxious about it at all, but he's willing to engage in dialogue but I don't know since the most recent election. I feel like there's some hope. I feel like something there's going to be a better strategy to deal with the covid stuff. I've been really concerned about it. People that have the DACA classification You know, my husband, he's a professor, he has students in his class that you know were brought here as young kids, but they don't have any legal whatever, they're not, you know, they're not green carded. They're not you know, whatever. They're undocumented. I don't like the word illegal, they're undocumented, and so I'm really hopeful that things are going to be better. But you know, then the pendulum is going to swing again. You know, it goes back and forth, but I'm hoping that there can be some reconciliation, because this country is so divided and I don't know how that's going to happen. I don't really know. You know, hopefully people involved, not necessarily the Auntie Sewing Squad because I think that people that are sewing and doing things are making masks. I know a lot of churches have been involved and the people reaching out. Will help heal that but you know, I don't know. But then when has our country ever been in a really great space, but I don't remember it ever being this divided and I've been around a long time. I've lived in California since 84. So I'm getting a little. I would guess the question was about the election. So I don't know. I mean I can sit here and in our community things are going well in California. Compared to many places it's going better. I have a lot of family in North Carolina both on my side and my husband's side and things are just not good there, you know so I mean things aren't great here, but I think it's better than a lot of other places.

00:49:27 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

Yeah, the election was really intense this year with how you mentioned everything so divided now and it feels now that like everything's just coming down to politics.

00:49:42 Speaker 1: Sharyn Lieth

Yeah, and I think well, you mentioned a guess earlier about values you think if people had common values that would help but you know, I think about what used to happen in some of my classes so I don't remember what year this was you guys. I don't know if you guys were alive then but when Reagan was, you know up for president and re-election I was teaching first grade at the time and these kids who clearly know nothing about politics there'd be people that were very pro Reagan and people that were very anti Reagan and they'd get into these arguments about it. These are six years old and they didn't really have any reason other than you know, what the politics were at the house, the homes that they came from and I remember telling the students everybody wants what's best for their country. You know, I believe that people want that, they just have different ways that they think it needs to happen, you know, and that kind of helped. You know, I mentioned earlier that I went on this cross-country road trip to North Carolina to help my parents out and I remember my husband and I were driving through the Midwest and Kansas-Nebraska, you know that and the landscape was so different and things were so spread out. You can really see how the politics would be different just based on, you know how people lived, people that tend to be in the more urban areas where you can help each other in tend to be more democratic these people in the you know, these are gross value stuff, you know there that certainly they're just kind of observations and it's not necessarily true. But in the midwest people were so spread

out you had to be able to help yourself. You couldn't really count on anybody helping you which tends to be a little bit more on the rear end Republican and libertarian where governments are not involved. You need to do everything yourself being a business. Whatever. Sorry I'm rambling together. Okay, if you need me to expound more I can.

00:52:27 Speaker 3: Christabel Cortes

That was perfect, that actually concludes our interview, but it was wonderful talking to you and like hearing about your stories and like the reasons why you got into sewing and thank you so much for your time.