

Mill Valley Oral History Program

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MARILYN AND KIMBERLY JESSUP

**An Oral History Interview
Conducted by Mari Allen in 2015**

TITLE: Oral History of Marilyn and Kimberly Jessup
INTERVIEWER: Mari Allen
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In this oral history, Marilyn Jessup and her daughter Kimberly recount their lives and community involvement in Mill Valley over the years. Born in 1928 in Phoenix, Arizona, Marilyn moved to Mill Valley with her husband Richard Jessup in 1956. Marilyn and Richard went on to have five daughters together, Kimberly being the youngest. Marilyn and Kimberly — the latter of whom followed in her father's footsteps in becoming an architect — describe Richard's contributions to Mill Valley as an architect, City Council member, and Mayor, including his design of the Plaza downtown, a project that initially encountered resistance but quickly became central to Mill Valley's identity. Marilyn and Kimberly reminisce about the old businesses that used to be downtown, such as Mosher's Shoes, Mayer's, Varney's and Strawbridge's, and Kimberly describes her experience going through Mill Valley's schools. Marilyn discusses her involvement in the Outdoor Art Club and Marin Designer's Showcase, and Kimberly discusses her involvement in the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and Fall Arts Festival. Giving back to the community, Kimberly observes near the end of this interview, was a value ingrained in her by both of her parents when she and her siblings were growing up.

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Oral History of Marilyn and Kimberly Jessup
February 13th, 2015

Editor's note: This transcript is based on a recorded interview and has been edited for clarity and accuracy. It has not been reviewed by the interviewees, Marilyn and Kimberly Jessup.

0:00:00 Mari Allen: Today is Friday, February 13th, 2015, and this is Mari Allen and I will be interviewing Marilyn "Lyn" Jessup, and her daughter Kimberly "Kim" Jessup, at Lyn's home, which is 45 Cornelia Avenue, Mill Valley. Let's start this interview. Thank you so much for agreeing to sit down for our interview.

0:00:33 Marilyn Jessup: You're very welcome.

0:00:35 Mari Allen: And if both of you can just say your name, so that the transcriber can identify whose voice is whose. So Lyn, why don't we start with you?

0:00:44 Marilyn Jessup: Lyn Jessup. What else was I supposed to say?

0:00:49 Mari Allen: That's perfect. So this is Lyn's voice, and Kim, go ahead.

0:00:51 Kimberly Jessup: Kimberly Jessup.

0:00:53 Mari Allen: Thank you. Lyn, let's start with you. So where and when were you born?

0:01:00 Marilyn Jessup: I was born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1928.

0:01:03 Mari Allen: Okay. And when did you move to Mill Valley?

0:01:06 Marilyn Jessup: In 1956.

0:01:12 Kimberly Jessup: Pretty close.

0:01:14 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah.

0:01:14 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah.

0:01:15 Marilyn Jessup: I think so.

0:01:16 Mari Allen: And did you come by yourself or did you come with someone when you came to Mill Valley? What brought you here?

0:01:22 Marilyn Jessup: I moved here with my husband who's an architect.

0:01:26 Mari Allen: And what was your husband's name?

0:01:28 Marilyn Jessup: Richard Jessup. And we tried to buy this house when we first moved here.

0:01:40 Mari Allen: The one we're in right now?

0:01:41 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm. And we couldn't get it, so we bought a house in Homestead Valley.

0:01:49 Kimberly Jessup: What was your offer on the house when you were trying to buy it?

0:01:53 Marilyn Jessup: Thirty-six five.

0:01:55 Kimberly Jessup: \$36,500.

0:01:58 Mari Allen: In 1956.

0:02:00 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah.

0:02:00 Mari Allen: And do you recall what the address was of that home in your Homestead Valley that you ended up living in?

0:02:05 Kimberly Jessup: It was on Todd Way.

0:02:07 Mari Allen: Oh.

0:02:08 Marilyn Jessup: 316 was it?

0:02:12 Kimberly Jessup: I don't remember.

0:02:15 Marilyn Jessup: I don't remember either.

0:02:16 Kimberly Jessup: Right in my neighborhood.

0:02:17 Marilyn Jessup: Three-something.

0:02:19 Mari Allen: Just right off of Laverne, on Todd Way. And so when did you end up purchasing this house then?

0:02:29 Marilyn Jessup: I think we only lived there —

0:02:33 Kimberly Jessup: You have a picture of bringing Robin home as a baby at this house. Probably 1958, you maybe moved there? You might have lived there two

years?

0:02:47 Marilyn Jessup: No, I don't think we lived there that long.

0:02:49 Kimberly Jessup: Okay.

0:02:51 Marilyn Jessup: We were watching his house like hawks, 'cause we knew that the family that lived here weren't going to stay, so the minute they put it on the market, we were first in line.

0:03:08 Mari Allen: So I saw on the outside of the house that it says that "This house was built in 1891."

0:03:13 Marilyn Jessup: Right.

0:03:13 Mari Allen: So tell me who were the people that you bought it from.

0:03:17 Marilyn Jessup: The Bostwicks.

0:03:18 Mari Allen: And were they an original Mill Valley family?

0:03:22 Marilyn Jessup: As far as I know. I don't really know that much about them.

0:03:28 Kimberly Jessup: Wasn't he the first mayor of Mill Valley?

0:03:32 Marilyn Jessup: I guess you're right.

0:03:34 Kimberly Jessup: So, only mayors have lived here?

0:03:35 Mari Allen: Only mayors have lived in this house?

0:03:37 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm.

0:03:38 Mari Allen: That is amazing.

0:03:39 Marilyn Jessup: I'm glad you're here. [Laughs]

0:03:43 Kimberly Jessup: I'm just filling in a little bit.

0:03:44 Mari Allen: Well, it's great, it's great. Well Lyn, tell me about your daughters. You said you have five daughters, so can you tell me about them. Who lived here? Were they all born in this house?

0:03:56 Marilyn Jessup: No. Let's see, I had three when we moved here.

0:04:01 Mari Allen: Three daughters already. And what are their names?

0:04:03 Marilyn Jessup: Katie, Lyndlie and Carson. And Lyndlie is deceased, Carson is living in Missouri, and then we had Robin and Kim.

0:04:25 Kimberly Jessup: And Katie is up in Mount Shasta.

0:04:29 Marilyn Jessup: Yep. And we had a cabin up there that's an old railway express depot that we moved out on to some property out in the country.

0:04:44 Mari Allen: Well, when you first moved to Mill Valley, what was it like? Describe downtown to me.

0:04:54 Marilyn Jessup: It's very much the same. Mill Valley has really stayed pretty much the same. I don't think there are any new buildings downtown.

0:05:09 Kimberly Jessup: Well, remember the plaza used to be a rutted old parking lot?

0:05:14 Marilyn Jessup: Right. I do remember that.

0:05:17 Kimberly Jessup: And the Greyhound buses would drive in through the parking lot and park right in front of the depot, and then the Golden Gate Transit also did that.

0:05:32 Marilyn Jessup: So it was a busy depot.

0:05:34 Mari Allen: It was a busy depot for buses at the time.

0:05:36 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah.

0:05:37 Mari Allen: When you first were here? Now Kim, tell me about yourself, so tell me, first where you were born and when you were born?

0:05:44 Kimberly Jessup: So I was born here in Marin County, at Marin General, and I'm the youngest of the sisters. And I took over my dad's architecture business, I got to work with him for maybe 15 years. And then he retired and I took over his firm. We were in the city and moved to Mill Valley, so I just worked four blocks from my office and my house.

0:06:23 Marilyn Jessup: Which is nice.

0:06:26 Kimberly Jessup: Yes. So, I went to Old Mill, and then went to Edna Maguire when it was the middle school. I think I went to middle school when it first opened, so I think it was my eighth-grade year, and then went to Tam, and then went to University of Oregon for architecture school.

0:06:48 Mari Allen: And then did you return to Mill Valley right after that?

0:06:51 Kimberly Jessup: I came back to work with my dad. I didn't live in Mill Valley. I lived in Kentfield, I think first, and then Corte Madera and then Mill Valley, and then I bought my house in '89 or something like that.

0:07:05 Mari Allen: So tell me about your husband. You said he was an architect, so what did he do in this house? Tell me about this house.

0:07:15 Marilyn Jessup: Well, the living room had boards about this wide, redwood with dark varnish, shiny. It was terrible. [laughs] Let's see, I can't remember —

0:07:36 Kimberly Jessup: The house was very dark. We do have a couple old pictures. I don't remember. I don't know when you did this remodel to it.

0:07:51 Marilyn Jessup: Well, we started right as soon as we could, doing superficial things.

0:08:00 Kimberly Jessup: I wonder when you bought the wood from the Richardson Bay Bridge.

0:08:13 Mari Allen: So in the room we're sitting in, all the wood is reclaimed from the original bridge.

0:08:18 Kimberly Jessup: It's all clear heart redwood. And you can see that the paneling is very unusual. It's 16 inches wide and an inch thick.

0:08:28 Mari Allen: Wow, you can't really see the thickness so well, but that's amazing.

0:08:32 Kimberly Jessup: And then these beams are I think 6x24. They're just really big huge beams.

0:08:40 Marilyn Jessup: I'm glad you're here. [chuckles]

0:08:41 Mari Allen: So Kim, was your dad a big influence in terms of you deciding to become an architect, or did you choose not to go into it first? How did you decide?

0:08:52 Kimberly Jessup: So both mom and dad, and in fact our whole family, have been very artistic, and each one of us kind of had our own path. Mom did a lot of painting and collage, and they both love to work with their hands so they did a lot of work on the house themselves, and then my dad was an architect in the city. And through the schools, before Kiddo, the schools had amazing art programs, just amazing art programs, and so in sixth grade, I took pottery and jewelry making. And then Tam had an amazing jewelry program, with Mr. McCallion as my teacher. The teacher in junior high was Mrs. Mueller, a German woman, she was quite something. But anyway, Mr. McCallion was a

fabulous person.

0:09:56 Marilyn Jessup: Mrs. Mueller wasn't her favorite. [laughs]

0:10:01 Kimberly Jessup: Well, she was interesting. But anyway, she was a very wonderful teacher. So, I took jewelry and I thought I was going to become a jeweler, and then I realized for some reason that I wasn't going to make a living at that and I have no idea why I thought I was supposed to make a living. I had always loved dad's drawers of architectural tools; all the pencils and the triangles and all that kind of stuff, and so I decided to apply for architecture school, and who knows why I got in. That was a shock I think to all of us. And, anyway, then I just came back and worked with dad.

0:10:43 Mari Allen: And did any of your sisters go into architecture?

0:10:47 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-mm.

0:10:49 Mari Allen: Nobody?

0:10:49 Kimberly Jessup: No, the other ones, one did stained glass, another one did pottery and now she has a nursery, a garden up in Mount Shasta.

[background conversation]

0:11:07 And then the one who died, she was really an amazing artist, she did this one here.

0:11:17 Mari Allen: These are all oil paintings we're looking at?

0:11:18 Kimberly Jessup: Clouds. This is an oil, the clouds in there is oil. The pencil drawing — all of this.

0:11:25 Mari Allen: Oh, my gosh! Beautiful.

0:11:26 Marilyn Jessup: The pencil [drawing] is the five daughters.

0:11:28 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah.

0:11:28 Mari Allen: Is that from the photograph over here, or that's a separate one?

0:11:32 Kimberly Jessup: That's a separate one. That's a separate picture.

0:11:35 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, yeah.

0:11:37 Kimberly Jessup: And then, another sister did jewelry also, and was quite a seamstress. It just was a very creative environment, and my grandmother, my mom's mom, was very creative.

0:11:53 Mari Allen: And did your mother live in Phoenix or did she move here too?

0:11:55 Marilyn Jessup: Yep, Phoenix.

0:11:57 Mari Allen: Now was your husband originally from Mill Valley? And is that why you came here?

0:12:01 Marilyn Jessup: No. Let's see, how did he come here from —

0:12:08 Mari Allen: Well, where did you meet your husband?

0:12:11 Marilyn Jessup: At the ranch in Arizona, years ago.

0:12:18 Kimberly Jessup: He was born in Roslyn, New York.

0:12:20 Mari Allen: Oh, okay.

0:12:22 Marilyn Jessup: And he came out to the ranch for his health and was there for — I don't know how many years. But anyway, I was always there in the summers, and we met there.

0:12:38 Kimberly Jessup: He had really bad asthma is why he came out.

0:12:43 Marilyn Jessup: But before that, I was married to an Orme, this was an Orme ranch, where I met him, and he went there to school. Let's see.

0:13:09 Kimberly Jessup: So, Dad lived with Mort's family and so they were best friends, and then Mort married my mom and had the three older sisters, and then Mort died. They gave him the wrong kind of blood in a fairly typical operation down in Arizona.

0:13:30 Marilyn Jessup: It killed him.

0:13:31 Kimberly Jessup: Isn't that amazing?

0:13:32 Mari Allen: Oh, that's just terrible.

0:13:34 Kimberly Jessup: And then, the family asked my dad to come out and design a chapel in memory of Mort.

0:13:47 Marilyn Jessup: And Dick had been at the ranch for his health for a long time.

0:13:56 Kimberly Jessup: So he designed and ended up building the chapel, too.

0:14:03 Mari Allen: And what town is that chapel in, in Arizona?

0:14:06 Marilyn Jessup: It's outside of the town of Mayer, which is about an hour north of Phoenix. The ranch wasn't actually in there, it was about 14 miles from us.

0:14:26 Kimberly Jessup: So, and then during the process of him building it —

0:14:31 Marilyn Jessup: We got married. In the chapel.

0:14:34 Mari Allen: Oh, in the chapel that he built. Oh, and what year was that?

0:14:42 Kimberly Jessup: It had to have been something like '50.

0:14:46 Marilyn Jessup: '56.

0:14:47 Kimberly Jessup: If you came here in '56, it was '55 or '54 or something like that.

0:14:52 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, '54 I think. So, and the chapel was really a beautiful building, and Dick enjoyed building it. I can't remember. He designed it, didn't he?

0:15:13 Kimberly Jessup: That's right.

0:15:14 Marilyn Jessup: Okay.

0:15:16 Kimberly Jessup: And it's still there, and the school's still there, and we go down and visit, and it's still part of our family.

0:15:22 Mari Allen: Oh, that's amazing. So you came to Mill Valley, but do you recall what exactly — why this town?

0:15:31 Kimberly Jessup: He came to work for Frank. No — Carl Warneke?

0:15:40 Marilyn Jessup: Carl Warneke, yep.

0:15:42 Mari Allen: Who was an architect in the city?

0:15:44 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm.

0:15:45 Mari Allen: Okay. But you chose to live in this town rather than live in San Francisco?

0:15:51 Marilyn Jessup: Yep. He didn't want to live in San Francisco, I didn't either. And his sister's in Ross, and his brother's down in Atherton.

0:16:04 Kimberly Jessup: Didn't they both kind of want you to live in those two towns?

0:16:08 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, they both wanted us to go to their town, and we liked Mill Valley better. It seemed more like us.

0:16:17 Kimberly Jessup: A little more hippy-dippy. [chuckles]

0:16:22 Marilyn Jessup: So anyway, that's how we settled here.

0:16:26 Mari Allen: And so, Kim, for you, what was it like growing up here?

0:16:32 Kimberly Jessup: I thought it was just wonderful. It did seem, I think, a little bit more small-town. It seemed like it had more older families. It seemed like big families. We had a lot of families in the neighborhood and you'd just go to the neighbor's house and play.

0:17:00 Marilyn Jessup: Well, both Ross and Atherton are much different than Mill Valley.

0:17:05 Mari Allen: In what way do you think?

0:17:07 Marilyn Jessup: Well, they're not nearly as family-oriented and they're spiffier, and we just didn't like either one of them.

0:17:19 Mari Allen: And what were the things that you liked to do with your family? When the girls were young, what were typical things that you were doing with them?

0:17:27 Marilyn Jessup: Well, we were working on this house. [laughs]

0:17:30 Kimberly Jessup: We were child labor. [laughs]

0:17:34 Marilyn Jessup: Continuous child labor. Both inside and out.

0:17:40 Kimberly Jessup: You created all the gardens, too, didn't you?

0:17:42 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, yeah. Let's see, the driveway was here.

0:17:47 Kimberly Jessup: I think the driveway was here. And didn't you also have the wood milled right here on the property? You had a person bring a portable mill.

0:17:58 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm.

0:18:00 Kimberly Jessup: The one addition they'd made was the master bedroom that's at that end of the house.

0:18:06 Marilyn Jessup: The master bedroom's right in front of you, as you're coming up the stairs.

0:18:17 Kimberly Jessup: It's on the upper floor.

0:18:18 Mari Allen: Well, tell me a little bit about your husband, I know he was very involved in our community. Can you tell me about him?

0:18:27 Marilyn Jessup: Well, he was wonderful. And he was a great dad. He took on three children when he married me, that's quite an accomplishment, and he was a great dad to all of them. He was a good architect.

0:19:00 Mari Allen: And what was his specialty in architecture?

0:19:04 Marilyn Jessup: Well, anything that came along, really. You can't be too choosy when you're an architect. You've got to do what somebody wants you to do.

0:19:17 Mari Allen: But is it mostly homes or was it commercial?

0:19:20 Marilyn Jessup: Bit of both. He did their office in the city, and then he helped out the office here quite a bit.

0:19:31 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, it kind of went with the economy. Even now sometimes we get more commercial projects and other times it's more residential, but I would say he did a lot more. He did a lot of residential and a lot of in Marin and in Mill Valley. A few of his kind of crowning jewels I think were, he developed the whole campus for a school down in Arizona, just anything from gymnasiums to residences and the chapel and dining hall, etc.

0:20:09 Mari Allen: And what's the name of the school?

0:20:11 Kimberly Jessup: It's the Orme School.

0:20:13 Mari Allen: O-R-E-M?

0:20:14 Marilyn Jessup: O-R-M-E.

0:20:15 Mari Allen: O-R-M-E.

0:20:17 Kimberly Jessup: And then, he also did a project up in Mount Shasta. He did a ski lodge there on a very short timeframe and a very tight budget. And the guy who managed it at that point lives here in Mill Valley and he just thinks that was one of dad's biggest accomplishments, so as to be able to pull that off. The previous lodge had burned down and they had, I think, three months to get the whole thing designed and built, and they pulled it off and it was just one of those amazing things. Here, of course, he did the plaza.

0:21:02 Mari Allen: So tell me how that all happened. Did he have the original idea to

create Depot Plaza, or how did that all come about?

0:21:13 Marilyn Jessup: Well it was pretty tacky. [laughs]

0:21:15 Mari Allen: What did it look like before?

0:21:18 Marilyn Jessup: Well, the original building is still standing.

0:21:23 Mari Allen: And that's the Depot Bookstore?

0:21:25 Marilyn Jessup: Yep. But not as nice as it is now.

0:21:31 Kimberly Jessup: So we did get to remodel the building too, which was an add-on to it.

0:21:42 Mari Allen: What year was it when that was all happening?

0:21:45 Kimberly Jessup: Something like '87, 1987.

0:21:48 Marilyn Jessup: I'm glad you're here, Kimberly. [chuckles]

0:21:52 Kimberly Jessup: And so the area where you sit in the Depot building right now, that all used to be open, and that's where you'd stand and wait for the bus. And then there were two bathrooms there that you could access from the outside, which was that covered area. After he was mayor in 1980, he wanted to continue with some kind of civic projects.

0:22:31 Marilyn Jessup: A town center. Where people landed and —

0:22:37 Mari Allen: Could congregate?

0:22:39 Marilyn Jessup: Could congregate, and "I am now in Mill Valley," you know. And it had nothing to tell you that you were in Mill Valley.

0:22:53 Kimberly Jessup: So after he was mayor, he came up with this idea of converting the parking lot, the rutted old parking lot — that had a giant puddle in it, all the time [laughs], I mean, it was a tremendous puddle, I remember that distinctly — and interestingly enough, it wasn't a welcomed idea.

0:23:24 Marilyn Jessup: Against changing.

0:23:25 Mari Allen: But what were their arguments?

0:23:28 Kimberly Jessup: They don't like change; it's just simple as that.

0:23:31 Marilyn Jessup: And parking, they didn't want anybody parking in that area.

0:23:37 Kimberly Jessup: Well, it was a parking lot. They didn't want to lose parking.

0:23:41 Marilyn Jessup: That's right.

0:23:41 Kimberly Jessup: They didn't want to change, they thought it was going to make Mill Valley a little too much like Sausalito, or bring too many people to it. He worked really hard to sell the community on it and the City Council at that time did support him, and nobody knew that it was going to really turn into just the jewel of Mill Valley.

0:24:09 Mari Allen: Well, the heart of Mill Valley. It was his vision. It's the first real welcoming thing.

0:24:17 Marilyn Jessup: In Mill Valley.

0:24:18 Mari Allen: Yes.

0:24:19 Marilyn Jessup: You could meet in the plaza.

0:24:23 Mari Allen: You see kids learning to walk there, you see people doing things.

0:24:27 Marilyn Jessup: Doing everything, yeah.

0:24:28 Mari Allen: It's just amazing.

0:24:30 Marilyn Jessup: Picnicking.

0:24:32 Mari Allen: So it sounds like he was quite a visionary then.

0:24:33 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, he was.

0:24:35 Mari Allen: So would you walk the girls to school from your house.

0:24:42 Marilyn Jessup: Well, we're not very far.

0:24:44 Mari Allen: Not far. [chuckles]

0:24:45 Kimberly Jessup: She gets out the door and say, "Get there yourselves."
[chuckles]

0:24:49 Marilyn Jessup: So, anyway, I was very glad to leave 317 Laverne and come up here.

0:25:01 Mari Allen: Oh, Todd Way.

0:25:02 Marilyn Jessup: Todd Way, yeah.

0:25:04 Kimberly Jessup: So you would walk us to school, and in fact, I didn't want to stay at school so Mom had to become a teacher's aide for a little while.

0:25:15 Marilyn Jessup: She was tough. [laughs] She did not want to leave home.

0:25:21 Mari Allen: Well, I can see why, it's so beautiful. So you were a teacher's aide for a little bit?

0:25:27 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, I've worked in all the schools: Old Mill, Edna Maguire, Middle School, Tam.

0:25:35 Mari Allen: So were you a teacher?

0:25:36 Marilyn Jessup: No, I was just a flunkie. [laughs]

0:25:42 Kimberly Jessup: You were a volunteer, and on the PTA.

0:25:45 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, I was big PTA, everywhere.

0:25:51 Kimberly Jessup: You never were on the school board, neither was Dad.

0:25:55 Marilyn Jessup: No, but I went to a lot of school-board meetings and made a lot of noise.

0:26:00 Mari Allen: Yeah. [laughs]

0:26:02 Marilyn Jessup: So, anyway, it's been a great place for us to live.

0:26:08 Kimberly Jessup: All five of us went to Tam.

0:26:13 Marilyn Jessup: All five of you went to Edna Maguire too.

0:26:20 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah.

0:26:20 Marilyn Jessup: And Old Mill.

0:26:22 Kimberly Jessup: I guess Katie would've gone to Old Mill, yeah.

0:26:28 Mari Allen: And how many grandchildren do you have?

0:26:32 Marilyn Jessup: I should've thought this through a little bit.

0:26:36 Mari Allen: Had your note cards in front of you. [chuckles]

0:26:42 Marilyn Jessup: What did you ask me?

0:26:43 Mari Allen: How many grandchildren do you have?

0:26:45 Kimberly Jessup: So you have —

0:26:47 Marilyn Jessup: Well one —

0:26:49 Kimberly Jessup: You have Merrick and Trevor; Carter, Heather, Seth; Cameron, Raleigh, Luke.

0:26:56 Marilyn Jessup: Okay, thank you.

0:26:58 Kimberly Jessup: So that's eight.

0:26:58 Mari Allen: Eight. And then how many live in Mill Valley? Just Luke?

0:27:04 Kimberly Jessup: Just Luke.

0:27:06 Mari Allen: So you have a third-generation Mill Valley. Well, I guess second living here. How is it different, do you think, Kim, seeing Luke grow up here as opposed to when you were here as a child of his age? He's now in seventh grade.

0:27:24 Kimberly Jessup: So, what I thought was so wonderful about growing up here was, just how accessible everything was. We rode our bikes everywhere. And it just was really simple. There was a bus that took us to Edna Maguire or the middle school.

0:27:48 Marilyn Jessup: And you caught it right down here at Old Mill.

0:27:50 Kimberly Jessup: Right, yeah. We loved to ride our bikes. We'd ride our bikes to Tiburon and go ride around Angel Island, or we'd take the ferry into the city and go to Ghirardelli Square. Anyway, we'd ride our bikes to that and then ride across the Golden Gate Bridge. We did a lot of bike riding.

0:28:11 Marilyn Jessup: And we belonged to the Mill Valley Tennis Club very early on. Dick was quite a tennis player. And that was great for the kids too, although they spent most of their summers at the ranch in Arizona.

0:28:32 Kimberly Jessup: And we all loved it. We'd go down and play family tennis and they'd drag us out there, but we all grew up playing tennis, we loved that. And, again, that was very accessible. Robin and I would ride our bikes down to the tennis club and play tennis and swim. And I think I had a job at the tennis club for a week, maybe.

0:29:00 Marilyn Jessup: No, it was longer than that.

0:29:01 Kimberly Jessup: No, Robin was longer, I was very short. I don't know what

happened, I don't know why. I guess I didn't flip the burgers the right way or something like that, I don't know. But, anyway, Dad played there into his 70s probably and loved to go down there and watch the tournaments and stuff like that. What was to me great about that was it felt to me like it was all one community, and now I kind of feel like it's a little broken apart. It's almost like the schools create their own communities, like Old Mill creates their community. And that's a little different. Back then I felt like it was all one community, and it's more — it just is more cars, more difficult and dangerous to get around on your bike.

0:30:12 Mari Allen: And how has downtown Mill Valley changed? I mean I've interviewed some people who've talked about the different shops that used to be there that have changed, like there was a hardware store and another grocery store I think someone was saying, but what have you noticed?

0:30:29 Marilyn Jessup: It's really not changed a whole bunch.

0:30:33 Kimberly Jessup: The structures haven't, the businesses have. There used to be a wonderful shoe store downtown, Mosher's?

0:30:40 Marilyn Jessup: Mosher's.

0:30:41 Kimberly Jessup: Where Equator is now.

0:30:45 Marilyn Jessup: Where is Equator?

0:30:47 Kimberly Jessup: Right on the corner where the coffee store is.

0:30:49 Mari Allen: Bonavita was — it's a coffee shop.

0:30:52 Kimberly Jessup: The Rose Tree was there, wasn't that a men's clothing store?

0:30:55 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, I guess so.

0:30:57 Kimberly Jessup: What was that called? Was that Mayer's?

0:31:02 Marilyn Jessup: Mayer's.

0:31:04 Kimberly Jessup: Clothing.

0:31:05 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah.

0:31:06 Kimberly Jessup: What was the shoe store? That was run by Brad Nail. And then there was a kids' clothing store.

0:31:14 Marilyn Jessup: Mosher's, Mosher's shoes.

0:31:16 Kimberly Jessup: Oh that's right, Mosher's shoes, Mayer's men's clothing. I bought Dad ties there all the time for Father's Day or something. There was Varney's Hardware Store.

0:31:27 Mari Allen: Where was that?

0:31:29 Kimberly Jessup: That is where Tyler Florence is. And they were all so cool, they had the wood floors, and they creaked.

0:31:37 Marilyn Jessup: And Strawbridge's — did you say Strawbridge's?

0:31:40 Kimberly Jessup: Strawbridge's was there, that was a stationary store. That one lasted longer than a lot of others.

0:31:45 Marilyn Jessup: And that women's store on the corner has always been a women's store, that little one. Is it a women's store now? [laughs] Or is it a men's store?

0:32:04 Kimberly Jessup: Let's see, Sweetwater was there, up on Throckmorton for a long time. Well, we were all sad to see the 31 Flavors go. That did last the longest, I have to say.

0:32:22 Marilyn Jessup: And Mayer's had a women's store and a men's store, separate.

0:32:30 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, that was funny. There used to be where West America is, that used to be a grocery store.

0:32:42 Mari Allen: Do you remember the name of it, when it was there?

0:32:47 Kimberly Jessup: I'll have to think about this. Then down where La Cabana is, or something like that, where Pharmaca is. Was that Golden Valley Market?

0:32:58 Marilyn Jessup: Oh.

0:33:00 Kimberly Jessup: And then, where Cantina is, was a market.

0:33:06 Marilyn Jessup: You're much better at this than I am, I'll just listen. [laughs]

0:33:09 Kimberly Jessup: No you're doing a good job. Purity, where was Purity?

0:33:12 Marilyn Jessup: Purity was on the left side of Blithedale.

0:33:18 Kimberly Jessup: That was in the Cantina, I think. That was Purity Market.

0:33:23 Marilyn Jessup: That was never anything I went to. [chuckles]

0:33:28 Kimberly Jessup: Oh, then there was the Der Wienerschnitzel, that was a good one. That was where Gira Polli is. And then there was a gas station on Blithedale, kind of across from where Title Nine was, in that office building that was a gas station.

0:33:56 Marilyn Jessup: You're bringing back things I haven't thought about in a long time.

0:34:00 Mari Allen: I'm very impressed.

0:34:01 Kimberly Jessup: I can almost remember some of these things. The theatre. Sequoia Theatre has always been there, and the guy who ran that was such a character, Jerry Montesemberti or something. Just this character of a guy.

0:34:19 Marilyn Jessup: He's still around isn't he?

0:34:21 Kimberly Jessup: No, he died probably 10 years ago, 10 or 12 years ago. But he'd terrorize the kids. [laughs] But it was really fun 'cause you'd go into the theater and it was, I don't know, \$1.25 or something like that, and they'd have prizes, before the movie.

0:34:43 Marilyn Jessup: You're talking about a Saturday morning.

0:34:47 Kimberly Jessup: At the movie theater? Yeah, if you'd go on the weekend, they'd have door prizes or something like that, and they had real previews, you love the previews of the cartoon movies.

0:35:00 Marilyn Jessup: Coming attractions.

0:35:01 Kimberly Jessup: Well, it wasn't previews, it was little short cartoon things. It wasn't previews.

0:35:14 Marilyn Jessup: On weekends, for kids.

0:35:16 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah.

0:35:17 Mari Allen: And was the theater, just one big theater? It was one big theater?

0:35:19 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah it was big.

0:35:21 Mari Allen: One screen.

0:35:21 Marilyn Jessup: It hasn't changed.

0:35:23 Kimberly Jessup: Well now it's two screens. Or, is it two or three?

0:35:26 Mari Allen: I think it's three screens.

0:35:26 Marilyn Jessup: Three.

0:35:28 Kimberly Jessup: No, I think it's only two.

0:35:29 Mari Allen: Is it only two? I can't remember. I'll have to check.

0:35:32 Kimberly Jessup: I think it is only two.

0:35:33 Mari Allen: So Kim, when you went to Old Mill School, I've read stories about Old Mill having these open classrooms. Was it like that when you were there?

0:35:43 Kimberly Jessup: Yes.

0:35:44 Mari Allen: Describe going to elementary school.

0:35:47 Kimberly Jessup: Torture. [laughs] For some reason, I didn't want to be at kindergarten, so that's when I walked home. First grade, Mrs. Carner was my teacher and we had to do show and tell on Mondays, and I was totally frightened by that, so I'd pretend to sleep in on Monday morning, and that was, I don't know what —

0:36:12 Marilyn Jessup: I'm getting lots of info out of this. [laughs]

0:36:16 Kimberly Jessup: And then, I think it was in third grade. Remember they started the open classroom where all the couches showed up and you'd —

0:36:27 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, that was so bad.

0:36:29 Mari Allen: What was it? Can you describe that, Lyn?

0:36:30 Marilyn Jessup: Well they were all cast-off couches that people didn't want anymore, and the stuffing was coming out, and why the school would even accept them, I don't know.

0:36:48 Kimberly Jessup: But you didn't have desks really, anymore, you had more casual seating areas. I remember in third grade with Mrs. Chittenden, which I'm sure she wouldn't like to hear this, because everybody loved Mrs. Chittenden, but I just — she just had a different — she was going along with that opened-classroom teaching. And so, we'd have a class meeting at the beginning and then —

0:37:14 Marilyn Jessup: I really had a hard time with Mrs. Chittenden. [laughs]

0:37:21 Kimberly Jessup: She's a lovely lady still. Still here in Mill Valley. I don't think I learned a thing for all of third grade. I think I was in three different classes, and I think Mom led the force to get the principal fired.

0:37:43 Marilyn Jessup: He was a loser. He really was. He didn't have discipline; he didn't have imagination. He just wasn't up to the job.

0:37:58 Mari Allen: So you went to the school board. How did you go about getting him dismissed?

0:38:05 Marilyn Jessup: Well, I guess I did go to the school board, or I made a lot of noise, about Old Mill isn't what it should be.

0:38:17 Kimberly Jessup: Well and then, there were some auditorium issues. Where the auditorium is now, I think, that was torn down and rebuilt. It was converted to classrooms, and again it was just this really open thing. For some reason, I realized that this was a problem. I didn't like it at all, because I knew I wasn't learning anything. But the one thing that I do remember, and I think Old Mill still does it, is the carnival where we'd have to do the Virginia reel and the hula. Each class would have a dance. It was all outside. And we'd have a cake walk and you'd win a gold fish.

0:39:11 Marilyn Jessup: Oh I remember that week.

0:39:12 Kimberly Jessup: We had so many goldfish. Poor little things, they only lasted a week. [laughs] But yeah, we'd do all these dances and stuff like that. And then when I was in sixth grade — in fact, Christy Hermann was my sixth-grade teacher — and our classroom was on the half the stage of what was the multimedia room, at the old Edna Maguire. The school was so full that our class was —

0:39:45 Mari Allen: Like a partition?

0:39:46 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, and it was that whole multimedia building was six classrooms.

0:39:53 Mari Allen: Wow! Wow, that's amazing.

0:39:56 Marilyn Jessup: I'm glad you're here. [laughs] Going through schools with five kids, it all gets pretty blurry.

0:40:10 Mari Allen: I'm sure.

0:40:11 Marilyn Jessup: And the schools change, and oh gosh.

0:40:17 Kimberly Jessup: But they were all good schools. What I would say is, a huge difference is that all the parents have to drive their kids to school. We've got to let go of that.

0:40:40 Marilyn Jessup: Unbelievable, the cars down here.

0:40:43 Kimberly Jessup: It's destroying our neighborhoods, which is too bad.

0:40:48 Mari Allen: Yeah. The one thing that Mill Valley School District now has is there's been an enrollment boom, but it sounds like when you were in middle school, there was huge enrollment at that time too.

0:41:05 Kimberly Jessup: There was, and so we were the first class in the middle school, and back then it was called — and I guess maybe they've gone back to it — where it's Wind, Wood, Sun and Sea.

0:41:16 Mari Allen: Yes, they've returned to using those names.

0:41:18 Kimberly Jessup: And the schools, they were kind of separate entities, each one of them were separate entities.

0:41:28 Mari Allen: And which were you in?

0:41:29 Kimberly Jessup: I was in Wind.

0:41:30 Mari Allen: Wind.

0:41:30 Kimberly Jessup: And so, Wind was known for kind of being — Mom, I think, fought pretty hard to get us into Wind because she kind of knew that that's where the teachers were that she wanted us to have. And then, kind of the more hippy ones were in Wood.

0:41:47 Marilyn Jessup: Kim, you bring back all these things I haven't thought about for years.

0:41:51 Kimberly Jessup: I know, it scarred me for life. [laughs]

0:41:55 Mari Allen: And what was Tam High like at the time?

0:42:00 Marilyn Jessup: It hasn't changed that much.

0:42:01 Kimberly Jessup: I don't think Tam really has changed that much, they did rebuild it a lot. I loved all the funky stuff. Some of the funky buildings — and I remember I had a drafting class in the top of one of the buildings. It was like in the attic.

0:42:20 Marilyn Jessup: Old central building there.

0:42:23 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, you went up those weird stairs, and then you were just in the eaves of this — and that was our drafting class, I remember that was really cool.

0:42:32 Marilyn Jessup: And there was a stair that didn't have a wall on one side, sort

of at the end of the building.

0:42:42 Kimberly Jessup: I thought that it was a wonderful education. It was probably similar to how it is now where you kind of make whatever it is of the education you get there, so you make it or break it on your own. And I was the tail end of four sisters, one of them who was very smart, and every class we'd go into, they'd say, "Oh, you're Lyndlie's sister," and "Are you as smart?" I'm going, "No." But it had really great sports, we had amazing track team back then.

0:43:22 Mari Allen: And what sport did you do there?

0:43:25 Kimberly Jessup: So I did track and volleyball and tennis. And I don't know, Robin and I both did long jump, and we both hold records.

0:43:39 Marilyn Jessup: 16 feet something, 18.3.

0:43:42 Kimberly Jessup: Oh.

0:43:44 Marilyn Jessup: I think that record still stands. That's a long time. Anyway, I think we're both in the top 10 in Marin County still, which is pretty good. And we had great coaches at that time, in fact the track was named after one of our coaches, Bruce Grant. And again the arts. They just had amazing opportunities. They had auto body classes.

0:44:19 Mari Allen: They still have that.

0:44:20 Kimberly Jessup: Do they?

0:44:20 Mari Allen: Mm-hmm, auto shop. It's run by a woman, a female teacher who is renowned for her auto shop class.

0:44:28 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, for heaven's sakes, that's interesting.

0:44:32 Kimberly Jessup: And they had wonderful ceramics. It was run by Kett Zegart, I think. And then wonderful wood working; I think it's in the same building as it is now. I don't think they have jewelry anymore, but that was just an amazing program.

0:44:48 Marilyn Jessup: Who was that jewelry teacher?

0:44:50 Kimberly Jessup: Mr. McCallion.

0:44:52 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, that's right. He was such a dear man. I really liked him.

0:44:58 Kimberly Jessup: And a lot of those teachers are still around. Mr. Schwartzbar was the French teacher and Mr. McCallion, he passed away. Mr. Nicholson, I'm hoping he's still around.

0:45:13 Marilyn Jessup: I haven't seen him in a long time.

0:45:14 Kimberly Jessup: I had a counselor, Bill — what was his name?¹ Big, tall man. I think he still lives in Mill Valley, but anyway — it's fun to find that those teachers are still kind of tracking you. One time I ran into Christy Hermann's husband. She was my sixth-grade teacher and said, "Oh, I know who you are," and I'm like, "Oh, my gosh." You realize that they're all kind of —

0:45:46 Marilyn Jessup: Part of the job.

0:45:47 Kimberly Jessup: Watching after you, still seeing if you're going to meet muster. Mrs. Rebka was my French teacher and she's now Mrs. Angiulo, and she's still in town.

0:46:04 Marilyn Jessup: I didn't know her.

0:46:05 Kimberly Jessup: Well, I think you do know her because she's in the Outdoor Art Club.

0:46:09 Marilyn Jessup: Well there are a lot of people in the Outdoor Art Club that I don't know.

0:46:13 Mari Allen: So have you been involved in the Outdoor Art Club for a long time Lyn?

0:46:16 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm.

0:46:17 Mari Allen: Tell me about that.

0:46:19 Marilyn Jessup: Well, it's a very, very interesting club, and we're lucky to have it. You can participate as much as you want. I've been on the board, but I haven't been on the board for quite a while. I go down every Tuesday to an art class, and it has good programs every week. It's amazing. And there's something for everybody that wants to do something.

0:47:00 Mari Allen: When did you get involved with the organization?

0:47:03 Marilyn Jessup: Oh gosh, way back. I can't tell you when I got involved. I can't tell you very much.

0:47:13 Mari Allen: No, you've told us so much!

0:47:14 Kimberly Jessup: Has it been like, 20 or 30 years or something like that?

¹ Bill Wallace.—Editor.

0:47:17 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, at least, I think.

0:47:20 Kimberly Jessup: And then one of the things that you did was, weren't you one of the founding members of the Marin Designers Showcase?

0:47:29 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm, I was.

0:47:33 Mari Allen: And what is the Designers Showcase?

0:47:35 Marilyn Jessup: Well, they take a house and redo it, every year.

0:47:49 Kimberly Jessup: And it raises money.

0:47:52 Marilyn Jessup: I don't know what they're doing now.

0:47:54 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, what did you originally raise money for? Was it the homeless? Because now it's part of — what is it part of?

0:48:06 Mari Allen: I'm not quite sure.

0:48:08 Kimberly Jessup: Homeward Bound or something?

0:48:09 Mari Allen: I think so. Is it part of a home raffle for Homeward that raises money for Homeward Bound?

0:48:16 Kimberly Jessup: Gosh, I have to think about that.

0:48:18 Marilyn Jessup: I couldn't tell you that.

0:48:20 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah, it started out where these homes would be —

0:48:27 Marilyn Jessup: We would go in and get a lot of different decorators to do a room, and it was a fun thing to go to, because you'd see a lot of good decorations.

0:48:43 Kimberly Jessup: And then you'd also, you used to put it on wheels that were connected to it, at I.D.E.S.S.T. Hall in Sausalito, and get your children to work there.²

0:48:53 Marilyn Jessup: You can remember a lot more of what I did than I can.

0:48:58 Kimberly Jessup: And then you also worked in San Quentin, didn't you? You went over there and taught?

0:49:11 Marilyn Jessup: San Quentin.

² Kimberly refers to the Sausalito Portuguese Cultural Center. I.D.E.S.S.T. is an acronym for *Irmandade do Divino Espírito Santo e Santíssima Trindade*, or "Brotherhood of the Divine Holy Spirit and Blessed Trinity."—Editor.

0:49:14 Kimberly Jessup: That's the prison. You didn't stay. [laughs] But I thought you'd go and help them with the women with art classes or something.

0:49:25 Marilyn Jessup: I think I did. Gee, I haven't thought about that in years.

0:49:28 Kimberly Jessup: That was a long time ago. I don't even remember that all that well.

0:49:30 Marilyn Jessup: That was a long time ago. I'm amazed you remember that.

0:49:34 Kimberly Jessup: I know, I am too. [laughs] But I do for some reason.

0:49:38 Marilyn Jessup: Good thing you're here. This would be a pretty limp interview.

0:49:42 Mari Allen: No, not at all, not at all.

0:49:45 Kimberly Jessup: And then, Dad was really involved with a lot of different things.

0:49:50 Mari Allen: So you said he was the Mayor, so he was on City Council at one point.

0:49:52 Kimberly Jessup: He was on City Council for two terms, and he was on the Planning Commission, and then he started the Transportation Committee, and designed a lot of different things. He came up with ideas for creating parking and designed Miller Avenue.

0:50:10 Marilyn Jessup: And parking was terrible, absolutely terrible. And when he designed the parking there, at the —

0:50:21 Kimberly Jessup: At the plaza?

0:50:22 Marilyn Jessup: Plaza, he went through — more arrows, at that point, were shot at him, because, "You're going to take away that wonderful open space!" And the parking is so terrible in Mill Valley, but anyway.

0:50:45 Kimberly Jessup: Well I think he designed it so that they got just as many parking spaces out of half as much space.

0:50:50 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, and provided a plaza. So he did a big thing there.

0:50:57 Kimberly Jessup: Yeah. And so what else? He didn't design it, but he was part of the design review team for the sewer treatment plant. That was exciting stuff.

0:51:17 Marilyn Jessup: Oh, yeah. [laughs]

0:51:21 Kimberly Jessup: And he was Citizen of the Year for the Chamber, I think twice. He was Rotary. He was a member of Rotary, for many, many years, and president of that.

0:51:34 Marilyn Jessup: He was a busy boy.

0:51:36 Mari Allen: Mm-hmm. It sounds like it.

0:51:38 Kimberly Jessup: He was president of the tennis club also.

0:51:44 Marilyn Jessup: That was a great thing for us, the tennis club, because all the kids learned to play tennis.

0:51:52 Mari Allen: And Lyn, did you play as well?

0:51:53 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm. And we all enjoyed it. We played family tennis and it was a good thing for us.

0:52:05 Kimberly Jessup: They used to have a family swim meet too. I don't know if they still do that.

0:52:11 Marilyn Jessup: Well, I think so, I think they still do.

0:52:13 Kimberly Jessup: Because they do the mother/daughter, or father/daughter, or father/son. Robin was a better swimmer than I was, and Mom was a better swimmer than Dad, so Robin always had to swim with Dad, and I got to swim with Mom. [laughs] But they had fun. They definitely had fun stuff that went on down there.

0:52:35 Marilyn Jessup: Well, it was just a simple place. It wasn't a status symbol or anything, it was just a nice family tennis club. And we belonged before they added the last two courts, so it got pretty tight. Sometimes when you went down there you couldn't get a court, but then we added two more courts, which helped a lot.

0:53:10 Mari Allen: Now, Kim, you're very involved in our community also. What types of volunteer things or community involvement do you have?

0:53:20 Kimberly Jessup: So right now, I'm a member of the Rotary Club and was president of that in 2010, I think. And that was something that Dad definitely got me involved with. It's a wonderful club and does wonderful things in the community and internationally. And they also have speakers and great members like you. And then, let's see, I was on the Chamber board. That was probably the first thing I did. I think when I was 27, I got on the Chamber board and was president of that for two years. And I was kind of one of their younger members. I don't think people really got involved in volunteer stuff at that young age, and so they really didn't know what to do with me. I

was kind of like this young whippersnapper. So they decided to keep Kim busy, they decided that I should figure out how to get lights into all the trees in downtown Mill Valley. So, I worked with an electrician and I got electricity out to every tree, and then I climbed every tree and hung the lights myself. And it was funny, because people just thought that was so cool. They wanted to come climb the trees with me.

0:54:50 Mari Allen: What year was that, that you did that?

0:54:52 Kimberly Jessup: That must've been like '85 or '86 or something like that. And then I did the trees along Miller Avenue. Down the median, farther down near my office, and then on either side where Jiffy Lube is and the bike store, I did those trees. And it was really fun. I did it for a couple years.

0:55:24 Marilyn Jessup: Drive home and find your daughter up a tree. [chuckles]

0:55:26 Kimberly Jessup: Mom would get the comments like, "I think I saw your daughter in the tree today." And then we did this whole thing, there used to be this big huge chair down in front of the Chamber office, and Santa would come to the chair every year, and so we did this whole thing of bringing Santa to the chair on a fire truck and all that kind of stuff, and that was really fun. So, I was on the Chamber board, and then I did the Business Advocacy Committee. It was similar to the Chamber but it was trying to study business in downtown Mill Valley and help come up with some guidelines. I was on the Fall Arts Festival Board of Directors, and then was on the Redwoods Board of Directors. I don't live in the city limits, so I've never been able to run for the Planning Commission or City Council, which has been probably just fine with me. [laughs]

0:56:45 Marilyn Jessup: That's missed out on you.

0:56:48 Kimberly Jessup: [chuckles] That's a lot of work. But it was something that Mom and Dad ingrained in all of us, is putting back into your community was really important. And especially for an architect, I never really made this connection, but Dad always said, "As an architect you need to put back into your community," and he did that a lot. And then when I went off to college, one of the classes said, "Oh yeah, architects have to volunteer in their communities, because they have the vision to be able to help communities grow." I was going, "Oh, my gosh, I can't believe that they're telling me this at school also, that I have to volunteer." I thought, "My dad's gotta be sitting here someplace." [chuckles]

0:57:40 Mari Allen: Or he sent a note to your professor, "Make sure you say this."

0:57:43 Kimberly Jessup: So yeah, it's important to be part of your community, as you are, you put a lot into the community. I haven't been on the school board or the Kiddo Board or anything like that. I've somehow dodged that one. [chuckles] Trisha tried early on and I just was involved with other things.

0:58:10 Mari Allen: So are there any other stories or things that you want to share or

something that sparked a memory for you in our conversation?

0:58:25 Marilyn Jessup: I can't think of anything. He kept me pretty busy. [chuckles]

0:58:37 Kimberly Jessup: Well you guys did a lot. Dad also was very instrumental in bringing the Marin Theatre Company from the Golf Club House. What was it called before it was Marin Theatre Company? It was called —

0:58:54 Marilyn Jessup: Mill Valley Theatre Company, wasn't it?

0:58:58 Kimberly Jessup: It was something else. And it was fairly small beans, and then there was a whole group of them that came together: Ivan Poutiatine, Dad, and Sali Lieberman.

0:59:15 Marilyn Jessup: Sali was in that.

0:59:17 Kimberly Jessup: There was a group of four or five of them that went through the whole process of studying where they could put a new theater company.

0:59:29 Marilyn Jessup: And raised money.

0:59:31 Kimberly Jessup: Raised money.

0:59:32 Marilyn Jessup: That was big time.

0:59:34 Kimberly Jessup: Which is endless. And they hired the architect, and worked with them. Ivan is still on the board. Dad was on the board for quite some time. That's another little jewel in Mill Valley that just is so critical to the vibrancy of the town.

1:00:00 Marilyn Jessup: Well, the original building over there was so limited as far as growth into a theater company that you had to make up your mind and really go for it, and raise money and build it, and so, get people interested.

1:00:30 Mari Allen: And now it's become one of those — again, like you said, it's a jewel, but it's one of those things people just think it's always been here, that they don't think about what people had to do —

1:00:40 Marilyn Jessup: To get it.

1:00:41 Mari Allen: Come up with the idea and fundraise and actually have it created.

1:00:45 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah. It was very limited at the community —

1:00:50 Mari Allen: The golf clubhouse.

1:00:51 Marilyn Jessup: The golf clubhouse. The meetings were up on the stage, and

you had to set up your own chairs and figure out all of that. So it was a big step.

1:01:08 Mari Allen: So one question I have on this list and it's the last question, it says, "Of what are you most proud in your life?"

1:01:16 Marilyn Jessup: My child, my children, and my husband, my family. He did a lot in the community and Kimberly does a lot in the community.

1:01:34 Kimberly Jessup: You did too.

1:01:35 Marilyn Jessup: Well.

1:01:36 Kimberly Jessup: You did. One of the favorite things that my mom did, that I thought just was so sweet was, we had this neighbor down the street here, Pat Defrenmery, who was blind, so mom would take Pat swimming at the community center. Well first you would go to friends' houses before the community center was built, and just to guide Pat along, and she was just always so kind.

1:02:07 Marilyn Jessup: Keep her busy, and out, get her out. She had no way to get out, because her husband worked in the city, and we were close friends.

1:02:21 Kimberly Jessup: That was just a wonderful thing that you did. She was a very sweet person and it was just a wonderful friendship.

1:02:28 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah, it was a wonderful friendship.

1:02:33 Kimberly Jessup: I think I've always loved all of your friends too. I've always thought you just had such a wonderful group of friends.

1:02:41 Marilyn Jessup: I think so.

1:02:44 Kimberly Jessup: Fun and entertaining. And a lot of them had big families, so we had big kids to play with.

1:02:54 Marilyn Jessup: Gatherings.

1:02:55 Kimberly Jessup: We had big gatherings, and lot of kids around.

1:03:00 Marilyn Jessup: Bring your food and your family and get together. So that worked out very well.

1:03:11 Kimberly Jessup: And something else that you both did, which I thought was amazing, is you always opened your house to people who needed a little help, and so they had, I think probably eight or 10 foreign-exchange students who lived here over the years, and then friends of all of my siblings, really, would come and stay, up to a couple years.

1:03:41 Marilyn Jessup: Mm-hmm. And some went to school here.

1:03:46 Kimberly Jessup: I think Eric stayed for three years or something like that, and it was probably another 10 kids in the age between 18 and 20. Or 16 and 23, at different times, just came and stayed, and they provided just a safe haven, and especially with this house.

1:04:10 Marilyn Jessup: I've got two now.

1:04:13 Kimberly Jessup: Two living here right now, yeah.

1:04:16 Marilyn Jessup: Friends of Kim's.

1:04:17 Mari Allen: Really?

1:04:18 Marilyn Jessup: Yeah.

1:04:18 Mari Allen: Oh wow, that's amazing.

1:04:22 Marilyn Jessup: So, and they're great. They're helpful. I don't know where they would roost if they weren't roosting here, but I enjoy having them.

1:04:37 Marilyn Jessup: Mom, you and Dad both kind of lived and breathed with community. Community and family was just their approach to life and I just have always thought that was a wonderful approach. It just encompasses so much, and is a very giving way of living.

1:05:05 Marilyn Jessup: Thank you, sweetie. You're a good kid.

1:05:08 Mari Allen: Well, I thank you both for your time, and your extraordinary piece of Mill Valley. You continue to play a huge role here, Kim. And Lyn, what you and your husband have done, these are things that will be here into perpetuity. People really just see them and don't really think about what our town was like without the Marin Theatre Company or Depot Plaza or lights in the trees on Miller Avenue, so thank you both.