Mill Valley Oral History Program
A collaboration between the Mill Valley Historical Society and the Mill Valley Public Library

MARTIN ROSEN

An Oral History Interview
Conducted by Debra Schwartz in 2017

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In this oral history, lawyer and conservationist Martin Rosen recounts his life and his work in conservation. Of Eastern European Jewish heritage, Martin was born in Los Angeles in 1931. He attended UCLA and then moved up to the Bay Area to go to law school at UC Berkeley. After a stint in the Air Force, Martin moved to Mill Valley in 1963 with his wife Joan and their two young children, Dirk and Marika. Martin gives a detailed account of the Marincello development project in the 1960s and his role in the ultimately successful effort to stop it from going forward. He discusses his friendship with fellow open space activists Doug Ferguson and Huey Johnson, and their creation of The Trust for Public Land. For nearly two decades Martin served as president of the organization, overseeing its national growth. Invoking Aldo Leopold's "land ethic," Martin describes his view of conservation as making sure local communities have their voice heard in decisions about land use, while also maintaining access to open spaces for underserved populations. Living in Carmel and "gainfully unemployed" at the time of this oral history, Martin describes himself as a "pathological optimist" who continues to be involved with various environmental non-profits.

Oral History of Martin Rosen

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Editor's note: This transcript has been reviewed by Martin Rosen, who made minor corrections and clarifications to the original.

0:00:00 Debra Schwartz: Today is December 29th, 2017. My name is Debra Schwartz, and I'm here on behalf of the Mill Valley Historical Society and the Mill Valley Public Library. Well, I'm actually in my house, and my interviewee, Martin Jack Rosen, is in his home in Carmel Valley, and we are having a FaceTime interview. Martin Rosen is a retired attorney. Martin, you're a rebel with a cause.

0:00:33 Martin Rosen: I am.

0:00:34 Debra Schwartz: And a conservationist, yes?

0:00:37 Martin Rosen: That's true, that's true. All that's true.

0:00:41 Debra Schwartz: Well, Martin, I just want to first of all say thank you so much for taking the time out of your life to share your personal story with the Mill Valley Historical Society. Yours is a really interesting and important story, and one that can inspire and motivate others, I think. So first of all, just thank you.

0:01:04 Martin Rosen: [chuckles] Well, no thanks is really required. I, frankly, feel lucky, gratified, and redeemed, if not rewarded, by the opportunity to do the work that I've been in and called on to do.

0:01:17 Debra Schwartz: Great. Well, let's get a little back story about your family to begin, if you don't mind. I'd love to hear a little bit about how you came to California. Maybe we can start with your grandparents or as far back as you know very briefly their names, where they're from, and what brought you to California.

0:01:38 Martin Rosen: That's part of the business of being lucky. It's a fairly straight-forward story. My dad was born on the Russian-Polish border in a small village — probably in Poland, it went back and forth — called Kamenkashiek. He emigrated to this country before World War I. We can find no record of his entering the country, and therefore we conclude, that he probably was a stowaway. My mother, on the other hand, came after a violent pogrom in the Ukraine. She was one of several members of family that came as a family. They settled in the Midwest. And then after the youngest of the siblings graduated high school in Omaha, my grandmother, Bessie, who was working seven days a week as a single parent to support her six children, heard there were better jobs and better weather in California. So she brought her family to Los Angeles.

0:02:38: My dad, in the meantime, having been a soldier at World War I and wounded, returned to New York where he was drafted. And in a rainstorm, changed a tire in New York City for a man who was grateful and offered him a tip or a bonus. And dad said,

"No, no, no, thank you. It's just a good chance to do some good work." And the man, whose name was Michael Lodonan, said, "If you ever come to California, you'll get a job." So that led my dad to climb on a train. He came to Los Angeles where he met my mother. They settled in Los Angeles. And my brother Larry and I were born in Los Angeles — my brother in 1929, and myself in 1931.

0:03:28: The reason I started off by saying lucky is that it's really kind of the American story writ large. Neither of my parents went to college. I'm not sure my dad finished elementary school. Mom did finish high school in Omaha. But each of us knew from the first day that our future was wrapped up in the American dream and in education. My brother later went on to become a distinguished neuro-radiologist from Northwestern University. And I was lucky enough to go to UCLA on a scholarship from the *L.A. Times*, and then later to UC Berkeley in the law school on several scholarships as well. So we had support. Sure, we worked hard. Everybody worked hard, but we've been more than amply rewarded by the American way of life.

0:04:16 Debra Schwartz: Would you mind telling me the names of your grandparents, and your parents? Their full names?

0:04:23 Martin Rosen: Well, the truth is, we did not know my father's family hardly at all until after World War II when he found one of his relatives had escaped from Dachau. My mother's family situation, her maiden name was Savad, S-A-V-A-D. My dad's family name was always Rosen, not Rosensine, not Rosenberg, R-O-S-E-N. And that's all I really know on that side 'cause I never met my dad's family except after World War II. I met one of his younger brothers.

0:05:02 Debra Schwartz: So were you raised with Judaism as a religion?

0:05:05 Martin Rosen: Absolutely. Both my brother and I were bar mitzvahed. My dad helped found and physically build one of the synagogues in Los Angeles, Beth Abraham. And my brother was bar mitzvahed there. We then later on moved to West L.A. from East L.A., and I was bar mitzvahed at the Olympic Jewish Center just outside of Olympic and La Cienega Boulevard in Los Angeles.

0:05:36 Debra Schwartz: So to California, somehow or another, your family made their way to California. You were raised in L.A., but you lived in the Bay Area. You came here. How did that happen? Because of your school?

0:05:50 Martin Rosen: Well, we both went through UCLA, graduated from Los Angeles High School. Larry then went on to Northwestern, and I went on to Berkeley after graduating from UCLA. And I stayed in the Bay Area after graduating from law school. After going to Europe as a Ford Fellow to study the new Common Market, and after serving in the US Air Force, as I mentioned earlier, in the San Joaquin Valley.

0:06:19 Debra Schwartz: How was it for you growing up in L.A.? What was your experience like there as a child?

0:06:25 Martin Rosen: It was all positive. We lived in an East L.A. neighborhood, which was fairly close and face to face. We knew pretty much everybody. That was really before and then during the age of building the freeways. Later, going on to L.A. High and then to UCLA, it was a very positive experience. I learned of the — oh, for want of a better word, disparagement of Los Angeles, when I practiced law, that people in the Bay Area really had a very patronizing attitude toward Los Angeles. They couldn't believe that anyone was happy growing up in Los Angeles with all of the freeways and the pollution and so forth. And like so many other things, I discovered that we all have biases, prejudices that we really don't recognize. But it came as quite a surprise to my colleagues in Northern California that I had anything positive to say about Los Angeles. [chuckles]

0:07:32 Debra Schwartz: Did you find the same for Los Angeles to San Francisco? Did people in Los Angeles have attitude about the northern California folk?

0:07:39 Martin Rosen: In my experience, you never really thought about San Francisco very much. San Francisco is kind of a special city. It was called "The City." But we, frankly, had our own interests and we never thought, at least in my case, very much about San Francisco. Of course, we at UCLA knew there was a place called Berkeley and there was a place called Stanford 'cause we played football, etcetera. But other than that, they were kind of abstract.

0:08:11 Debra Schwartz: Did you enjoy the open spaces in L.A.?

0:08:14 Martin Rosen: Absolutely. The Angeles Forest. The beaches were all very major, important places, as was the areas adjacent to our growing up: the San Fernando Valley, Verdugo Hills, Santa Barbara. There's an awful lot of truly magnificent open space. And The Trust for Public Land probably had its first — under Huey Johnson — its first major acquisition in Los Angeles. A lot of people didn't realize that.

0:08:45: Later on, of course, we went on to buy the land underneath the Hollywood sign on the Hollywood Hills, which was added to Griffith Park Observatory. So, like anything else, if you go behind what you think you know, you have a chance of learning a lot of things that you wish you knew better. So yes, there was.

0:09:07: The other part was — of course Yosemite wasn't that far and that was, frankly, a place that we got to know well, got to love. And when I was in the service in the San Joaquin Valley, being a serviceman, Yosemite was literally our backyard. We got to know the Merced River and Tuolumne Meadows and a whole host of things about Yosemite. That became very, very important, and still to this day are very important to me.

0:09:35 Debra Schwartz: And so you learned to fly in Merced?

0:09:38 Martin Rosen: Well, I actually was not an aviator. I was a Judge Advocate, but I represented a lot of military people. One of the things that they wanted was to organize an Aero Club or a flying club. That's what I did at Castle Air Force Base. In return for my "legal services" I was given free flying lessons, and that's where I learned to fly. Taylorcrafts, Piper Cubs, Beechcraft Bonanzas, things like that. Small recreational airplanes.

0:10:07 Debra Schwartz: May I ask who your flight instructor was?

0:10:10 Martin Rosen: Say it once more.

0:10:11 Debra Schwartz: Who was your flight instructor?

0:10:14 Martin Rosen: My flight instructor was a staff sergeant, Sergeant Tillson. Great big fellow who taught me the basic rule of flying. When it's not safe to go ahead, turn around and go back.[1] That's what I learned about flying. [chuckles]

0:10:29 Debra Schwartz: That's really good advice, too.

0:10:31 Martin Rosen: It was.

0:10:32 Debra Schwartz: It's so simple and so important. Because I've interviewed —

0:10:34 Martin Rosen: But a lot of people get to be macho. They get in an airplane and you're showing off and stretching things either with your fuel or your skill or your weather. I always remembered — actually, he was a technical sergeant. I could see his face. He said, "When it's not safe to go ahead, don't be embarrassed. Turn around and go back."

0:10:55 Debra Schwartz: I asked you who your flight instructor was because I interviewed a fellow named Bill Mason here in Mill Valley. And he and his brother taught flight, too, during World War II, and there was a flight school in the Valley[2] that they were involved with. So I just thought I'd give it a try.

0:11:11 Martin Rosen: That's worth a try. But in this case, he was a regular Air Force Tech Sergeant and he, of course, belonged to the Aero Club, as we called it at the Castle Air Force Base, Aero Club. And he wasn't a full-time instructor. He was a pilot and he was happy to teach other people such as me.

0:11:31 Debra Schwartz: Growing up in L.A. as you did, and even spending time in the Valley as you did, you must have seen a lot of changes in the land as far as development went.

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[1] This has a name: it is called a 180, based on 360 degrees in the compass.—Martin Rosen.
[2] California's Central Valley.—Editor.

0:11:43 Martin Rosen: That's very true and, of course, that's how I developed my vocabulary. I don't think that words are everything, but that words are very important. Most development, in my view, having grown up in Los Angeles, is not development. It's exploitation and it's "conversion." It's dollars per square foot. It's density. So when people call themselves developers, quite often, I have to tell you, I bristle. Not that they're bad people but that they're mis-describing their work. And, of course, I saw a lot of that in Los Angeles rapidly. Fortunes were made, communities were upended, and a lot of destruction was made there and in the Bay Area in the name of so-called progress.

0:12:30: And that eventually will get us to the subject of Marincello, which is where I cut my teeth as a conservation person in Marin County taking on the Board of Supervisors of Marin County, and the *Pacific Sun*, and the *Independent Journal*, all of whom felt that we needed more high rise development in the name of progress. And obviously that did affect me, deeply.

0:12:57 Debra Schwartz: Well, let's start heading in that direction. You went to school at Berkeley. You were in the East Bay, but did you make your way over to Marin County after school? Where did you open your practice?

0:13:10 Martin Rosen: I went back to San Francisco. I practiced at 111 Sutter in downtown San Francisco. Frankly, the practice was not what I wanted it to be, so I left the downtown San Francisco practice and returned to Merced in private practice. And did what I called being a cow county lawyer, which I frankly enjoyed. Trading eggs and things for fees was routine. Learning how to hunt for frogs — and eating frogs legs — out of the canals. But the truth was that when I had a chance to open my own office when a colleague was appointed to the bench in downtown San Francisco, that's literally when I moved into the Bay Area, set up my own practice in the Russ Building and went into private practice in San Francisco on my own.

0:14:00 Debra Schwartz: And what year is this?

0:14:03 Martin Rosen: Pardon me.

0:14:03 Debra Schwartz: Do you know what this year is?

0:14:05 Martin Rosen: Pretty close, sure. I joined the United States Air Force from 1958 to 1960, came back to San Francisco and then [went] to Merced practicing until 1962, '63, and then I opened up my own office in 1963, thereabouts, in San Francisco and moved to Mill Valley, actually to Homestead Valley, on Molino Street.

0:14:31 Debra Schwartz: Oh, do you remember the address?

0:14:34 Martin Rosen: I know it's right after the turn but I don't remember the address. It's in the valley, it's before the Mt. Tamalpais slopes occurs. It's down low, right near the 2 AM Club.

0:14:47 Debra Schwartz: Ah, yes.

0:14:49 Martin Rosen: That's where my bus stop was, literally in front the 2 AM Club on Miller Avenue in downtown Homestead Valley, which was unincorporated.

0:14:58 Debra Schwartz: Yes, so you were on the flats right there.

0:15:00 Martin Rosen: I was on the flats. Pretty close, I guess, to where Whole Foods now is on Miller Avenue, if it's still there.

0:15:10 Debra Schwartz: Yes, it's still there. And once it was Jerry's Meat Market.

0:15:14 Martin Rosen: Before then it was Jerry's Meat Market. And both of my children attended Homestead School. Both of my children attended Tamalpais High School and later went on to graduate, my daughter from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island — Marika, M-A-R-I-K-A — and my son Dirk, who graduated from Santa Barbara, who we just saw this this weekend. He's still actively pursuing his conservation passion, which is the ocean, and is the head of a small non-profit based in Point Richmond, called MARE, Marine Applied Research and Exploration, which is essentially documenting the biological realities, change, and stability of the California coastline from Mexico to Oregon.[3]

0:16:07 Debra Schwartz: That's sounds very interesting. I guess the nut didn't fall far from the tree.

0:16:12 Martin Rosen: The truth is we're still collaborating. [chuckles]

0:16:16 Debra Schwartz: That's beautiful. So, now you're in the '60s living in Mill Valley.

0:16:22 Martin Rosen: Right. My son was born in the service in 1958, and my daughter in Merced in 1961.

0:16:32 Debra Schwartz: And how did you find Mill Valley at that time to be as —?

0:16:37 Martin Rosen: Well, we have a very active partnership. My wife found Mill Valley. I frankly enjoyed life in Berkeley, having gone to law school there and so forth. And Joan, my wife Joan — also a graduate of UCLA — made the decision for us as she did for our moving to Carmel Valley. She makes the choices about where we live. And so she picked Mill Valley and we lived on Molino as I said, to begin with, in Homestead Valley. That would've been in 1963 thereabout.

0:17:11 Debra Schwartz: And how long did you stay?

[3] My wife Joan is a celebrated photographer and a former docent at Anza Borrego Desert State Park for 19 years.—Martin Rosen.

0:17:14 Martin Rosen: We lived in Marin County probably 40 years. We lived in Homestead Valley on Rydal, we built a house, constructed by The Little Gem Construction Company. Rydal just up the road from Homestead School, and that then we moved from there actually into the city of Mill Valley, and we lived on Lee Street. 70 Lee Street in Mill Valley.

0:17:46 Debra Schwartz: Oh, one of my favorite streets.

0:17:48 Martin Rosen: Yes. Ed Ross was our next door neighbor and of course he's pretty well known as a leading scientist at the California Academy of Sciences.

0:17:57 Debra Schwartz: Yes with his bug collection in those bunkers. [laughs] I've been there.

0:18:03 Martin Rosen: Yes, and of course he was a wonderful neighbor. He did a lot of the work looking after the land on which he lived and on which we lived, literally, next door. Wonderful neighbor.

0:18:14 Debra Schwartz: Yes, very close to my house with beautiful, beautiful views, and the most serene, quiet neighborhood. Really, one of the hidden treasures, neighborhoods, of Mill Valley.

0:18:27 Martin Rosen: Yes. And it was through Ed Ross that we actually found the lot that my wife pursued with a colleague of Ed Ross who had a sabbatical, I think, at the California Academy of Sciences. Ed arranged that we were to buy the lot from this colleague who had thoughts of perhaps settling one day in California but changed his mind. And when he did, Ed said "Why don't you sell to this young couple? Marty and Joan Rosen." He did, and that's where we ultimately lived in Mill Valley, before we moved to Kentfield, where we moved to 70 Lancaster in Kentfield.

0:19:05 Debra Schwartz: And here in Mill Valley on Lee Street not too far from someone you'd be working with, Doug Ferguson.

0:19:12 Martin Rosen: We saw Doug regularly. We're very close friends. And Huey Johnson as well.

0:19:20 Debra Schwartz: Okay, so let's go forward now and into Marincello. This just got to be one of the most important stories in this — well, there are many stories, I won't say the most important, but an important story. The what-could-have-been is spine-chilling and what happened is a relief and an example, I should say, of how a world can be despite what developers may see. And then there's the people. So, why don't you, if you could, just tell me a little bit about how that whole thing came about for you and how you became involved. And, if you could, there'll be some people that'll be listening to this interview who won't know the story of Marincello, so maybe you can give a little overview about that.

0:20:07 Martin Rosen: Okay. We're talking about a couple thousand acres of land adjacent to Sausalito. Much of which later became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The particular land that was to become Marincello, however, being private, was sold to an Eastern development syndicate, as well as Gulf Oil. To develop fairly intensely, in what I would call an Eastern mode. There were going to be more than a dozen high rises, 15 or 16 stories tall. There was going to be a shopping mall. There was going to be all kinds of industrial and quasi-industrial as well as residential uses, transforming that entire area of a couple of thousand acres into an urban — in fact a city: Marincello.

0:21:09: It was challenged by a couple of conservation groups, primarily in Southern Marin, who hired two lawyers both of whom I knew, Bob Conn and Dick Breiner, who also had some ties to official representation of the County of Marin. When it was learned that these two lawyers were going to challenge the decision of the Board of Supervisors who had approved the high-rise development and everything else connected to it, they were called into county offices and essentially threatened very clearly that if they persisted in challenging the authority of the Board of Supervisors, to bring progress and development to Marin County, they would lose any opportunity to work with the county in any official capacity.

0:22:12: When I heard that from people that I knew — namely my classmates Bob Conn and Dick Breiner — I was outraged. I said, "You know, that's politics in the rawest, crudest, cruelest sense that I'm used to reading about in Louisiana, but not in California, let alone my home county of Marin County." So, I agreed to substitute in as lawyer for the people challenging the county decision along with another excellent lawyer, named Robert Praetzel. So, Dick and Bob [Conn] transferred out, and Bob Praetzel and I took over the litigation, challenging the County of Marin's decision to proceed in the name of "progress" and, quite frankly, changing forever the character of Southern Marin.

0:23:09: Bob and I proceeded to try the case, to give the people of Marin County the right to vote on this land change from agricultural to intense urban development. To make the long story short, there was not one lawsuit, there were several lawsuits, both of which were tried in Marin County. The first lawsuit had to do with the right of the people to vote. Should the people of Marin County be able to vote on whether or not to transform this agricultural land into high-intensity urban development? That case went all the way up to the California Supreme Court, after a lengthy trial in Superior Court of Marin County under the honorable Joseph Wilson.

0:23:58: To make a long story short, we lost that lawsuit in the California Supreme Court. However, the real hero of the legal battle for Marincello was Robert Praetzel. Robert Praetzel persisted with the second lawsuit, which was extremely technical and challenged the manner in which the notices of the change in the development were prosecuted and published, and that prevailed. That mastery of the detail of municipal law by Robert Praetzel demonstrated to the appellate court of the State of California, not the Supreme Court, but the District Court of Appeal, that the County of Marin basically

denied due process to the people of Marin. And on that finding, the approval of the developers of Marincello were cancelled and voided.

0:25:06: By then, time having passed, personalities and money issues having surfaced, the Marincello Project was abandoned by Gulf Oil and the commercial developer in the East. At that point then, Huey Johnson and the Nature Conservancy made a transaction with Gulf Oil, who put up all the money to purchase the land which was ultimately then transferred to the National Park Service and that property is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to be enjoyed by all generations for all posterity.

0:25:45 Debra Schwartz: It all seems so tidy when you talk about it now, but the point that Robert Praetzel made as I recall — and correct me if I'm wrong — was that Gulf Oil and the developers had to give — was it 10 days advanced notice in the newspapers?

0:26:04 Martin Rosen: That's correct.

0:26:04 Debra Schwartz: So that people would be able to basically get the information and supply their input as they wanted. And in fact the development company had only given seven days.

0:26:18 Martin Rosen: I think that is actually specifically correct. The long and the short of it was the notice was deemed inadequate. And of course, the developers said, "Really? What difference does it make? Nobody reads those notices anyway." And happily, Praetzel persuaded the court that that was not the question. The law is in charge, no one is above the law. And it was very specific, how many days notice were required. It isn't how many people read the notice or how many people should have read the notice. But the law was very specific and the court agreed with him. That due process was not given and the transaction of county approval voided.

0:27:01 Debra Schwartz: The irony is beyond belief when you think about it. You have to know the local laws — but this is just a couple of days. Who even knows these things?

0:27:13 Martin Rosen: That's right. And that of course was the argument that the developers and the county made. What difference does it make? Seven days, three days, nine days. And Bob made a very wonderful point, he said, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. Seven is not 10, 10 is not seven. The law says 10." And the judges said, "Correct. The law is very specific, period." So Bob's brilliance prevailed. And I think we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

0:27:54 Debra Schwartz: Did it gall you that the concept that people should be able to have a choice about how the very land they live in is developed? You didn't win that lawsuit, but something as minor as a couple of days [chuckles] on a statute somewhere should be the saving grace for something as large as this?

0:28:20 Martin Rosen: Well, there are many, many examples. A fallen leaf here, a poem there, a nail displaced. History turns on a very strange axis, quite often.

0:28:37 Debra Schwartz: Frighteningly arbitrary it can be.

0:28:40 Martin Rosen: Capricious. All that.

0:28:41 Debra Schwartz: Yes, capricious.

0:28:44 Martin Rosen: But the net result is, that land there's a wonderful model of what the land would've looked like had it been developed with all those high rises in the Visitors Center of Golden Gate Recreation Area. That reality is something that we all can enjoy and of course you can say as you just did, isn't it ironic? But there are many, many ironies. Sometimes they work in favor of what you call the "Arc of Justice and Tranquility" and sometimes not.

0:29:19 Debra Schwartz: Well, for those that are listening to this interview and are trying to imagine what that kind of development would've looked like, this would have been a self-sustaining city of what 20,000 people?

0:29:36 Martin Rosen: At least. There were going to be more than a dozen 15-story high rises as well as other forms of residential, commercial and industrial use of that property. It was a very intense development.

0:29:52 Debra Schwartz: I've been around for a while and I remember what high rises looked like in the '60s. Not the prettiest buildings.

0:30:01 Martin Rosen: No. But in addition to that, we went back to the question, "Who gets to decide?"

0:30:08 Debra Schwartz: Yes. Very important role.

0:30:10 Martin Rosen: Why shouldn't the people be allowed — empowered, better word — to make the decision that affects the whole concept of life in our community? The whole experience of community is based on how we relate to nature, and how we relate to land, recognizing as we must, that economics, jobs, payment, hospitals and schools are part of our civilization and part of our community life. But there has to be a balance and who is better equipped in the long run to make those decisions than the people most affected?

0:30:56 Debra Schwartz: So in this particular case there were individuals, civilians, who participated in this fight — petitions being signed, local activism — this wasn't a fight just between attorneys. The people were engaged in this fight, the people of Mill Valley, the people Marin County, correct?

0:31:19 Martin Rosen: Yes. And of course we obviously had emotions involved in that first lawsuit where we wanted to have the people vote. We felt it pretty clear that the disqualification of a number of signatures was very arbitrary also. Somebody left out a middle initial on their name, that signature was disqualified. Somebody put down a PO Box rather than an address, that was disqualified. Somebody performed a signature that the clerk said, "I can't make it out exactly," and that was disqualified. Just enough signatures were disqualified by the trial court, Judge Wilson, even though there were hundreds more than required. Just enough were disqualified that the people were denied the right to vote.

0:32:09 Debra Schwartz: Well that begs the question — really this is an ethical issue.

0:32:22 Martin Rosen: We felt that and of course when you get up in the litigation mode, the emotions can overflow and obviously we felt very strongly that the deck was stacked, that there was an abundance of signatures and we had people willing to come in and testify that, "Yes indeed you may not be able to read my signature, but that is my signature and I want to come into court and say under oath, 'Yes indeed that is my signature.' I want it counted." And the judge ruled — that's what judges do, calls balls and strikes — no testimony. So be that as it may —

0:33:00 Debra Schwartz: So how did you respond personally? How did you respond to this kind of affront? Just your personal emotions, how did you get through all these kinds of obstacles?

0:33:13 Martin Rosen: Well, you channel, you suck it in. Later, as you know from your conversations with Huey Johnson, also a distinguished Mill Valley long-term resident, that led to the creation of The Trust for Public Land. At the time of all this happening, there was no Trust for Public Land. There was, happily, a Nature Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy specialized in that type of conservation — still does largely — for the protection of biodiversity. A very laudable, laudable goal.

0:33:52: There was no particular [chuckles] biological justification for Marincello. It wasn't just anti-development. It was community building on nature that existed, but no demonstrable value of biodiversity. As a result of which, we were pretty much — those of us who were involved, strong word, but true — *expelled* from the Nature Conservancy because we were told, "Don't do this again. We're not in the business," said the Conservancy, "of building playgrounds." And we said, "Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute." So that lead Huey and Doug and I and a whole bunch of others to start The Trust for Public Land to bring more balance into the conservation portfolio.

0:34:44: So as I mentioned earlier before we went on record, a lot of our work is urban. We work in downtown Manhattan, we work in Boston Commons, we work in Los Angeles. Because it's very important to all of us that we have conservation that is not only, "Gee whiz ain't it pretty, look at that sunset!" But also bring natural open space to school children and especially to underprivileged people, who otherwise wouldn't get to Glacier Point in Yosemite, or Glacier Park in Montana. We think it's very important that

nature and access to open space be readily accessible, and that led to the creation of The Trust for Public Land, which has now done happily hundreds of projects similar to Marincello in at least 40 states.

0:35:45 Debra Schwartz: Do you believe the right to have access to open spaces is civil right for all?

0:35:52 Martin Rosen: I do. I think it is as important as any other security issue. I think it is as important as a hospital or as a public school, and I think those are very important, as I think museums and symphony halls are, but the open space shouldn't be an afterthought. It isn't land that's left over when we've done all the important projects. I think it's important and I think that's what The Trust for Public Land represents, that land is not something out there, but it's something in here and in each of us. And there's study after study that indicate the effect on people's health and well-being, their recovery time from hospitals, etcetera, are demonstrably enhanced by having access to quality open space.

0:36:41 Debra Schwartz: You were the president for The Trust for Public Land, weren't you?

0:36:45 Martin Rosen: I certainly was. Huey was the first president and then I think after about two years, he was asked by Governor, then Governor, Jerry Brown to become the Secretary of Resources, and he left The Trust for Public Land and went to Sacramento for several years as the Secretary of Resources. The second President was Joel Kuperberg, who had worked for The Trust in Florida, and we brought him out from Florida to be the President of Trust for Public Land based in San Francisco. After a year or so, it became apparent that he had other qualities and interests, and I was persuaded to give up my chair, the Board of Directors of The Trust for Public Land, and lead the practice of law and become the President of The Trust for Public Land in San Francisco with offices all over the country over the next almost 20 years.

0:37:45 Debra Schwartz: And you took that position in what year?

0:37:49 Martin Rosen: Probably 1973-74, thereabouts.

0:37:55 Debra Schwartz: And so, for 20 years that became your life?

0:37:58 Martin Rosen: I had the consent of my good wife, Joan Rosen, 'cause it took a major pay cut, like two-thirds, from the practice of law. I was a transportation lawyer, specialist representing airplanes, railroads, communities, bus lines, truck lines all over the country. And through the persuasion [chuckles] of Doug Ferguson, who you've interviewed and Huey Johnson, I was convinced that it was much more important to all of us especially to me and my family to become the President of The Trust for Public Land, which I did for approximately the next 20 years.

0:38:38 Debra Schwartz: How did they persuade you, I have to ask? How did they appeal to you?

0:38:46 Martin Rosen: Well, that was a long time ago, but I can tell where it was. It was in our house, sitting on a sofa in Homestead Valley, and I was looking out at Mt. Tamalpais, and they said, "The time is now. The time is now." And looking out to Mt. Tam, I agreed.

0:39:08 Debra Schwartz: Fueled by the success you'd had with Marincello, did you feel their hope that you could proceed in successful ways, not just spin your wheels? Had you been livened by that success?

0:39:23 Martin Rosen: Well, as I said and I believe, I'm a pathological optimist. It's in my genes. We always look at the odds, but we're not only driven by the odds. Someone said a lot of our victories are temporary, but most of our losses are permanent. And so I'm a great believer in doing what you can, while you can, where you can, and having other people tell you what the record or the legacy was or could have been. So I just quite frankly rolled up my sleeves with a bunch of others — essentially Doug Ferguson, remember he was on the board also for all those years — and we basically did what we could, where we could, while we could, responding not so much to national agenda items, but quite frankly because we felt the local communities such as in Marincello were unheard. We set about empowering local communities to have their voice heard with respect to open space needs within their communities.

0:40:26: Sure we had additional criteria and additional agendas on the national front, but we always had a special interest in making sure that smaller communities did not go unnoticed. So it may have been something on Merrimack River, it may have be something on the Fakahatchee or the Chattahoochee or Asheville or whatnot that may not have been as prominent, say, as Yosemite or some of our signature projects, but had an importance to the community that gave it a quality that we felt had to be respected.

0:41:03 Martin Rosen: And that was our role. And we've done that now numerous times participating in many, many bond acts, and where we have raised — and this is not an exaggeration — billions with a B, billions of dollars for conservation from local communities, state, federal, and local [governments] all over the country.

0:41:24 Debra Schwartz: That's impressive, very impressive.

0:41:27 Martin Rosen: As I say, somebody else will do the math. What we did basically was figure out how communities in need, especially communities which were underserved — and those are essentially Latino, Black, Asian, Native Americans — how those voices can be expressed through their land ethic. And the land ethic, which we hear a lot about from Aldo Leopold, it's not confined to biological matters only. It has a lot to do with civil rights. It has a lot to do with access to public funding. It has a lot to do with voting. And those relationships were paramount.

0:42:10: As I mentioned earlier if there's anything I'm most proud of it's the small contribution that we have made to redefining conservation to include something more than the "Gee whiz ain't it lovely" sunset projects. Those almost sell themselves. The Big Sur coast vista is very easy to appreciate. What's much more difficult to appreciate is the birthplace of Martin Luther King in downtown Atlanta. That's not exactly a "gee whiz" proposition, but it was very important we felt to have that community of color recognized and acknowledged as a National Park. And it is now one of the most heavily visited national parks in all of Georgia. That was not the case. And it was not a welcome addition by the National Park Service, who frankly took a while before they recognized the importance of land as land-in-a-community. So that the birthplace and the Martin Luther King home and the Ebenezer Baptist Church tell a wonderful conservation story, as does the schoolhouse that was determinative in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

0:43:27: Now a lot of people may say "What does that have to do with conservation?" It has everything to do with conservation because it has to do with dignity, it has to do with a sense of place, it has to do with a sense of belonging and working with the Brown family and *Brown v. Board of Education*. That was probably one of the most thrilling moments of my life when they joined us — the Director of the National Park Service — in downtown Topeka, not exactly a "gee whiz" site to become the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site.

0:44:03 Debra Schwartz: The idea of conservation, when we think about how it's evolved over time, have you found in your work and your experiences with other people that the word itself conservation is limited in the public view? I mean the way that most people view it because it seems to me you have a more expansive vision of what conservation really is.

0:44:26 Martin Rosen: You're absolutely right. A lot of people think of conservation as another Yosemite. A lot of people think that conservation is a white man's guilt trip. A lot of people think conservation means taking it away from the Mexicans and the Native Americans who don't appreciate it the way we white folks do. There's no question that words matter, and we have to kind of demonstrate our commitment to something larger than narrow self-interest when we talk about conserving our land, making it available, and putting money up to acquire those properties when people obviously have other priorities.

0:45:05: And, of course, that leads to a point raised in few of the other places and how we maintain the balance between the farmers and the ranchers, and not in effect just drive them off their land saying, "Sorry we have a better use for our land, we want to write up a textbook of redwoods and you don't belong in this land." It's a much more demanding evaluation of land and people that is our concern.

0:45:39 Debra Schwartz: Viewing it from your perspective, I should think that it's such a daunting prospect because these are such big and complicated issues that it's simply too much for many people, in the expansiveness of what it entails, to really — because there's so many different agencies in control of the land and the individuals that

would like to use it and the corporations and the private sector and all these things, it's very, very hard to juggle and stay balanced with all these different facets.

0:46:10 Martin Rosen: Well you're absolutely right. People feel very passionately about their particular point of view and each of us has the right to be heard. Each of us has the right to be respected. Each of us has the right to work out the kinds of solutions that we think benefit us as members of a community rather than having them driven by strictly dollars or political influence. It is complicated. And for that reason, we've been at this now how many years? Going on 50. It's also important to listen and not just arrive by parachute and say, "Ah, we've done this before let us tell you how it's done." Every community is different, every community has passion, every community has built-in negative determinants.

0:47:09: The first thing you hear from the taxpayers association, you can count on it, is, "Don't we have enough parks? We have more parks than we can even take care of today. What we ought to do is deal with the backlog and privatize these parks, remembering Kings Canyon and places like that. Disney can do a better job than the Park Service." These are complicated situations and part of the job of the conservation community is not to be patronizing or high-minded and condescending, but to genuinely engage people just like ourselves, who feel just as strongly about their vision or their view. And that respect in turn, it seems to me, builds a stronger community and builds a stronger America.

0:48:03 Debra Schwartz: Especially within America that has so much diversity, both in the environment and the people.

0:48:08 Martin Rosen: And that's not new. It's no secret that Mr. Trump has an agenda, which is essentially anti-environmental, but he's not the first. Ronald Reagan was not misquoted when he said, "If you've seen one tree, you've seen them all." We dealt with James Watt, we dealt with Justice Gorsuch's mother when she was the head of the EPA. But on the other hand, you don't want to underestimate the goodwill of an awful lot of good people coming together and crafting honorable, effective solutions.

0:48:45 Debra Schwartz: I want you to know I asked Ronald Reagan about that comment. I was on a television show with him when I was much younger. I did ask him. I said, "What in the world did you mean by that 'If you've seen one tree, you've seen them all?'" [chuckles]

0:49:00 Martin Rosen: And?

0:49:02 Debra Schwartz: He said, "All of that was taken out of context."

0:49:07 Martin Rosen: Well, my classmate was Ed Meese who worked for Governor Reagan and who was a conservationist, he said that was not taken out of context. It basically means he had a higher priority. If you've seen one tree, what's the difference between one and a hundred? A tree is a tree. That was his way of saying — and he did say it — and by the people he appointed to various offices, that the environment is not a

priority. It's something to be taken for granted. He enjoyed getting out on his ranch and cutting down this and planting that, which is fine. But the environment, the natural world, was not something he wanted to spend any money or time on.

0:49:48 Debra Schwartz: Well, that was, I have to say, that was my take at the moment as well. I'm curious also, did you work with John Krebs with the Kings Canyon?

0:50:00 Martin Rosen: Not directly, I was a member of the Sierra Club, of course. Since then, got to know the fellow from Disney who tried very hard to make that happen. But no, I did not have a direct role in that.

0:50:14 Debra Schwartz: So you're working with The Trust for Public Land, could you give me an idea exactly how the agency worked? What was a typical day for you? How did somebody approach you with a project? Were you out looking for particularly interesting cases? I know Doug said that he would get calls, arbitrarily, I don't know where, a call with a desperate person and then he'd jump.

0:50:41 Martin Rosen: That's right, it worked both ways. We're in the business of protecting the American landscape, large-scale and small-scale. So yes, we would get calls from poets in Virginia City, we'd get calls from city officials in Tallahassee, Florida. Quite frankly, with Phil Burton we had an excellent relationship with the congressional committees. And Martin Luther King, for example, was a priority for that committee under Philip Burton and Chairman Sidney Yates from Chicago. And we were able to serve both the national and the local individual constituencies in a very holistic way.

0:51:24: My job as CEO was keeping the balance. We're not a church, we're not a business, we're a non-profit conservation organization and you can't do everything, nor can you do everything at once. One thing I insisted on, unlike other people, was that we pay our committed full-time employees a decent wage. We never got top dollar, but neither did we ask them to sacrifice their children's medical benefits to work for The Trust for Public Land. So my job, yes, was to keep the balance, listen to the needs of the community, listen to the ideas of the staff, develop the staff, take calls from people like Phil Burton, and figure out what we could do and, quite frankly, quite often what we couldn't do.

0:52:14: I remember one case, we had a large donor in New York City who called up one day and he said, "I want you to do this, this and this, and you have seven days to do it." And I said, "Sir, I'm honored that you request that, but I can tell you there's no way in the world we can accomplish that in seven days." So he hung up and never gave us another dime. Our job is to be realistic, to reach, but also make sure that the organization never promised more than it delivered. One of our qualities was tenaciousness. Once we'd committed to a project, we saw the project to fruition, however long it took. Every project that we looked at, we put a timeline to it — it should take a year, two years or three years. How do we pay for it? How do we borrow the money? How do we find the

money? What foundations do we ask for grants? What individuals do we hit up for donations?

0:53:14: There's a continuous bouillabaisse, if you will, that is brewing to keep the spice and the nourishment alive and well, and that's the job of the CEO, learning how to say yes and how to say no. One of the biggest explosions we had as a staff was when a staff member, a senior staff person, made a commitment for more than a million dollars non-refundable on a project that was very, very difficult. And I had to tell her, "No, we're not going to do that." She quit on the spot and later, she reconsidered and said, "I didn't quit." And I said, "Yes, you did. And the answer is, think before you act." And her termination was effective. Those were the realities of running a very complicated organization over a dozen or more states. Bearing in mind The Trust had offices in Boston, New York, Washington, Tallahassee, Miami, Houston, Austin, Portland, etcetera. So there's always a challenge, quite frankly, to keep the lights on and keep the faith with the people who expect to be paid as well as the communities that you're designed to serve.

0:54:38 Debra Schwartz: What was your employee base? How many employees with all these offices?

0:54:43 Martin Rosen: Plus or minus, 300 to 400, depending. I think right now in 40 states we have about 400.

0:54:51 Debra Schwartz: And how about the fundraising? How did that work? How did you manage to acquire the funds?

0:55:00 Martin Rosen: Well, you have to have a mantra, and my mantra was, "This is not Bangladesh. This is the wealthiest country in the world." The question is how you find the resources to do the job that you say you're going to do? And so, fundraising is in your genes. You have to be continuously fundraising, but not only fundraising. And one of the unique features of The Trust for Public Land is that we tried to maintain — and did for all my years — two thirds of our funding from successfully closing real estate transactions. We'd buy land, under the Internal Revenue Code, a portion of it would be a donation and a portion of it would be cash. But we were all, what I called the third best choice in town. The best choice being top dollar, all cash. That wasn't us. The second best choice is, as much money as you can, now. That wasn't us.

0:56:04: We would always negotiate very hard, very openly with the individual land owner respectfully and in dignity. Not cutting any corners, not playing any guilt trips and saying, "This is what we can do and give us some time to get it done." And we did it again and again. Literally, hundreds of times. We frankly had a mantra again. We would do "A transaction a day, somewhere in the USA."

0:56:34 Debra Schwartz: Oh, my.

0:56:37 Martin Rosen: Now, some of them were tens of thousands of acres. We did a project for the Nez Perce Indians in the eastern Oregon. Thousands of acres, that was the home of Chief Seattle. On the other hand, we did projects involving city lots along the Los Angeles River. So it took a variety of techniques. But the main thing was, the end never justifies the means. That's easy to roll off the tongue but what that means is that nobody was on a commission, nobody promised something they couldn't deliver, and whatever we said we would do, we did. And that astonished a lot of people.

0:57:20 Debra Schwartz: Yeah, I'm astonished right now. [chuckles] I'm trying to imagine that this kind of way of conducting business, that there would be times that you are facing people that did things quite a bit different. There's graft. I grew up in San Joaquin Valley. I know how things were done, that you would be hitting a wall of something very different.

0:57:48 Martin Rosen: But I think that's been the key to our longevity. Secondly, we never badmouthed another organization. Ever. And we were badmouthed a fair amount. In the state of Georgia, we were turned down by a foundation because another conservation organization said we were nothing but a bunch of real estate brokers and they shouldn't do business with us. So when we went in there, we asked for the grant. They said, "No, no, no. We know all about you. You're nothing but a bunch of real estate brokers pretending to be conservationists." We thanked them. We left with all dignity. We never said a word about that organization badmouthing us, so that they would get the grant rather than we. That happens all the time, unfortunately, dealing with people. But your destiny is literally determined by your integrity. Period. Non-negotiable. Never a bad word. Does it work? So far. As Stevie Wonder said, "Are you blind all your life? Not yet." [chuckles]

0:58:54 Debra Schwartz: Did you ever feel that you were riding a wave of opportunity, things during the '60s and '70s? I've talked to Huey about this when he was working with Jerry Brown and he describes opportunities that he had that, in some ways, doors are closed now. Did you ever feel that you were riding a wave of an era where conservation was blossoming and growing, and as a part of a new kind of living, and that those doors have closed?

0:59:35 Martin Rosen: Not really. Our motto, as I say — we dealt with James Watt and we dealt with Ronald Reagan and a bunch of people who quite frankly were out to undermine and even deprive us — several people tried to get our non-profit status cancelled by the IRS. We met a lot of challenges that way. Our mantra was very simply: do what you can, while you can, where you can. Rather than trying to pretend that we could see historical forces at work, we frankly would expect someone else to write the book. We were very busy keeping our head down, responding and offering services to people around the country who shared the vision of Aldo Leopold's land ethic for all of us, and Frederick Law Olmsted and Thomas Jefferson, and Chief Seattle — there are a lot of them — and Martin Luther King. Again and again. So, there have been clearly, as we are now experiencing, tough times, hard times. But no, I've never seen it fit to put

these things in historical terms beyond, quite frankly, our opportunity to do what we can, where we can, while we can.

1:00:53 Debra Schwartz: I guess you've got a very honed ability to switch it out, as needed to.

1:01:00 Martin Rosen: I'd say that's fair. That's fair. Having been a lawyer I learned early on there's no case that couldn't be won, and there's no case that couldn't be lost. And the difference, quite often is — as it was in Marincello —a sliver of three days. So, what you do is what you can.

1:01:22 Debra Schwartz: You've got an wonderful attitude. Have there been people that have inspired you or been a mentor to you that helped you to develop this wonderful ability to go forward even against untold odds?

1:01:38 Martin Rosen: Well, many, many people come to mind. Aldo Leopold of course talks about ethics and the land ethic, that's basic. Frederick Law Olmsted, clearly. Thomas Jefferson in many ways, not every way.

1:01:53 Debra Schwartz: Huey Johnson.

1:01:54 Martin Rosen: Huey and Douglas Ferguson. Many, many people. Phil Burton. So many really wonderful people reinforced the basic humanity that we feel, and how much we are, quite frankly, advanced by their transfer of energy and hope, that we absorb and feel nourished by. Many people, many people.

1:02:25 Debra Schwartz: Although you're so optimistic, has there ever been a time where you felt gutted by the result of something, lost a little of your hope or felt down as a result of something coming out not the way you'd hoped?

1:02:40 Martin Rosen: Well, I remember one particularly dark period. We were at the Hotel La Fonda in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a board meeting of The Trust for Public Land. I cannot tell you exactly the year but I can give you the setting that finances were very, very precarious. And Douglas Ferguson was on the board and we were good friends and trusting, and he has one of the most brilliant senses of humor of anyone I've known. He said, "You know, Marty, you're basically going out of business and you know what, that's not the worst thing in the world. You should have no guilt. A lot of people go out of business and they pay their bills and that's the honorable thing to do and then you turn out the light." And, the truth is, I looked at him and I said, "Douglas, if that were true, I would turn out the lights. But it's not true, we're going to keep the lights on. We're going to find a way." And Douglas chuckled, he said, "By God, I bet you do." And we did.

1:03:50 Debra Schwartz: This is Doug Ferguson?

1:03:51 Martin Rosen: Yes. [chuckles] That was a very memorable moment and neither Douglas or I have ever forgotten it.

1:03:58 Debra Schwartz: And that's Doug Ferguson you're talking about?

1:04:00 Martin Rosen: That's Douglas Peder Ferguson. [chuckles] One of the best friends anyone could ever have. And his wife Jane.

1:04:08 Debra Schwartz: Yes, very nice people. What would you say to people nowadays, younger people, that are graduating from school, with debt, great debt, trying to go into the conservation, and in this political climate, how do you rally the enthusiasm and the spirit with people coming, in your own employees and also youngsters that may be coming up and out in the world?

1:04:40 Martin Rosen: Well, number one, the work is important. It's not an afterthought, it's not a hobby. It's a career and it's a way to express your best self with passion effectively. And there's a lot of work to be done. A lot of work to be done that requires thoughtful, competent, dedicated people, who can and will ultimately make the difference. We've seen it before. We've faced all kinds of adversities, we've faced all sorts of calamities, and the truth is, this too will pass. If you are fortunate and dedicated and mobilized, you will prevail. You will prevail, just as we have. We brought it to a certain point, the work is really that of a start-up.

1:05:35: We're just getting started. The Trust right now, is strictly United States oriented. There's a lot of ways that we can connect with other communities, especially under-served all over the world. We have trained some of the people coming to the United States about what we do. I remember we had a friend come over specifically from Romania to study how we worked and how the Park Service and so forth is oriented. There is a lot of unfinished business. It's really a start-up activity, and if you have the passion and the patience and the drive you can make a huge difference.

1:06:16 Debra Schwartz: Now you're retired or are you still working?

1:06:20 Martin Rosen: I call myself gainfully unemployed.

1:06:22 Debra Schwartz: You're not in between opportunities, you're actually gainfully unemployed.

1:06:27 Martin Rosen: No, I'm still involved actively with two non-profits. One is called the Pollinator Partnership which is dedicated to the protection and preservation of birds, bats, butterflies, and bees around the world. And that's largely a data-driven organization that protects the pollinators that are so vital to our food supply that are imperiled by the loss of habitat and by the use of pesticides. That's based in San Francisco and in Washington. I'm on that board and I'm the vice chair of Pollinator Partnership.

1:07:07: And in addition I'm involved with Earth Share, which is the national organization that represents about 450 conservation oriented, non-profit organizations,

from the Sierra Club to the North Carolina Trout Fishing Association. It's a way that we can learn from each other best practices and communicate lessons learned and leverage experience around the country. That's D.C.-based.

1:07:40 Debra Schwartz: And all this from the Carmel Valley?

1:07:46 Martin Rosen: [laughs] All this from Carmel Valley. And, personally, being gainfully unemployed, I'm happy to lead hikes and walks every Thursday in the local area. Last week we went to Point Lobos. The week before that we went to Garland Park. Last month we went to Pinnacles National Park and we had a chance to actually walk on the work of so many people who have come before us.

1:08:14 Debra Schwartz: That is fantastic! Are you the lead guide? This is a hiking group or is this —

1:08:20 Martin Rosen: It's a local Carmel Valley hiking group that enjoys going out and experiencing some of the wonders of nature that are right in front of us. You know, the story of Point Lobos having been plotted and developed, much like Marincello was saved by Frederick Law Olmsted's son who persuaded the state of California in its brand new state park system to include Point Lobos. There are so many wonderful stories about how people, just like the next recruit, can make a huge difference if he or she is willing to show the patience and the perseverance to make it happen. In that case it was the Allen family that made a bargain sale that protects Point Lobos today.

1:09:09 Debra Schwartz: I'm smiling listening to you talk about this. Have you ever just wanted to pinch yourself and say, "I can't believe that this is what I got to do with my life?"

1:09:18 Martin Rosen: I said to you early on, it's been the American dream for the Rosen family. Immigrant parents. Dad arrived as a farm boy and hardly spoke English. Grew up on the streets of New York until he was drafted and went to France and got wounded. Mom raised after a pogrom in Kiev in middle America. They raised two boys, my brother and I, and we have to say truly God bless America.[4]

1:09:52 Debra Schwartz: God bless America. I agree completely. [chuckles] That's a beautiful story. Really it is. Have you ever hiked in the Marin Headlands? Walked around and just did your happy dance? Did you look around with all that yonder all about, all the natural beauty —

1:10:14 Martin Rosen: Absolutely. Tennessee Valley, Dipsea Trail, West Point, Boy Scout Trail, all over Marin County, wherever we could. And that's one of the reasons I so, frankly, was reluctant to leave Marin County because every Tuesday I was out on the trail somewhere.

1:10:35 Debra Schwartz: Yes.

[4] And, of course, I married 63 years ago to the finest woman I know!—Martin Rosen.

1:10:37 Martin Rosen: So you're a lucky lady as you well know Debra.

1:10:40 Debra Schwartz: You mean to be able to —

1:10:42 Martin Rosen: Look out your window.

1:10:43 Debra Schwartz: Yes.

1:10:43 Martin Rosen: Walk. Put one foot after the other and say, "All I have to do is show up." You don't need a court. I don't need a membership. It's your land. This land is your land.

1:10:56 Debra Schwartz: Well Marty you know I own a hiking tour service and I —

1:11:00 Martin Rosen: Now wait, you mentioned that, what is that?

1:11:01 Debra Schwartz: Tam Hiking Tours. I give guided hikes in the area and I think it's both my privilege and my responsibility to share stories such as your story, and Huey Johnson's, and Doug Ferguson's, and all these wonderful people who have given of themselves to preserve the land that many people take for granted [believing] something had to happen, that this land was going to always be saved, but that's not the case.

1:11:31 Martin Rosen: Never.

1:11:32 Debra Schwartz: It's fought for tooth and nail and it's such an important story to share. And that is always a part of what I do.

1:11:43 Martin Rosen: Wonderful.

1:11:44 Debra Schwartz: Not only of the land and the creation of it and the people and the culture, but the responsibility that we all have when we enjoy this public space.

1:11:52 Martin Rosen: Well you're a pretty lucky lady yourself. [chuckles] What a great job.

1:11:57 Debra Schwartz: Well it is a privilege and an honor and as Huey Johnson says, "Never sit on your laurels. You have to continue to fight. Even what appears to be secure is never really secure. The fight never ends." John Muir said the same.

1:12:14 Martin Rosen: But I'm not even sure. I understand the term "fighting" cancer, "fighting" poverty. It's not so much a fighting, as it is an engaging. We've got to persuade people who we see as opponents and adversaries into joining with us, and that involves listening to them quite often. They have financial concerns. They have experiences of arrogance by a civil servant that has turned them off. We have to engage all of our fellow residents of this planet in ways that can make it constructive for them to

join with us rather than to continue to figure out ways to undermine us. I really believe that. So I don't use the word fighting in my lexicon. I understand that. For me at least, the word is engagement.

1:13:05 Debra Schwartz: I am educable and I completely agree with you. Well said. Words have great power and they set the ambiance, and you make a point of that so well. I appreciate your perspective very much.

1:13:22 Martin Rosen: Thank you.

1:13:23 Debra Schwartz: Well, there so many things I continue to say thank you for as a lover of nature and —

1:13:29 Martin Rosen: You said that lovely and I appreciate it. Thank you very much, Debra.

1:13:32 Debra Schwartz: On behalf of the Mill Valley Historical Society, and so many people that live in Mill Valley and Marin County, as you know, who enjoy the open space.

1:13:42 Martin Rosen: Yes.

1:13:42 Debra Schwartz: And to you and your cadre of friends and engagers, thank you so much for all you've done and for the time, and I look forward to one day taking a walk on the mountain and finding you there. [chuckles]

1:13:56 Martin Rosen: That would be nice. Thank you very much, Debra, for finding me way down here in the central California coast. I'm very honored and privileged. Thank you truly, very much.

1:14:06 Debra Schwartz: And you take care, sir.

1:14:07 Martin Rosen: Okay.

1:14:08 Debra Schwartz: Happy New Year.

1:14:09 Martin Rosen: Thank you very much. Bye for now.