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## **U.1. The Long Civil Rights Movement: Individual Biographies**

Interview U-1072

Vicki Gabriner

8 March 2014

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## **ABSTRACT – VICKI GABRINER**

Interviewee: Vicki Gabriner

Interviewer: Rachel Gelfand

Interview date: March 8, 2014

Location: Vicki's Home; Brookline, MA

Length: Part 1: 1:04:49, Part 2: 44:51

Vicki Gabriner was active in the civil rights movement, antiwar protests in Wisconsin, and was a founding member of ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian / Feminist Alliance). She describes her childhood in Brooklyn, NY, her mother's work in the PTA, and the McCarthy era. The PTA was active in organizing against anti-communist legislation and on cultural performances. Gabriner wrote her dissertation on the PTA and her mother's activism in 2009. In 1959, she went to Cornell University where she met Bob Gabriner, who she would later marry. She participated in a Woolworth's sit-in in Ithaca, NY and recounts her coming to political consciousness. After graduation, she lived in New York with Bob Gabriner and they worked on rent strikes in Harlem, NY. With Bob Gabriner, she went to Fayette County, Tennessee for three summers beginning in 1964. She discusses current conversations at Cornell about building a memorial for James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Mickey Schwerner. Schwerner was an alumnus. She describes the history of Fayette County, their work to register voters, and campaigns to elect African Americans to local government. During the year, Bob and Vicki Gabriner were in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. Vicki Gabriner was a part of a political theater troupe and was arrested in costume at the 1967 Dow Chemical demonstration. She got divorced and moved back to New York. In 1969, she joined the Weathermen collective for one year. In 1970, she traveled to Cuba with the Second Venceremos Brigade. Cuba was a very moving experience. She learned from their compassionate approach to revolution and she met many activists from Atlanta, Ga. She moved to Atlanta in 1970 and lived there for almost ten years. She was in a group of women who were frustrated by both Gay Liberation and Atlanta Women's Liberation. They decided they needed a space for lesbian feminists. They formed ALFA in Little Five Points in 1972. She was arrested on charges related to Weathermen in 1973. She describes the arrest, studying her FOIA files, and her trial in 1977. In 1974, she was a part of ALFA's out-lesbian softball team. This was an important experience and remains an interesting form of organizing. ALFA grew tremendously due to their visibility in the softball league. She describes how ALFA was very based in the Little Five Points community. The bar scene was an important space for lesbian life. We also discuss our relationship. She describes seeing me be born and how the lesbian baby boom affected her life. She chose not to have children. She made this decision at a young age, probably based in her history of incest. She had two abortions in the 1960s. We have formed a special

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connection from childhood into adulthood. Gabriner married her wife Rochelle Ruthchild in 2004. We conclude by discussing the idea of taping. Gabriner was wiretapped by the FBI and she went into the FBI office to listen to the reel-to-reel tapes of herself.

## FIELD NOTES – VICKI GABRINER

Interviewee: Vicki Gabriner

Interviewer: Rachel Gelfand

Interview date: March 8, 2014

Location: Vicki Gabriner's Home, Brookline, MA

Length: Part 1: 1:04:49, Part 2: 44:51

THE INTERVIEWEE. Vicki Gabriner, the interviewee, has had a long history which intersected with many social movements. She grew up in Brooklyn, NY in the 1940s and 1950s. Both her parents were teachers and her mother was especially active in PTA left wing organizing. Gabriner was deeply affected by the McCarthy era and carries a strong attachment to the Rosenbergs. She would later cross paths with the Rosenbergs' children. Gabriner was involved in voter registration in West Tennessee and antiwar activism in Wisconsin. She joined the Weatherman collective in 1969. She travelled to Cuba with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Venceremos Brigade where she met feminists from Atlanta. After Cuba, she left Weathermen and went to Atlanta where she stayed for almost ten years. She helped found ALFA, the Atlanta Lesbian/Feminist Alliance. She was a lead organizer in Georgians for the ERA (G-ERA). She was arrested in 1973 by the FBI for conspiracy and aiding passport fraud. She won her appeal for this case in 1977. In 1978, Gabriner moved to Boston. She worked as a civil rights investigator responding to federal Equal Opportunity Act infringements. She also was the Executive Director of Sojourner, a feminist publication. In 2009, she received her Ph.D from the Union Institute with a dissertation concerning her mother's PTA activism: *Peak Time: Progressive Jewish Mothers, the PTA, and the Postwar Red Scare in Brooklyn, New York, 1946-1956*. Currently, Vicki Gabriner and Rachel Gelfand are working on an archival project with the ALFA archives.

THE INTERVIEWER. Rachel Gelfand is a Ph.D student in American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a student in Jacquelyn Hall's Oral History Seminar. She is studying lesbian feminist movements in the South and research methodologies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. The interview was conducted at 3:00pm at Vicki Gabriner's house in Coolidge Corner, which is a residential neighborhood of Brookline, Mass. Vicki has been a part of my life since I was born. This plays out in the interview. We are also currently studying her experiences in ALFA, the Atlanta Lesbian/Feminist Alliance through the archives at Duke University. The interview begins with her childhood in Brooklyn. I prompt her to discuss her memories of the PTA, which she has written extensively on. We discuss her experiences in West Tennessee and her coming to politics at Cornell University. The conversation moves back and forth from West

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Tennessee to Wisconsin where she went to graduate school. I sought to focus on her two experiences in the South. I asked about her civil rights organizing in Fayette County, Tennessee and her years in ALFA. When I try to shift to Atlanta, I realize we were skipping too much in chronology. We go back and discussed her time in Wisconsin and her radicalizing experiences in the Dow Chemical protest. She speaks about her time in Weathermen and how that brought her to Cuba, which in turn brought her to Atlanta. I ask briefly about ALFA, but we spent more time discussing her FBI case. Highlights for me were hearing the story of her arrest and the story of listening to wiretap recordings in the FBI office. The interview was briefly interrupted at the beginning by a phone call and it is broken up into two parts. In the second hour, we talk about ALFA's softball team and its honeymoon year in 1974. The interview went longer than I was planning so we did not take breaks. It lacks content pertaining to ALFA most likely because we have been discussing this so much in other forms. To describe the setting, Gabriner and I talked at the kitchen table in the upstairs of her duplex house. The table has mail and other papers on it. It is the size of a dining room table and fills the small kitchen. The walls are painted a bright sky blue. There is Russian art on the walls because her wife is a Russian historian. There are family photographs on the walls and the refrigerator. We were alone in the house. It was late afternoon in late winter. This interview was conducted as part of an assignment for the oral history seminar (HIST 670-170) taught by Jacquelyn Hall, in the spring semester of 2014.

## TAPE LOG – Vicki Gabriner

Interviewee: Vicki Gabriner

Interviewer: Rachel Gelfand

Interview date: March 8, 2014

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Comments: Only text in quotation marks is verbatim; all other text paraphrased, including the interviewer's questions. Occasionally, I will use our initials (VG and RG).

### TAPE INDEX

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
[Digital Recording, Starts at Beginning]	
00:46	Interview begins.
01:57	I ask about childhood. Vicki describes the house she grew up in and feels fortunate that she grew up in proximity to her grandparents and the immigrant generation.
03:48	She describes the school and neighborhood. It was Italian and Jewish. I ask about the PTA. Vicki's mother was active in the PTA and it was not just bake sales. The PTA was mostly Jewish women.
06:28	Phone rings
07:21	Jackie Robinson was a key figure of her childhood. The PTA organized against the Feinberg Law and against the pyramid system of anti-communist reporting in schools.
09:25	"As a child I remember remembering the PTA, noting the PTA, being very impressed by it. I mean in my childlike way I knew that these women were doing something that really very important."

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- 10:40 The PTA put on music and shows. "It created a community that was very appealing to a kid."
- 12:19 I ask about how her political consciousness came about. Vicki cites her mother and growing up in a political house. She went with her mother to meetings and picket lines. She was a pink-diaper baby (not quite a red one). She discusses getting race consciousness from her music teacher in a conversation they had about why a black actor played a janitor or maid character on TV. "The light bulb went off for me. And I got it"
- 14:17 She was "ready for something" when she went to college at Cornell University. She met Bob Gabriner who was more political. People around her were freedom riders. "So we picketed the Woolworth's in downtown Ithaca and I'm sure that I went dressed in a skirt or a dress. I was concerned about—I should look nice, as opposed to trooping out in a pair of dungarees or jeans, as you like to call them. I have a picture in my mind of being on a circular moving picket line in front of the Woolworth's and for me going on that picket line and making that decision by myself was a big deal. And it was a step in a direction that I was to follow over the next many years."
- 16:45 She went on a school vacation trip to do civil rights work in North Carolina. It was the first time she didn't go home for the vacation, which her parents were okay with.
- 17:50 "I think later on I did things that were very upsetting to them, where they felt I was putting my life at risk. I remember, as my mother always tells the story, she would say to me—I would say but Ma you taught me this stuff, and she would say, yes but I never put my life at risk...But you know once you put something out in the air, you cant really control where it's going to go."
- 18:20 I ask when she went to West Tennessee. She says she graduated in 1963 and she was with Bob. Their relationship was "less than perfect" but she was used to "following the men in her life." She responds by explaining who organized the project in West Tennessee. Charlie and Roena "Bunny" Haynie sought out an area of the South that was already organized. They traveled in the summer of 1963 and found Fayette County.
- 20:40 Vicki describes the history of Fayette County where sharecroppers who registered to voters were kicked off their land. It was known as Tent City. UAW aided the sharecroppers, who put up tents on black-owned land.
- 22:17 Charlie and Bunny put out the word they were going to do the project. Vicki and Bob were living in New York and organizing Harlem rent strikes. They went to a meeting and decided to join. She describes how she

sees herself as a scaredy cat, but in certain circumstances she pushes that aside. Bob and Vicki looked at each other in the meeting and knew they were going. She explains that they first went the same summer Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were killed. Schwerner went to Cornell and Vicki was going to speak at a meeting the following weekend. The meeting was trying to persuade Cornell to erect a memorial to the three men killed. 50 years ago who would have thought they'd be putting up memorials on the campus. There already is a stained glass window in the chapel, but they want something more visible in campus.

- 26:48 I ask about her experiences in West Tennessee. "I think it was one of, if not the most extraordinary experience of my life." It was a foreign environment for her. Rural, Southern. They lived in the black community. The summer started off with the murder of Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner. "So if we didn't know before, we knew then that they were serious."
- 27:50 I ask where they stayed. They were spread out around the county and they stayed by the border with Mississippi in District 10. They lived in a house on black-owned land. The houses were made of wood. They had pictures of JFK and the black politician running for Tax Assessor in the county. He was running with a white man who was campaigning to become sheriff. She shares her amazement that they shared the ticket at that point.
- 29:40 "I remember when we got inside the house. It was Mr. and Mrs. Marshall. So Mrs. Marshall took me as the woman to show me how to do things in the kitchen. Not Bob, didn't bring Bob in." She explained the wood fire and used lighter fluid to start it.
- 30:50 Vicki explains what they did in Fayette County. They were two parts—getting people registered and campaigning for the election. Square Mormon and Maggie Mae Horton were the leadership in that district. Together they drove around the county and she describes learning to drive on the ruts. She learned there to change a flat tire. Bob and Vicki drove with Square to talk about registering with people in their homes. They would coordinate rides to register. They did registration for a month, and then they focused on the election. One project was to teach people to read the ballot. When the election day came, people in the county government had changed the ballots so they didn't look exactly like the practice ballots. It confused people. They lost the election. There's no doubt they lost the election because of shenanigans. They most likely dumped ballots.
- 33:57 "I learned to love the South." She describes Square's daughter telling Vicki how she looked out on the farmland her father owned and she said she loved it. Vicki thought if she can love it, with all the racist stuff going on around them, Vicki could open up to the idea. "She gave me



permission to live with that contradiction that they saw the ugliest part of society but it didn't stop her from appreciating the land that her father had bought, that she worked on."

- 35:20 We talk about if they kept in touch. Vicki talks about going back in 2004. Fayette County had been a battleground and when they saw each other again it felt like soldiers reuniting. That is to say, it was an incredibly close bond. There was a very raucous reunion.
- 37:30 Square asked to interview Vicki and she realized she would have to come out to him. "It had always been Bob-and-Vicki, Bob-and-Vicki, no spaces in between the words." She went down to the reunion not knowing how she was going to come out. Bob was interviewed first and he had a good cover in a way. He was married, had children, and this sort of covered a more progressive lifestyle. "I didn't have that option. I was either going to not say that I was a lesbian, which meant that I was not going to identify myself hardly at all. So I started off by saying I was in a relationship with a woman. And I swear to God Square almost fell on the floor." They talked on the phone a few weeks later and he "sort of read me the biblical riot act." She tried to engage, but the conversation was extremely painful.
- 40:35 I try to make a transition to women's liberation. We talk about the Square story as an arc. Vicki says it's an arc about coming out but also about being Jewish. She discusses speaking in the churches in Fayette County. When she went back in 2004, she went to church and this coincided with her pursuing her Jewishness more up North.
- 43:40 We transition to ALFA. Even as Vicki loved the South, she knew she would never be a Southerner. She learned so much in the South. She lived in Atlanta for about nine years. "The story of coming out. How did I come out?" Vicki struggles here with how to proceed. So I offer to back up and keep working chronologically. I ask about the political theater group in Wisconsin and how she went to Atlanta.
- 45:50 She worked for 3 years in Fayette County and during that time they were at University of Wisconsin. Bob wanted to continue schooling and Vicki felt like who was she to get in his way. Bob never finished his degree. They would feel so out of sorts when they came back to campus from the South. "They were off in different worlds." There was a lively student movement on campus though.
- 47:35 Bob started an underground newspaper called Connections. The theater group started to publicize the paper and the political issues in it. There was a big demonstration against Dow Chemical. They called the city police onto the campus and they "beat the crap out of a lot of student demonstrators." The San Francisco Mime Troupe was there also. Both

groups were in white face. "It came to pass that I was arrested." She played the role of "Sifting and Winnowing." She was bothering the cops and they grabbed her and started pulling her. She fought back and dug her heels in. There's an iconic picture of her in the patty wagon. The cop is next to her and "we were both in our outfits."

- 50:58 I ask about Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and Weatherman. Vicki backs up and continues to explain the radicalizing moment of the protest. The cops used tear gas.
- 51:52 She left Madison and she separated from Bob. She went back to New York and started teaching. It was the same year of the giant teacher's strike in New York. I say that I remember reading that it was an issue about race and community schools. It was a new union, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and mostly Jewish women. Then there were women of color in three community school districts. She chooses not to talk about it because it is so complicated. She forgets what she was going to say.
- 54:13 The school staff were very radicalized by the strike. It is the only time she crossed a picket line. She was ostracized for that. She was hired back the next year, but not welcome. One of her gerbils was killed by another teacher. That's how angry and painful the whole situation was.
- 55: 50 Labor Day weekend she decided to go with her then-boyfriend to an SDS meeting. She hadn't been a member before, but it turned out to be the first meeting of Weathermen. What a "heavy adventure that turned out to be." She decides not to go into Weathermen further. Although she agreed with the content of its politics, she felt that how they related to each other was extremely painful. She came back from this meeting in Cleveland. She went to the school where she was teaching and told them she was going to join Weathermen. Even though they didn't even know what Weathermen was.
- 58:30 She was in Weathermen for a year. She ended her Weathermen experience by going to Cuba. She felt the Cubans brought her back to sanity and mental health. "My personal experience in 1970 was that they were really mature revolutionaries." She had her last heterosexual relationship in Cuba.
- 1:00:00 She was in a group in Cuba with mostly people from Atlanta. They were wonderful. She already felt connected to the South. When she came back to New York, she chose not to go underground. "I kept my name. I kept my hair. I kept everything. But interestingly the FBI couldn't find me."

1:01:09 "I think partly it's hard to tell the story. So I get focused on something and then I go. I space out because it's too hard to talk about it or understand it or know what to say. It's so full of contradictions."

1:01:44 I move us to Atlanta. When she was in Cuba, the townhouse exploded in New York. They didn't know who had been killed. The Cubans were very supportive. "Of course, we all were completely flipped out." The Weathermen leadership said we must go on. Cubans left room for emotions. She remembers cutting sugarcane and moving very slowly. One of the Cuban men came and checked in with her.

END OF TAPE ONE

START OF TAPE TWO

00:50 "Let me just say something right here. For me, one of the most extraordinary experiences in this process of talking about this is talking about it to you. You who I saw emerge from your mother's body and then we hung out together. You changed my life because you loved me and I loved you. And it was the first time I really watched someone go from infancy to grow up. And now you're beyond grown up. You're an adult and it's very moving for me that we can have this kind of conversation. RG: It's moving for me too. I'm glad we're doing it. VG: Ok back to business. Well that is business."

02:05 She drove to Atlanta with a Weatherperson in 1970. She saw him on the street and they went up to his apartment and he had her shortwave radio. All her possessions got dumped into the Weathermen house and she asked for it back. "You never know where you're going to find your stuff when you used to be in Weathermen." He was driving south with his mother. She went with him and she thought she'd be there for a little while. She ended up living there for almost ten years.

03:47 "Those were wonderful years." Even though she loved the people, she knew she could never be a Southerner. She describes learning from Marcelina [Martin's] mother, who was a hairdresser. She cut her hair—her first "dykey" haircut. The next day they all went to the Cyclorama. And Marcelina's mother asked her, in a Southern voice, if she had been to the Cyclorama. Then she said, "Well we had a war down here." She talked as if Vicki was from a foreign country and she realized she was. It was a different experience to be in a place that had had a war.

06:12 She tries to send everyone to the Cyclorama. Of course there are many problems with it. There are no black people in it for one. She describes the Cyclorama and how it is three-dimensional. Then she comments on how she got so worked up talking about the Cyclorama.

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- 07:40 She went on a trip to Austin, TX (probably in 1970) and there she had a crush on a woman. On the way back, she thought about a women's issue of the Great Speckled Bird. Did she have the idea? Or did many people have it at the same time? They had a meeting and put out a women's issue. She met Marcelina at that meeting. They began to see each other. Vicki is older than her. She gave Marcelina politics and Marcelina gave her lesbian sexuality.
- 09:17 We begin again to try to transition to ALFA. I ask what a lesbian feminist is. Vicki asks why I ask that and if I am familiar with the word. I describe that it was from a time period and I found some things I was reading said lesbian feminist was a less political term.
- 10:30 Vicki was in Gay Liberation and they had various degrees of openness about lesbian experience. The Bird Caucus and Atlanta Women's Liberation were primarily straight. "We were at a point in our lives where we need to create—We needed to have lesbian space. We need to attend to our own needs."
- 11:30 Many of the women who were on brigades to Cuba were part of starting ALFA. They came out of left movements. They came out of an antiwar stance. Initially, there was a lot of politics of all different kinds. "We were both lesbians and we were feminists." She says she hardly uses the term any more. "At the time it was a new combination."
- 12:50 They lived in Little Five Points. "So what developed was really a community that had meals together, that met each other at the various stores in Little Five Points. We would run into each other in the course of our days activities." There were many communes.
- 14:09 I ask about Vicki's arrest. She was arrested in 1973. ALFA was formed a year before that. She says it was scary and so she puffed up. "I was living in a house with about three other women. There was a knock on the door at about 7 o'clock in the morning. We had a big glass window in the door and I pulled open the blinds and looked out and there was one of my roommates with her little lunch box, she was doing a factory job, surrounded by suits. About seven men in suits. And she mouthed so I could see. "It's the F-B-I." Which you can mouth actually and you don't have any trouble figuring out what it is. And I knew immediately that they were coming for me."
- 15:25 She let her housemate in. She tried to close the door on them, but one officer had his foot in the door. They asked if Vicki Gabriner was home. So she kind of paused, "Should I tell them or should I not?" They didn't have a picture of her it seems. She said she was Vicki Gabriner. They

looked through the drawers for weapons. She got dressed, called a lawyer, and they drove downtown. They were trying to find information for where other Weatherpeople were. She didn't know and she wasn't going to tell them if she did.

- 16:55 Her trial was in 1977, as preparation she filed FOIA requests. She got a gigantic batch of papers due to Weathermen. "It's an interesting exploration into what the FBI can do and what it can't do." She was not in hiding but they could not find her. It took a few years.
- 17:30 "I will just say that how they found me was one of the most distressing moments in my life. I went through every single sheet of paper that they sent me. I sat at the table and I went through 1-2-3. I typed a—there was a catalogue. I catalogued the whole thing. And then I got to one FBI reports which indicated that they had found out where I was because of someone at Radcliffe. I had applied for money to write about Susan B. Anthony, who had become one of my heroines. Someone from the institute to which I had applied, and the name was redacted so I couldn't see who it was, but they had got my information from someone at Radcliffe. My application had passed through this person's hands and on the application was my name and address obviously. So that's how they found out."
- 19:00 I say that it's ironic that she is donating her personal papers to the same institution now. She says she is curious still to find out what happened. She always wanted to walk into the office and find out what happened.
- 19:50 She went to trial and she was convicted of passport fraud and conspiracy to commit passport fraud. She appealed. She won her appeal. She found out about it on Susan B. Anthony's birthday. The state did a bad job and could not prove their case. Her lawyer was Nancy Gertner before she was a federal judge. She went to trial shortly after Susan Saxe went to trial and was convicted.
- 22:45 She mentions that she had applied to a secretarial job in Atlanta before her appeal. She filled out the application and checked that she was a felon. The interviewer missed that part of the application, but she pointed it out and she didn't get the job.
- 23:30 We return to Atlanta. We talk about the summer of 1974, the summer that ALFA had its first softball team. She was not a jock. They formed the ALFA Omegas. They played in a women's league, but they played in an egalitarian way. "We put everybody on the field." She got to play and it was "an incredibly invigorating and empowering situation." She could actually play and do well. They were out-lesbians. You could figure it out from shirts or cheers. It drew a lot of people into the organization. It's an

interesting way to think about organizing. Softball was an important part of lesbian life and the “organization grew by leaps and bounds.”

- 26:50 I contrast the lesbian space of indoor/outdoor. She says there were some really amazing players. She was so impressed. “Everybody was very supportive of everybody else.”
- 27:50 “That was the honeymoon summer. Everything went right. Oh, and the thing was that we won most of our games.” I ask where they went after the games. They went to women’s bars. “I’m not a drinker, but at certain points that was really where lesbian space was, in the bars. Very early women’s music concerts were in the bars and we always went there after the game.”
- 29:06 It was the same thing in Boston. And Vicki asks if I go to the bars. I describe the queer scene in different cities. “There are certain parties that float around to different bars.” I list some ongoing queer parties in New York. I ask if she has ever been to Julius’s.
- 31:20 I say that this is really just the tip of the iceberg. I say that the life history format didn’t let us get to everything. I say a little bit about our connection and ask her about lesbian motherhood. I reflect a little on growing up with many mothers. I ask about community in Boston.
- 32:20 When she was about 11 years old, she came into the kitchen and told her mother that she would never have children. This could have not happened, but it’s an indication of something she had decided. She says that it may be because she has a history of incest. She didn’t want to put anyone else through that. She never questioned it. In Wisconsin, it was not a very popular idea. She found a few allies, but she felt like the “odd person out.” The allies she found felt like they had to go off to a corner to the cafeteria if they wanted to talk about that. She had two abortions in the 1960s. She had the intention not to have children and she kept to it. When she was with Claire [Craig], they talked about it, but it never happened.
- 34:34 My biological mother Judy [Gelfand] decided to have a kid and “I didn’t know how fortunate it was for me.” Vicki was supposed to be goffer at the birth, but it was a long labor, and she got to stay. “I was there for your appearance. I didn’t even realize at that point. I didn’t know, oh now my life is about to change. I think it was when I was one day walking up the street that your house was on. Your first house. And I realized, ‘Oh, I have to go see Rachel.’ I think you were a few months old or something. And I realized I was developing this very strong attachment.”
- 36:12 She had other babies in her life. But she watched me grow up and saw me change as I aged. She remembers the first time we made I contact. She

thought about having kids, but it didn't happen. She has a lot of kids in her life now and it brings her joy. "The lesbian baby boom has been a gift for me."

- 38:00 She got married to Rochelle. The Massachusetts decision came at exactly the right time for her. Even though marriage is not her favorite institution. "Been there, done that." The decision was made in November 2003, but you could begin to get married six months later on May 17, 2004. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown vs. The Board of Education*. It felt appropriate to where they were in their relationship. I mention that we are sitting in their house that they share. Vicki waited many years to move in with her partner Rochelle.
- 40:22 I ask if there is anything she would like to add. VG: "Should we call it quits? Is there something else you want?" RG: "It's a short blip into your life and our lives connecting. We can continue in another interview at some point." VG: "Blip, Blip." We thank each other.
- 41:15 We discuss briefly (on Vicki's prompt) our time in the ALFA Archives. It was a different way of gathering oral history through archival research. In doing this interview, we are putting something into the archives as well.
- 42:20 I bring up how she listened to her FBI wiretap while preparing for court. I connect it with the taping now, layers of tape. She says she got drunk after listening to those tapes. They knew they were being wiretapped, but having it confirmed was heavy. She was in the room with the large reel-to-reel tape recorder with an FBI person present in the FBI office. When she got home, she was floored. Leslie [Cagan] had to scoop her up and put her in the shower. I ask if it was a time warp? She says, yes and that it was an affirmation that they were being watched, that they tap people. "Somehow there was something very visceral about the experience of sitting, watching the reels go round and round and round. The FBI agent sitting over there." As she listened, she wasn't sure all the time who was speaking.

END OF TAPE 2

END OF INTERVIEW