

“HIV in My Day” – Victoria Interview 12

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Interviewee: Nancy Bansgrove (NB); Interviewers: Charlene Anderson (CA) and Art Holbrook (AH)

Charlene Anderson: Hi.

Nancy Bansgrove: Hi!

CA: Can you tell me your name?

NB: Nancy Bansgrove.

CA: Hi Nancy, nice to meet you, I’m Charlene.

NB: Hi Charlene.

CA: Okay, and this is my first time leading at this, so I will be the paper rattler.

NB: Okay.

CA: Can you tell me your connection to Victoria and—yeah.

NB: AVI or...?

CA: To, um, yes—to the HIV community in Victoria?

NB: Well, we were moving from Parksville to Victoria in 1989. I remember that date specifically because I wrote a cheque for our condominium. And I had decided, because in Parksville I was so ignorant about this HIV, I was rather ashamed of myself, so I talked to my daughter and she said, “Well, Mom, why don’t you volunteer and find out about it?” So, when I moved to Victoria, I found AVI and started from there.

CA: And when did you first hear about HIV and AIDS?

NB: I can’t remember the date, but we moved in ‘89 to Victoria, so sometime in the previous six years, I guess. You know, I don’t think there was an organization that was very active in Parksville, like there wasn’t anything for me to do there. And my husband was still recovering from an illness. And when we were in Victoria, we were settled, and my oldest daughter was getting married and all of that stuff was going on, and I was ready to sort of do something to volunteer and find out about things. And AVI was very welcoming and quite—a need to seek publicity. You know, to raise money and funds and all of that, that was all part of the whole mix. And I felt—say, when I’ve said to much—I felt quite strongly because I was a middle-class, middle-aged, Caucasian Christian, and I felt I needed to be heard from, because there was so much nasty stuff about gay people. And I thought it was so unfair. It was the people who felt that

AIDS was due to these people because of the lifestyle they lived, because this was God's anger. I could never get my mind around that, because my God is a loving God, he doesn't do those things.

CA: Where did you hear all this stuff? Was it from people that you knew or...?

NB: Reading in the paper and listening to the news, and yeah, probably some conversations, but you know, I was in the church, so I knew what was happening. So, that's why I went and got into the buddy system.

Art Holbrook: May I ask a question? What were your duties as a volunteer?

NB: I got into the buddy system to start with. What they did was to invite us for training and we met people and that sort of thing. But also, I went to various gay people's residences where they were meeting for afternoon tea or whatever they were doing and got to know some of the community in that way. And then when we did training, I wanted to go into the buddy system, I didn't want to do anything else. That was what I thought, that one-on-one would be more suitable for me and could be more helpful, and my husband Eric was really supportive as were all of my family. So, I just wanted to go and see what I could do and be helpful.

CA: And what kind of things did you do as a buddy?

NB: As a buddy? Well, my first buddy was the most difficult buddy. He was a lovely man who was young, was twenty-six when he passed away. A little bit older than my son, who was the youngest in our family, youngest child. He came from Montreal, his family lived here. And he was an artist, and he felt he was just making it. And he was understandably very angry. And so, I related to that because I couldn't imagine having that horrible prognosis. And there wasn't much hope in those days, you know, for a full length of life. And he was difficult to handle, to say the least, because he'd lost his sight, totally, from the [inaudible]. And he just would become obnoxious sometimes when we were out, you know, really obnoxious. Handsome, tall man, wore black, all the time. "Nancy, have I got on black today? Yes, now tell me the truth." He was thinking, did my mother finish the washing or not. And that was always behind it, so we always laughed at that. But uh—and I think I pretty much told the truth on that issue, but I'm not really sure in retrospect—but he was a good, very smart man. And was a tragedy on many, many levels [inaudible] with his life. You know, not very prospectively, not very long. And trying all sorts of different things. And also, some weird things gay men tried at that time to try to make things better for themselves. He could be really difficult, and one day I was outside Eaton's, and I have forgotten the name of the street, it was Eaton's in those days, and we were going to—or I was taking him to acupuncture chap and he was just misbehaving, yelling and carrying on. And a lady came up to me and said, "There's a mental health outfit that you could take him to..." And I'm sure this guy would've died if he'd heard it. And I said, "Oh no, we'll be fine." So, he went up there.

But I used to say to him—can't say his name because I don't want to—"If you don't behave yourself, I am going to put you in the traffic where you can play" Because he can't see anything. Oh, and he had me read books that were all about gay sex, all sorts of stuff, and I would phone

my children and they'd say, "I can't believe you're doing this mother." Oh, I was. Because I made that commitment. And it was very sad when he passed away. It was very, very sad, and it was difficult because he was young, and he had a strong heart. So, he took a long time to pass away. And I made a quilt because I'd got involved in that, I made a quilt for him. And I couldn't cry, that was the thing, until the AIDS quilt came to Victoria in a theater, I think the one up on Douglas Street—on Quadra Street, and they had the quilt there, and I just went and signed, not his because I gave his to his mother, because I'd stopped adding to the quilt by that time. And, that's when I cried, and took me a long time. Yeah, so, that was my first buddy.

AH: You mentioned that people were trying all sorts of bizarre things—what kinds of things?

NB: Well, drinking their own urine was one. That's—that's the one I was thinking about. That wasn't the only one but that was the one that stuck in my mind. And not saying that my buddy did that—oh, my buddy's brother used to get him pot, which is nothing now, but in those days, it was quite something. And give him money, and he had a—and I was just talking to my daughter about this—he had a home care worker who was from another country and a physician, and he was—couldn't practice here—and he was absolutely terrified of getting HIV. And so, my ignorance didn't seem so grand when that happened. I thought it's not so bad, Nancy, you won't be seen making guards and doing other things. You know, and I'm not a medically-inclined person at all. Yeah, so that was – I felt sorry for the man, really nice man, but sorry for him.

CA: So, you've been involved in this community then for—

NB: A few years.

CA: For thirty years now.

NB: Yeah, one way or another.

CA: So, what kinds of changes have you seen?

NB: Well, I've seen AVI really come alive, to me, make a real presence, raising money, doing great things. They had all these structures and committees and things you could go on, even though I wasn't interested in that. And they did street outreach work, they provided particular care that some men may have needed. They needed more vitamins, they provided Ensure or whatever those things were at that time, I remember that. And sometimes they needed money for drugs, and they'd try to get them drugs that are less pricey. So, I was aware of those things. But the big thing was they got credibility, in my opinion. And then later, there were other organizations were AIDS-related but I was with AVI. When my first buddy died, they were there for the stress and stuff that you feel. Of course, you think you don't need any of that, but by the time my second buddy passed away, I certainly knew that it had really stressed me out. And hospice phoned, and I said, no I was fine, but it was very stressful.

CA: So, did both of them pass away in hospice or...?

NB: No, the second one was a man who was really involved in AVI and he asked that I be his buddy, and he wondered whether I would do it right away. But I did, and my husband was involved in that, because he was—just really needed support. And I needed to be going into his suite, and I would often go on Sunday afternoons after church, and Eric would come with me. And one day he phoned—my buddy phoned me—and said he sorted of needed help. So, I had a key and I got in, and he was in a terrible mess – feces everywhere and he’d been vomiting, and I tried to get the emergency response team, and they didn’t think it was a major problem. So, Eric got on the phone and got a GP to come, his own GP came and stood there, and Eric in his best way—manner took all notes of everything that happened. And then they took my buddy to hospice, where he was treated with absolute dignity and love and care, and you know, all of that. For me, for me and for Eric, they were wonderful. And like Eric made a simple—asked a simple question, “Have I used the wrong mugs for the coffee?” And they said, “Eric, nobody can do anything wrong here.” And that—that was just wonderful. Because not being—I mean, I had to clean this man up and all of that, but I just felt so badly that that had happened. Because we had had a previous experience in the hospital where they wouldn’t come and take his kidney bowl that he’d thrown up into, so I took out to the nurses’ station and said, “Dispose of this and get me a new one.” There were things like that that had happened with the first one. The first buddy, the staff wouldn’t come—came in and put his tray over there on the wall. My buddy’s here, he can’t see, he’s blind as in black blind, and he can’t move, and nobody’s coming to help him. That was something to get angry about.

CA: So, you saw a lot of stigma in the healthcare field?

NB: Well, it wasn’t systemic, but it existed. It would turn up, and those people shouldn’t have behaved that way. It didn’t matter, they were just putting a tray down. Big—you know. I couldn’t—anyway, I didn’t excuse either of those, I was very angry with the nurses’ station, actually. And it was just that time and perhaps they were very busy and all of that, but nonetheless, you want the person that you love and care for to get first-class treatment. And that man was not getting it, he needed a clean bowl to throw up into.

CA: I have a question. With the fellow that had all the problems and your husband called his GP—did you tell the ambulance people or the emergency people that he was positive?

NB: No, I didn’t. I was just very, very thankful that somebody came to help, actually.

CA: But did you tell them he was HIV positive or had AIDS?

NB: Uh, no, I did not, probably the doctor did because he knew, because Eric would’ve told him. He was a good, kind man. And then, yeah – okay, I’ll shush up.

CA: Oh no, keep talking—this is wonderful!

NB: And then my third buddy – after my second buddy passed away, that was difficult. My second buddy, we had a good relationship with his sister who lived in Saskatchewan, in Regina, Saskatchewan. And she would come over, and this man’s mother, and his sister’s mother, was in care, and she would just turn up because she was concerned about how her mother was taken

care of. So, we developed a good relationship with her over the years, and then he went into palliative care—he didn't say in hospice very long, the second buddy—he went into palliative care at Sisters of Sendan, when that was there on Fairfield. And they were lovely, the staff there were lovely. And the Sister there was phenomenal, she was like an absolute angel – people, I just couldn't say enough about her, she was just wonderful. And she was wonderful to my buddy. And the staff was run off their feet because a lot of the patients were AIDS patients and they phoned us one night, I don't know about three o'clock, see whether we could come and look after our buddy. Because he was getting out of the bed, and they didn't have the staff to handle him all the time. So, we went and looked after him until they were able to do stuff for him.

And then when he passed away, or just before he passed away, his brother, who's wife had absolutely refused to have anything to do with him, and to let him near his children, they turned up and tried to interfere with end of life things. And the Catholic nun who was sort of responsible, she said to me, "No way, that's not going to happen." And she was so worldly and lovely and kind. And so, for his funeral, Eric gave the eulogy. And she got what she wanted in the Catholic church, when we left there was my buddy's coffin lid open, which is—the priest had said, "No way, no way, no way." She got what she wanted. And people fought hard for those things, which I don't think I could've done. But small things I could do, you know, we could take people to appointments and look after them and get groceries and do all sorts of things with them, get their medicine, whatever. We could do those things. It was easy because I drove the car, and my husband didn't drive anymore, he had eye problems. So, all of that was fairly easy, and it was always a part of your family and your everyday life. You know, it just was. And we were pleased when Eric was able to do the eulogy. I could not have stood up and done that, you get too involved. You know. And then we met David.

CA: Over the course of your three buddies, what kind of changes have you seen, like with government response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic?

NB: Oh, I think enormous changes in research particularly. And I can't remember the name—he's got a Spanish name—

CA: Julio Montaner.

NB: Montaner, right. Thank you.

CA: Julio.

NB: Julio, yeah. I remember all that and I was really interested in reading about the research and that sort of thing. I haven't maintained that stuff, and yeah, there was a lot of help from government. And that was because of the people who lobbied, and they were the men themselves and the AIDS organizations. They did marvelous jobs. They had structure in their organization, they looked after their volunteers, you know. Sometimes the pot would boil and they'd sort it out, you know, those sorts of things. Yeah I think they did a marvelous job, AIDS Vancouver Island particularly because that's—they're the ones that I know about, and I know there were other organizations after awhile and they were breakaway organizations and that happens, but I was with AVI and I was quite loyal to them. And I respected the people and everybody that

worked there. I did go to a meeting one night that I've thought about a lot, and there was a man there with Kaposi sarcoma all over his face. And I didn't recognize him. I couldn't remember his name. And he said, "Oh, Nancy, how nice to see you." I was so embarrassed, I've never forgotten that, because it must've been terrible for him. I just felt terrible about that. So, you make lots of mistakes.

CA: Everyone does. That must've been in the very early days.

NB: Yeah, ask my children.

CA: So, your children must be very knowledgeable?

NB: They're liberal. Educated and liberal.

CA: Did you educate them on the things that you were learning, as you were?

NB: Yeah, we talked about it. Because at that time, with the first buddy, my son I think was already working overseas—I can't really remember, can't get the dates quite right—but I think our son was either doing research in Indonesia or something like that for his post-grad. And [inaudible] the comparison was just awful. You know, I couldn't put myself in this buddy's mother's shoes, it was just awful, you know, at that age. Yeah, and with a talented man, and you know...

CA: So, in the mid-nineties when medications started coming out, what did you see happening?

NB: Well, I saw – with my second buddy, him taking it, and having a very—and his body not being able to handle it. And that was pretty horrible.

CA: Was that with AZT or...?

NB: Yeah, I think so. And he ended up having morphine, liquid morphine. And they can handle it better themselves than having it dosed down in hospital and stuff, because they get to use the right amount. You know, I knew an elderly lady that did it because she had fractures in her spine and she told me she was doing that. So, yeah.

CA: Therapeutic doses, I believe it's called.

NB: Yes, is that what it's—thank you, therapeutic is the word. You see, I'm losing my words.

CA: So, how have you... you've answered a lot of my questions already. That's wonderful. So, how did becoming involved with AVI, how did that change your life, and your personal life and your perspective?

NB: Well, one of the things that happened, I—they had parades and I can't remember where we went down to the legislature or something. So, that was the first parade I'd gone into, an AIDS parade. And it was fairly a bit edgy in the community I would say, but that might have been just

my perspective because I'm fairly conservative in many ways. But then we did another parade and we went to the Beacon Hill Band Hill—Band Park—

CA: Bandshell.

NB: Thank you, Bandshell. And I was one of three speakers, so I made a speech about that and about how I felt my work with my volunteering with AIDS had helped me look differently at my Christian life. Not that I'm any model, but it did make a difference. It made me really stop and think about who I was, and how I behaved and what I did. And how I judged people or should not. So, that was one thing I did that made a difference.

CA: So, did it reshape your values in some form?

NB: Yeah it does, it does. It does reshape your values, you know. One of the things that happened at AVI—one function I was at, and I can't remember which one it was, somebody said to me, "Nancy, how did—why did you volunteer for AVI? Is your son gay?" And I was blown away. I thought this is not the place that you should be asking that question. And I said, "Actually, no, he isn't. He's now married with two kids." Yeah, so that was—I guess in a way, I was a bit of an anomaly when I first volunteered because I think a lot of the volunteers were AIDS men themselves that were helping one another. And that was a good thing, and that was good community. That was about a good community. I know I said to Eric, oh I'd go to a meeting and then one of the men, and he's passed away since, would walk me over to the parking lot on Johnson Street, because that's where AVI was originally, and make sure I got into my car okay. And I said I never felt under threat and Eric just laughed. He thought it was hilarious. "These are gay guys, Nancy."

CA: So, did you yourself experience any stigma—

NB: No—

CA: For doing what you were doing, for volunteering with people that were—that had AIDS.

NB: No, I don't think I had any stigma. I think perhaps sometimes they thought after my second buddy passed away, they thought perhaps I could go with them on the street outreach or be with them on the board. I wasn't interested in that. And then they phoned and asked me if I would consider taking—well, you know, the guy so I can say his name—David. So that's what we're doing. At that point, Eric was coming into town—we had moved out to Langford—and we were coming into town for Eric to swim with his friend [name] at the Y. And I would walk for that hour and a half, and then we'd go and have coffee and we'd go home for lunch, and then we'd come back to see David. And we did that twice a week. And that's how we got to know David and John, and both of their situations. And he just grew on us, became part of our clan if you like. And uh, yeah, we have some funny times together. One Christmas in Langford, they gave me a cellphone and I didn't know what was in the box, and then they phoned it. I guess everybody did that at that time. But anyway, it was very funny.

CA: You're standing there with the box in your hand and it starts ringing?

NB: Yeah. Anyway.

CA: So, you got—you gave me this to look at—you got a volunteer of the year?

NB: In what year was that?

CA: In 1993.

NB: 1993, okay. Yeah, that was a surprise. A lovely little plaque and we were living in independent living and I didn't have anywhere for it, so my daughter has it. That was really nice. I really enjoyed that evening, it was fun.

CA: So, do you have any advice for healthcare professionals in regards to dealing with... Oh, I guess my first question would be, have you heard of PrEP?

NB: PrEP? No.

CA: PrEP. It's pre-exposure prophylactic. So, it's one pill that you take before sex, that men take before sex, and then they don't use condoms afterwards.

NB: When you tell me, I've sort of vaguely heard about it, but I don't know anymore than that. Does that apply for women too—can women use that too or not?

CA: I think it's just men.

NB: Okay. Because before I'd finished with AVI, women – there was a woman who had a baby and the baby had survived, and that sort of stuff, you know that wasn't the way it used to be. And so, I remember that. And it wasn't just—it was no longer just gay. That was the stigma of it really, was just that, that it was only men and that was the way it was viewed. And that was wrong.

CA: It was the payback for being a gay man?

NB: God making them—

AH: God's punishment?

NB: Yeah, not my God or else he'd be in big trouble.

AH: You mentioned women. Did you know [name]?

NB: Yes, I do—I know the name. Now, am I talking about a woman who did...

AH: She worked in Africa?

CA: Mama [name].

NB: Yes, thank you, yep, yep, yep. I know the name and I know of her, but that's a long time ago. Like, I was involved in the church a little bit in a small parish in outreach like that in Africa. I didn't believe in proselytizing at all, but going to help, I supported, and raise money, little bit in our church. Yeah, I know the name. Wow, I'm impressed with myself, I don't usually remember that stuff.

CA: So, with your experiences with the healthcare system and AIDS and HIV way back when, do you have any advice for healthcare practitioners today, regarding working with people that are HIV positive?

NB: To me, they—we're all human beings and we should all be treated equally, and our illness is just an illness, it is not who we are. That's all I can think of to say.

CA: That's perfect. I love it. And what about the government, any advice for them?

NB: I think they've got to keep funding St. Paul's, because they seem to be the place to go, and I think they need to have funding for outreach. Because young people, and men and women, just think nothing is ever going to happen to them, and they need to always be educated, sexually and with drugs. Yeah, I mean I—our world is in such a mess to me. My husband said it always has been, but to me it's worse now. We use foul language, we abuse one another in public, whether we're politicians, whomever we are, we think it's appropriate, and it isn't appropriate. So, I think—that's one of my concerns, we've got grandchildren and I wonder what sort of world we're leaving them, but I guess after the Second World War and Hiroshima and Nagasaki, families were saying the same thing. But I'm not convinced, I think it's more dangerous now than it was then.

CA: Very personal question—do your children teach their children about sexual – like, sexual education and education around drugs and etcetera?

NB: My oldest daughter couldn't have children, and after many years they got a little boy from Poland from somebody she taught at university, was his—her family. And this little boy came into their life he was about seven. Believe me, my daughter taught him everything. Showed him films, you name it, when he was little boy, always on it. It's different, so much different to our upbringing of them, and totally disconnected to mine—the way I was raised. But yeah, and I know our son, the same – they have a girl and a boy and I know they were well educated about that. And the girl is nineteen and at university and the boy is twenty-two, not married, he's in construction. They're both lovely kids, even though I'm their nana. Despite that, everybody says they're lovely children. David and John love them.

CA: So, do you have any advice for future generations, who have not experienced an epidemic like this?

NB: I think my only advice would be the advice I wish I'd been given, is familiarize yourself with the problem and don't just listen to one news outlet, really research what the problem is,

and then you know where you're coming from. And then you can move forward on that. But that's all I could say.

CA: So, education.

NB: Yeah. I mean, I think my absolute ignorance about AIDS was precipitated by one lunch at I think it was the Bay in Nanaimo, and I wanted to have a sauce on my meat, and you had to get it from a, you know, a spoon and put it on your meat. And I wouldn't do it, because I thought I might get AIDS, and my daughter said, "Mom!" So, from then, I moved forward, but that was a wake-up call for me, how one can pick up the periphery of what's out there. And even if they're not saying it, they are telling you that this can spread all sorts of ways, and it's not just bodily fluids. And even years later, I was at the emergency in Royal Jubilee, and there was a security guard that came in and he was telling a man sitting next to us that, "Well, this guy I had to get him out of here and he spat on me, so I have to get an HIV test." And I thought, you crook, you're sitting down here taking time off! Right? I mean, that is not—there's no excuse now. And I didn't – there wasn't really any excuse for me, I just hadn't bothered and I just had this in my head. And this guy should've had more sense. He was working in a hospital for heaven's sake.

CA: Well, back in the day, there was just so much fear-mongering.

NB: Yeah, and the people who needed to listen weren't listening. Yeah, and uh, no, I think the organizations and the gay men themselves who fought to have help and money into research. There was a group, do you remember, that really fought for research? I remember them standing up in whatever hall in the States and screaming and yelling that they wanted money for research. And they were right.

CA: ACT UP.

NB: I wasn't out there doing that, but they were doing it. And they were probably all fairly ill, and they'd had partners die and all sorts of stuff. Anybody that knew the men couldn't help but have compassion for them. That was the thing that I found. They were just – they were good people, as we all try to be but don't always succeed, but you know, they were good people. And they're in a terrible situation. And AVI to me, helped them immeasurably, here in Victoria.

CA: Are you still involved with AVI at all or...?

NB: No, I'm not. I'm going onto eighty-one I'm not about to be doing—we're living in independent living and I've got a husband that is loving and kind and that, but he's not always well. And that's enough for me. And my family's trying to say, mom, perhaps it's time you did this, so we're in independent living. Perhaps you should think about not driving, I don't think so. So, we've all got our own crosses to bear.

CA: Yes, definitely.

AH: May I ask how you think the community has changed—either the gay community or the larger community?

NB: I think the larger community has really moved forward and is really accepting of gay and lesbian and—we go to a church on Quadra Street, and it is the most accepting church you can imagine. We have crossdressers and trans—people who have changed sex. And I know this by asking people—course, I’ve only been there ten years or so, but that is an example, but I know there are other churches. Because I’m an Anglican, so we had a big breakaway group, which I was not impressed, and I just thought this was not what it was about. So, I do think the community-at-large has changed tremendously and is much more welcoming, and you know, I was pretty—I went to services that were conducted by this particular person. And then I realized that he belonged—I may not like this part to be repeated—he belonged to the breakaway group. And Eric and I had stood up for David and John to be married at the Hotel Vancouver, and I just felt this wasn’t right for me to be there, because we loved David and John, and this person had thought that this was wrong. Yeah. And you are who you’re born. I mean, my husband says, “Well, Nancy burns—her skin burns so rapidly, we can’t even have hundred-watt bulbs.” And that is me, that’s who I am, you know. And so anyway, I do think the community’s really changed. No, I don’t think the gay community has to advocate as much as they did before because I think the people that went before them did that for them. Is that correct, do you think?

CA: Uh, to a certain extent, yep, they’re advocating for different things now.

NB: Well, we always are, aren’t we?

CA: Yes, it’s ever-changing.

NB: But now people like David have a future, you know. They have a future. My first two buddies had no future. And that’s pretty hard to live with when you’re young.

CA: So, you have seen remarkable changes?

NB: Yes, yes. And babies that survive and mothers that survive after childbirth and all sorts of things. Yeah. There are good things in the world.

CA: There are. There are a lot of good things in the world.

NB: And I’d rather be positive, but by golly it’s hard sometimes.

CA: It is. Yeah.

AH: I’m good, unless there’s anything else you’d like to say?

CA: Anything else you’d like to add?

NB: I probably talked too much.

CA: No, no, you can’t talk too much.

NB: You can bit and bite and—thank you and thank you for being so nice, and understanding.

CA: Yes, thank you for sharing part of your life. It's really important actually.

AH: What's that paper? What's that paper in your hand?

NB: Oh, it's just notes that I made for myself, which I didn't use. Because of the way you interviewed. And you've got the one on the—

AH: That award was that—

NB: Oh, you can take that, I don't want it. Eric just pulled it down from the computer, because I couldn't remember. You know, you put it out of your mind, I had all sorts of stuff I had books and things and I just stopped it. And then when we were—David asked me if I'd do this, I thought, oh, I don't know, and then my cousin in Australia skyped me and says, "Yes, Nancy, you do it." My son says mom won't do it, David.

CA: Well, you're a very rich part of the history of HIV and AIDS and the movement and just the progression of things and how things have changed and gotten better. So, that's really important to the whole idea behind this is to collect stories so that people don't forget, you know, that it was horrible and things have gotten better, but they still can get better.

NB: And I made for my second buddy, I made a quilt because my second buddy was originally going into Catho—going to be a Catholic priest, and then he left the church, and so when he died, I made a big banner for him which they hung in AVI for a long, long time. And yeah, I tend to do that. When we got our grandson, I made a big banner for his Catholic school. When I had another crisis, I made another banner for another church.

CA: So, you have your way of dealing with things?

NB: In a way, in a way I guess, retrospectively. At the time, I just thought I have to do this. But I know for my second buddy, he was, I think he was a director of AVI, Executive Director for awhile. And he was sort of well involved and smart guy and all of that, but yeah, so I don't know. David has seen it down there, I don't know whether it's still there or what they've done, because it wasn't made to last forever. I did it out of all very bright colours and things. And yeah.

CA: It's still there.

NB: Is it?

CA: It's in the new building.

NB: Where's the new building?

CA: It's on Johnson Street, just half a block down from the old building.

NB: You can see I am totally out of it.

CA: It's probably up on the wall.

NB: Oh, is it? It hasn't fallen to pieces?

CA: It has not, a few people have mended it here and there. Oh yes, it's very important.

NB: It didn't occur to me to give the – I think to give the one that I made for my first buddy. Because of who he was, I did it in velvet, and it was difficult to do, and it just was on – it was either red background. And I put his name in big bold letters, because that's who he was. And this man was really strong. He died on World AIDS Day.

CA: Wow.

NB: So, I never forget him. Anyway, thank you.

CA: I'm going to turn this off now.