

## Interview Summary – Trans Activism Oral History

<b>Interviewee name:</b>	Jude Patton
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Evan Taylor
<b>Date of Interview:</b>	December 18, 2020

### Summary:

Jude opens with a story of how he met Chaz Bono at a trans conference. Some short discussion about forms, and the interview begins with some basic demographic questions and answers...

Jude Patton is a 79-year-old trans man who works as a Physician's Assistant. He discusses his love for nature and the land and mild climate weather where he lives. He also talks about his marriage and losing his wife and how he came to be with his current partner – whom he and his wife had been mutual friends with.

Jude had a positive relationship with his adoptive family growing up and read a lot. At 21, he started going to a lesbian bar called "Shelley's Circus" (?), and met Jean, a great love in his life. However, the relationship broke down when she left the country for substance use recovery. He was working as a dog groomer in Culver city when a client, David Field, invited him back to his apartment and showed him the book "The Transsexual Phenomenon". David was attending the Stanford gender program and Jude also applied to the program and was very quickly accepted and moved through. He talks about attending Stanford for transition-related surgical and hormonal care and becoming a "stranger in a strange land" to his lesbian community and chosen family. Being out and proud is very important to Jude.

He recalls going as a guest of his doctor to an early trans health conference at Stanford and sitting next to John Money. He then began guest lecturing in sexuality classes - doing a great number of talks up and down the coast of California at colleges and universities. He was subscribed to the EEF newsletter and wanted to disseminate more information – then he met Joanna Clark at a support group for "street queens in Hollywood" and started his newsletter Renaissance and J2CP. There was a lot of strain on his marriage and family demands the prevented him from doing activism for a number of years, and then his wife was ill for years.

He talks about the specific differences in the terms Transgender and Transsexual - he coined the differentiation at the same time as Virginia Prince. Around the same time, he was getting introduced to education and practices around sex therapy. Jude ran a peer support group out of his house for other trans men and would attend various support groups, conferences, and was always gathering information and resources that he could distribute to others. He reminisces about the community dynamics at the time when people shared a lot of information with each other. Although, on the other hand - he talks about a feud with Angela Douglas and her writing about him in her newsletter (would this be Mirage? Moonshadow?) and threatening his life. Jude was on the board of WPATH in the early years of HBIGDA - just over 40 years ago and the early attitudes of practitioners towards trans patients were much less respectful.

Jude remembers being at a conference in the early 2000s and snowed in at a hotel, with many conference attendees behaving badly. Similarly, he remembers the HBIGDA conference in Vancouver being crashed. Jude reflects on the various forms of intersectional activisms being navigated and negotiated within the trans community. He values gentle approaches to community building and activism.

Two major shifts occurred in his career that were a result of historical changes: he had been running a srop in business as a counsellor for LGBT people when the internet became a source of information, so he decided to train as a physician's assistant and, prior to that, he ran a lucrative business from home dealing with worker's comp, but the law changed and he gave up the business. Then his wife Carol got sick and needed care, and her

mother who had advanced dementia came to live with them - Carol then had various and increasing health setbacks over the next decade or so.

Jude talks about the importance of diversity and unconditional love and makes some reflections on legacies and making meaning of life and family and relationships over the life course. His connection with his mother and the influence of her unconditional love was key to how his life and work turned out. He was also able to meet his birth mother in her 90s, who had been a psychiatric nurse along with 50+ members of his birth family at a weekend reunion. He reflects on older practices and experiences from his youth that are no longer common practices in society, as well as spiritual meaning of animals and change work.