

Transcript of Interview with Dayne Bowker-Lee by Monica Ruth

Interviewee: Dayne Bowker-Lee

Interviewer: Monica Ruth

Date: 02/17/2021

Location (Interviewee): New Orleans, Louisiana

Location (Interviewer): Sacramento, California

Transcriber: Monica Ruth

Abstract:

This is a mini oral history of Dayna Bowker-Lee by Monica Ruth, about the silver lining of the pandemic experience.

Monica Ruth 0:02

Hi, my name is Monica Ruth and I'm a graduate student intern with the COVID-19 archive at Arizona State University. Today's date is February 17th, 2021, and the time is 9:04 am Pacific Standard Time where I'm sitting, and I'm speaking with Dayna Bowker-Lee. Bowker-Lee, excuse me.

Dayne Bowker-Lee 0:21

That's alright.

Monica Ruth 0:22

I want to ask you a question about your pandemic experience. But before I do, I'd like to ask for your consent to record this response for the COVID-19 archive. The COVID-19-

Dayne Bowker-Lee 0:31

Yes

Monica Ruth 0:31

Okay.

Dayne Bowker-Lee 0:32

Oh, sorry.

Monica Ruth 0:32

No, that's okay. The COVID-19 archive is a digital archive at ASU that is collecting pandemic experiences. Do I have your consent to record your response and add it to the archive with your name?

Dayne Bowker-Lee 0:43

Yes, you do.

Monica Ruth 0:44

K, thank you so much, Dayna. First, can you tell me your name, age, race and where you live?

Dayne Bowker-Lee 0:53

Okay, my name is Dayna Bowker-Lee. I live in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am Caucasian for the most part. And, what else was-was I supposed to ans- answer?

Monica Ruth 1:07

And your age?

Dayne Bowker-Lee 1:08

Oh, and I'm 68 years old.

Monica Ruth 1:10

Thank you very much. Now, I would like to ask you a quick question about the pandemic. So we've experienced a lot of a lot of changes in 2020. And many have been negative and disruptive, but maybe it's not all that bad. What is one positive thing you've experienced during the pandemic?

Dayne Bowker-Lee 1:29

A positive?

Monica Ruth 1:31

Yeah. Something you might say is like a silver lining to this experience we're all going through.

Dayne Bowker-Lee 1:39

Uh, it- I'll be honest with you, it really hasn't changed my life all that much. In that I work from my house. I am pretty self-contained. My grandkids who live around the corner still come over every Friday night, because they quarantined as well, so I'm trying to think in terms- I guess, just basically, it's made me appreciate, I- I assume, that the- the things that that we don't have. It's made me- I- I never really go out a whole lot anyway. But I do eat out a lot. I do go to you know, open air concerts, I go to the park. I'll walk, I go swimming, you know. And so I think it's made me appreciate the things that I take for granted a little bit more. So I guess that's a positive. I hate to be evasive or vague. But it really hasn't changed my personal life that much. It's changed the way that I look at my city. Things have happened in New Orleans that have been really disruptive towards the overall culture of the city. And I- I know I digress. But, you know, but personally, myself, it hasn't really changed my day-to-day life that much. My husband doesn't live here. He comes in on weekends. That really hasn't changed. So it really hasn't changed my life that much.

Monica Ruth 3:25

Well, that can be-

Dayne Bowker-Lee 3:27

Personally.

Monica Ruth 3:27

Yeah, that could, that could be taken as a positive. I'm sure, if-

Dayne Bowker-Lee 3:29

Okay.

Monica Ruth 3:30

-Hasn't been very disruptive. Well, I appreciate-

Dayne Bowker-Lee 3:32

No, it hasn't.

Monica Ruth 3:33

I appreciate your response. Thank you for your time, Dana.

Dayne Bowker-Lee 3:36

You're welcome. That's it?

Monica Ruth 3:38

That's it.

Dayne Bowker-Lee 3:39

Okay, well- [laughs] [audio stops]