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Anne Malone and Mary Jo Riegel: Marian Library Oral Histories

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Mary Jo Riegel

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University of Dayton
Marian Library

Marian Library Oral Histories: Anne Malone and Mary Jo Riegel

Date: 11 June 2019
Interviewees: Anne Malone and Mary Jo Riegel
Interviewer: Kayla Harris
Recording by: Ryan O'Grady

00:00:04 [Kayla Harris]

This interview is being conducted as a continuation of the Marian Library 75th anniversary oral history project. The interviewer is Marian Library archivist Kayla Harris. Video recording is being done by digital projects manager Ryan O'Grady and we have two narrators today, Anne Malone on the left and Mary Jo Riegel on the right. Today is Tuesday June 11th 2019 and we are in Roesch Library. Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this project.

Technical difficulties with the video recording means that the first few minutes of the interview are not included.

00:00:36 [Kayla Harris]

What did you retire from?

00:00:39 [Mary Jo Riegel]

As a social worker at St. Mary Joseph nursing home for about 18, 10-12 years, I don't remember. I've always been a social worker and various aspects and so the thing is once you're a social worker you're always a social worker regardless of what you're doing.

00:01:05 [Kayla Harris]

And did either of you have any connections to the University of Dayton prior to this like alumni or knew people here?

00:01:13 [Anne Malone]

Sure, I moved to Dayton in 1981 right when I got married and I got a job in Student Development working as an administrator. I was the advisor to the Flyer News and the yearbook and the radio station and the literary magazine until 1986. And then I left to have my first daughter and in probably around 1990 I came back and was teaching in the English department. And also for a couple of years, it would have been like 1991-93, I worked in the Psychology department for Mark Fine who was then the editor of a journal called Family Relations and I was his managing editor for a couple of years.

00:02:06 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Okay we moved to Dayton in 1974 because my husband got a job in the Social department which only lasted a few years so it was not really involved in the university at that point because of the children. So after that I had no contact with the university until I met Father Roten and then it started it, started all this.

00:02:28 [Kayla Harris]

So I know you both kind of briefly touched on this a little bit but just if there's anything else you want to add about what kind of other work you've done in your career before you retired.

00:02:44 [Anne Malone]

I wrote and I was in education right so I would write student materials, teacher materials, proficiency tests and then also do consulting work on it. One of the first projects that I was a writer for was a religion series, a Catholic religion series, and it was and I also at that time was a volunteer catechist at Holy Angels teaching second graders about first Eucharist. And one of the things I remember from my catechist training was the idea of the catechist, I mean the word literally means “keeper of the story,” and I think in so many ways what I'm doing here is keeping the story and sharing it and I just find that very moving. There are many many ways to teach.

00:03:37 [Mary Jo Riegel]

In my past I was a volunteer in Appalachia for three years after I graduated from college and then went for the welfare department and various jobs and did some social work for our parish and I volunteer as a communion distributor and go to nursing homes with the parish. And of course, here since I'm retired and I actually lived in West Carrollton, now I moved close so I come sometimes three days a week just to keep having something to do... besides my grandchildren.

00:04:12 [Kayla Harris]

Takes up a lot of time.

00:04:13 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well I have eight and one on the way so

00:04:15 [Kayla Harris]

Congratulations!

00:04:19 [Kayla Harris]

So could you talk a little bit about some of the types of things you do for the Marian Library in your volunteering?

00:04:28 [Anne Malone]

Probably the major part of my work is working with outreach. There are a number of parishes, retreat houses, and even non-Catholic churches that borrow our creches, and with Jean Nickelman who I think has also been interviewed, I select the sets, work with the venues to find out what they want and when they want to pick it up and then on very very long days people come and we have to ferry things from the fourth floor down to the loading dock and it's, it's exhausting. And then you know, that in reverse in January. When things come back, it's always easier to give them away than to get them back.

00:05:13 [Kayla Harris]

Do you find it hard to kind of match their needs ever?

00:05:18 [Anne Malone]

Well, we put certain parameters on. For instance, if we have a venue that's been working with us for a long time we try to not repeat sets. We have a spreadsheet that we consult whenever we're selecting things and we don't give them something if they've had it in the last ten years unless there's a special reason to do that. We had one parish, for instance, that wanted a set from India two years in a row and we don't have very many of those so we kind of had to repeat that. And it's kind of fun because you think "oh my god I have to pick out ten sets for, you know, this place in Toledo or you know Cincinnati or wherever" and you think "how am I going to do that" because not all of them want the sets in plexi. Some of them have want to put things out on tables or on top of the piano or the buffet in their dining room or something and there's always this, "What can I possibly do?" feeling and then Jean and I just go in and I describe it and this is - these are the words, the only words - crawl around on the floor and pull out boxes and see what's there because even if you look at the pictures on the boxes, that doesn't tell you how big it is... where the feeling that you get when you're actually holding it and looking at it, and so that's part of the challenge. But you know, God always leads us to what we have to find. It's really amazing you know, maybe it's baby Jesus in a box calling to us or something. It's the challenge, but it's also you know, meeting that challenge just has a wonderful reward to it.

00:06:58 [Mary Jo Riegel]

I do a little bit of everything except the computer because the computers and I don't agree. So, whatever packing, unpacking, finding things, you know, especially things that have disappeared which happens occasionally. Yeah, moving stuff like she said, moving stuff down, moving stuff up, people bringing their cars and it's ten degrees outside and you're out without a coat on helping to load into a car. Finding, well this year I'm helping, Ginny Saxton select the ones for the different offices of the University and that has been fun because as long as I've been there I have never seen some of those sets. When we have 36 - over 3600 - and it's amazing that you've never seen some of those and the gorgeous sets and the, you know, and again like she said well now you know when they have a table but it's in a major area and you don't want to get something that's porcelain, that will break. So what to do, so just the the different logistics of that and the packing and the cleaning and the answering the phone and the talking to people. And especially when we have the different groups come in...being docent, that's always fun because listening to the people and getting the reactions of the people as they come through, especially the children of course, I'm prone to little kids, watching them look for baby Jesus you know. I bring my three-year-old with me, my granddaughter, and she'll go "baby Jesus, baby Jesus, baby Jesus, baby Jesus," and loves to find baby Jesus in each of the sets. That's a reward that's a reward in itself watching the reactions of people, you know, and again sharing the story of Christmas is so very important.

00:08:36 [Kayla Harris]

So you mentioned kind of the docent work. What type of groups come through?

00:08:43 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well, we have anything from senior citizens groups to

00:08:47 [Annle Malone]

Holy Angels kindergarten

00:08:49 [Mary Jo Riegel] Holy Angels Kindergarten and just kindergarten, and preschool. My little ones all come with the preschool and they say "well there's grandma!" "oh you're so-and-so's grandma." Family, people with disabilities. There's a couple of the special needs groups that come. Homeschooled families, people that I think..we get a couple from high school, Centerville High School I think came last year. I don't know what they were - specific they were looking for specific items or specific attitudes - sometimes they show up and unannounced.

Sometimes they're supposed to make appointments and one day last year we had a group coming at 3:00. We thought they cancelled, well they came at 3:00. They cancelled till 4:00, but another group came at 3:00 so you have forty people trying to interact with two docents and and it's like,

you know, herding cats. You think about let's do this and we'll do that. Everybody goes off on their own especially the adults and the senior citizens. They you know they'll find something and you'll hear three or four ladies standing there talking and discussing something. Trying to keep attention, sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes with the 7th and 8th grade boys it's a.. it's a challenge but it's always, it's always fun. It's always different and you can never be sure the end of the reaction of people. Some people are totally blown away. Other people could care less, right?

00:10:18 [Anne Malone]

Right, I think some of the people that I enjoyed talking with most were members of those, it was the Licente family, yeah, who gave it, they were the ones who gave us the very large Precipio, you know, that had been part of their family heritage. To have two or three of them come and just say “oh, well, this means so much to us,” and you know they gave us even more of the backstory about how it took up their entire living room. You know, the family spent all of Advent building this thing every year. I can't imagine the mess because it's all paper mache and chicken wire, but that just adds such wonderful context to it and you know you really get a sense of the meaning, not just of Christmas, but you know that particular custom for that family.

00:11:05 [Mary Jo Riegel]

And then people will look at our sets and say “oh, I remember when I was little we had a set like that” or something. It brings back a lot of memories for people, you know, and I think that's interesting too, you know. They bring back traditions and I think people, I think if we had nativities to sell we could probably sell a lot because they see everything, oh you know, and I try and give nativities. My nieces and nephews got married and all my great nieces and nephews, that was one of their wedding presents was a nice nativity and they all enjoy it. Even those who were married interestingly on the beach somewhere, it still is important to them you know

to put that up every Christmas. The people's reactions are always - you never, you never know what kind of reaction you're gonna get - but most of the time it's really in awe, sometimes, the variety that we have and the number that we have so it's always interesting.

00:12:04 [Kayla Harris]

So right now it's June. Could you tell us what kind of a typical day looks like? You know we generally don't start thinking of, thinking about, Christmas in June but I know that's different from the work that you do so kind of what what's the main thing you're doing right now?

00:12:21 [Anne Malone]

Right now we are starting to think about the venues and who, you know, we have to set aside to take ten for this group, 15 or 20 for another, and we're starting to say, “okay” because certain

ones have been set aside for Marian Library, and others are going to Notre Dame, and you kind of have to know what's off the table so that then you can start planning with what you have left. That's what I'm starting to do.

00:12:50 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well I've been working out, well since Father Roten is not being involved this year, we're working on setting up different, with Michele, just to set up the idea of what's going to be in the gallery and was going to be in them. She's got something ideas so now she gives us a list now this is what we want, so there's two or three I was working on. Okay this is her list now, let's see if we can find what would correspond to her list so that we can get that ready for the fall. I'm also working with Ginny [Saxton] to try and identify some sets that can go out to the University offices because we have what 70 or 80 offices that get sets and so that's, it's fun, because it's interesting because now we're like, "You said we're taking out and out I've got this thing to have this size well will this fit?" Well we have to take it out, look at it, so again you see some sets that you've never seen before. I know I've seen some of them before. Every time it's all new. It's that's the fun of it you know. We're expecting a friend, a lady who recently passed, her sister is going to be sending up all her sets in a couple weeks or months so we will have Christmas all over again, see something all new again .

00:14:07 [Anne Malone]

Right and during what is sort of the offseason, which is just ending sort of, we do housekeeping. We had some big crates full of crucifixes because we don't just have the nativities. We have statues and crucifixes and our flat art, you know, pictures and things that people want to borrow. So we spent way too much time organizing two crates of crucifixes and you would think this would be straightforward but it was not. You know, we were going, "Does this really exist?" and then we'd find two of the same thing and it was just a "hot mess" as they say. They're all put together now and I'm so happy.

00:14:51 [Kayla Harris]

The project's complete.

00:14:52 [Anne Malone]

Yes, yes, the crucifixes are all where they belong.

00:14:58 [Kayla Harris]

So Mary Jo, you mentioned giving nativities away as gifts. Do you- do either of you have nativities in your own home? If so, how many, and kind of tell us a little bit about what types you have.

00:15:18 [Mary Jo Riegel] You start (laughing)

00:15:18 [Anne Malone]

Oh well I'm starting first because I will be much briefer than Mary Jo who has boku sets. I've never bothered to count them. I would say I have at most, like I have six or seven that are really, you know, that kind of quality. I gave one set that was kind of a Navajo Pueblo southwestern sort of set to my daughter, but I had bought it specifically for her because she had lived in the southwest for a while. But we had a man named John Winkles who sent sets to the library, kind of on approval and Father Roten and Michelle decided which ones belong in our collection as a whole and then the others were available for us to purchase, and I bought one or two from him. The one that I dearly love and I have it earmarked for one of my daughters but I can't give it away yet because it's so sweet to me, is a wood carved set. He said it was from Eastern Europe, but it showed up the year that I had visited Poland so I've decided it's from Poland whether it is or not, but it's just beautifully hand-carved. It has, you know, certain of a figure sort of leaned in toward each other and it's just, it's just lovely. I also have a set that my husband gave to me for our eldest daughter's first Christmas and I still remember, she was like four months old at the time and it's in this very large box of course because the stables in it and all the figures, and I just remember him pushing her along and saying behind her, "Here mommy, here's your big present," you know, it's about that you know and adds context and happiness to it so those are the ones that I think are the highlights in my collection, mainly for personal reasons. But Mary Jo can go on and on.

00:17:12 [Mary Jo Riegel]

I'd started collecting in grade - so I guess from fifth or sixth grade - and I have well over 400 right now. And some of them I keep out all year round to try and switch out, and I have them from all over the world. I prefer if possible, native crafts, again that's very difficult. Of course once you're a collector of something everybody knows you're a collector so when it comes to presents so "we know what to get." My husband and I traveled in Germany a number of times and so we got some, we had some friends there so they would send some over. Whenever he traveled he would find one somewhere, and like my daughter a couple weeks ago went to Amsterdam, well then they bring one home. You know the kids travel, except my oldest son he doesn't have the time. If they travel someplace exotic they usually find a nativity somewhere and bring it home.

I have a lot and the little ones like to look at them. They know that they're not allowed to play with them or touch them. I do have children's ones that they *can* play with and I like to go to thrift stores. It's amazing what you can find at thrift stores. Sometimes they need to be rejuvenated a little bit, but some years I have taken 30 or 40 to the various grade schools and they give them out, maybe at the time of the Christmas play. I think I sent 40 down to my

grandson's school. They can give them out to the kids, and in the meantime my granddaughters come over and play with them. You know, and they have more fun setting them up and moving around and when my oldest granddaughter was about two she was always - they had a Fisher Price set - she was always losing Mary and Joseph. Well it turned out they had gone to Meijers to buy diapers, that's kind of the standard. "Where's Mary and Joseph?" "Oh they're at Meijers buying diapers." See, so you know the kids just all know that the nativities are part of their life and they all have their own to play with. I can't say I have a favorite because there's so many of my favorites. The oldest one was my parents' when they were married in 1938. The one that they and they purchased and then I just to have a lot of other ones that have different meanings because of where they were purchased and I just love them all.

00:19:35 [Kayla Harris]

Now what about sets that you particularly enjoy in the Marian Library's collection? It doesn't have to be one favorite because I know that picking one sometimes is hard, but maybe a couple and why you like those.

00:19:51 [Anne Malone]

We have a designer named Harry Mushenheim and I love to see what he has done with the sets and how he explains how we picked out an element and then puts on say the decoration in the clothing and then puts it in the background. One of Harry's most thoughtful pieces is I think our only nativity that doesn't have Jesus in it, because it's the three wise men on the way and he has a background where he put like little rhinestones in to show the constellations because they you know in some context they're astrologers...they're finding a way by the stars, or like astronomers, then he also has little star charts on the ground so it's like they're looking at the chart and figuring out the stars and it's just, it's just masterful. I also like the ones that they have sort of little surprises in them. We sometimes organize themes for exhibits and one of them is animals, and it's a lot of fun to go through and see how different artists have brought the different animals. There's a tradition in Portugal I think that you put in a rooster because it's dawn and you know when people are finding, and dawn of you know Christ being with us, but then it's also kind of prefiguring the passion and Peter and the cock crowing, and so so the roosters show up. And we have a really incredibly beautiful Native American artwork from I think it's Canada that has polar bears and totem poles in it and those you know, it's just wonderful to see that you know God comes to all of us, and I love the sets that it shows different ways we find it.

00:21:48 [Mary Jo Riegel]

You know of course I gravitate to the ones with children. We have so many with children or childlike features and the joy that you see, and all of those joy on the faces you know and hopefully that joy will remain with them. What they've learned now and will see in the future and you know, we have like a couple of them that like the Christmas pageant. The kids are you

know, there's hats on crooked and the uniforms are kind of straggly but it's the idea that they're participating. They're there knowing Jesus in a different way and again the little ones get so excited to find Jesus in the manger and the different - again - the different variety of materials that are used, you know, in trying to help them see that everybody sees Jesus in a different way but it's the same Jesus that has come to all of us. As they grow older, then they begin to see some of that. Sometimes you have to explain a little bit more to some of the kids but it's fun it's just again watching the kids and watching the expressions.

00:22:58 [Kayla Harris]

Well that's my next question is gonna be what do you find most fulfilling? So it sounds like for you Mary Jo some of that might be -

00:23:07 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well not only the kids but even the adults. Watching the adults and and some people just kind of stand there looking at other people you can just watch their expression and they see, they'll see, again, see something maybe from their childhood or some special moment in their life and they'll see that in the Nativity you know, and like you said it with the animals that kids like to look at the animals, and just the joy that it brings to an awful lot of people.

00:23:32 [Anne Malone]

I think I like, well it varies every week, but I love to see the different materials and we're so privileged because we get to touch these things you know and and go into the archive boxes. I'm remembering one, I had to put together a display case on Africa a couple years ago and it was kind of like I was the last person to sign up so like apparently nobody else was excited about doing Africa and it was one of those many moments, but the variety of materials for that was incredible. We have a soapstone set that is so much fun to just hold, you know, it's hard but it's soft and has that coolness to it. Then we have another one that is carved and we have a picture of the artist and it's so rare for us to have a picture of the artist that it was a thrill to see, you know, the hands behind the beautiful work. Another one, just talking again about materials and the feel of them was ebony. It was like this big and it feels like iron, I mean it's so heavy and then you wonder how someone in Africa with probably pretty rudimentary tools could smooth that and make it so beautiful when it is so tough to work with it. But it's interesting because with any kind of art there are so many things to it. There's the thing itself and then how it was made, and then what it means and all of those things you know come into play with this, and it's kind of like every week I get excited about something different.

Technical difficulties with video recording. Kayla Harris asked whether they volunteer elsewhere.

00:25:15 [Anne Malone]

Yeah I volunteer at St. Vincent's. My husband and I serve dinner there on Thursdays at the...I don't want to call them homeless people because that sounds like a put-down, but yeah it's a shelter and it's very moving to work there. We also work at the Schuster. We volunteer as ushers and you know with a range of duties there, but we're very excited because we're seeing Dave Chappelle tomorrow and so we do that.

00:25:54 [Mary Jo Riegel]

I volunteer at Saint Henry's Church. On Friday morning we take communion to nursing homes and it's the same nursing home for 10 years now. Watching, you know I get it, I've worked in a nursing home and my mom was in a nursing home for a while, but just watching you know, going every week and seeing the joy of being able to bring the Eucharist to those ladies because most of the ladies because they can't get out and interacting with them is just a great experience every week. And every week is different because of the declining ability of a lot of them you know that you have to kind of remind them who you are. I'm known as the church lady. They don't remember my name. "There's the church lady!" but that's okay they at least remember. (laughing) But the joy to bring communion to them is more for me than for them I think at times.

00:26:49 [Anne Malone]

Oh I forgot one, are you done?

00:26:53 [Mary Jo Riegel]

(laughing) Yeah.

00:26:54 [Anne Malone]

Okay, I also volunteer for the Americans of Conscience Checklist which is not really political but it my duties are I'm the captain of the voting team so we do research and put out an online newsletter that goes out to 75,000 people every week with actions that can be used to help secure a voting system and assure that all Americans have access to, and the ability to vote. You know, no matter what their party is, you know everyone deserves to have a voice. So we do that.

00:27:37 [Kayla Harris]

Now I know a lot of the volunteers of the Marian Library come in on Tuesdays. I don't know if you guys are there specifically on Tuesdays or not, but could you talk a little bit about kind of that camaraderie, you know the group all coming together on the same days and lunch together?

00:28:01 [Anne Malone]

Yeah I'm a Tuesday kid, but you know during certain seasons I'm there more often than that. Good people, they're incredibly sweet you know, and very very darling. I think I'm - it's

safe to say - I'm younger than most of them...

00:28:21 [Mary Jo Riegel]

You're one of the babies.

00:28:22 [Anne Malone]

One of the babies, yeah the babies. That's so funny the other couple weeks ago I was saying I have a couple friends who recently retired and they're interested in coming and one of the ladies said, "Oh good young people!" So, that's kind of the metric we're working with here, but you know there is just this accrued wisdom and, dedication to what they're doing. And you know unfortunately you know older people aren't often attended to but they have so much to give and and they're there, and they're there working and you know, they are very thoughtful about what they're doing.

00:28:55 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Yeah and you know just the conversation, like you say you know our conversations vary all over the place.

00:29:02 [Anne Malone]

Yeah

00:29:03 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well you know, we're political, and then medical, and and you know we get old people together of course you talk about everything but trying to avoid that as much as possible. But just all the different conversations and, and really how alive many of the people are you know what they're doing and their activities. And, and then of course we've all have our hardships and you know and concerns for each other, but everybody shows a real concern for each. You know "how is your son?" or "how is your daughter?" and then we've got some weddings coming up, and some you know, I got a baby coming up and it just.. we're family.

00:29:36 [Anne Malone]

Yeah

00:29:37 [Mary Jo Riegel]

It's just I go home on Tuesday there you know it's just really a good day. Now I come sometime on Monday and Thursday depending, if I'm not babysitting my grandkids or I bring them along. And it's a smaller group then and is a little bit different, but Tuesdays are just the fun day you know it's it's a family day almost you know. We are a family and we you know we keep up with each other's activities and as much as possible and it's fun.

00:30:03 [Anne Malone]

And we bring treats too.

00:30:07 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Well yes yes there's always some kind of goodies that somebody brought.

00:30:09 [Kayla Harris]

That makes it fun. So what would you like to see for the future of the Marian Library? And that could be in general, or it can be specifically for the navities

00:30:26 [Anne Malone]

Oh we need more space.

00:30:28 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Right.

00:30:29 [Anne Malone]

Yeah there's absolutely no question about that.

00:30:35 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Before Sister Jean left she had a great desire that someday the Marian Library would have its own, own building, maybe and that the creches would have our own space, maybe a permanent museum or something that we could see them in. A couple years ago there were some gentlemen came and we thought that you know they thought that they might be interested in donating a lot of money. And it kind of just fell through, nobody was exactly sure who they were, where they were from, or whatever, but it would be very nice if we had a facility. Because in the time that I've been here, we've been moved three or four times depending on the space at the University. You know if we had our own space that we could, because we're always running out of space, you know it's amazing that there are just so many, so many creches in the world, and so many people that wish to donate, or that we can you know.. that we can, more space so we could accommodate more requests too.

00:31:35 [Anne Malone]

Right, because that's yeah that's the thing, it's you don't just want your things to sit there. You want people to be able to either come and see them or, or send them out. And all those things take resources...

00:31:51 [Mary Jo Riegel]

And space.

00:31:53 [Anne Malone]

Yeah, space is the big problem always.

00:31:54 [Mary Jo Riegel]

Yeah, space is the big problem always. And again, University, has the same problem I sure with other departments too, but because we think we're more important than the rest of the departments. (laughing)

00:32:07 [Kayla Harris]

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your work volunteering for the Marian Library?

00:32:11 [Mary Jo Riegel]

You know I think it's just it's fun, it's exciting, there's something new almost every day. As I said several times you always find new sets that you're sure you've never seen before and we know we have a lot of them. I know in 10 years I've seen a lot of them, but they're just you know, it's just fun, exciting the people are fun, and working with the public is also always interesting and the reactions of people... Just a good, good opportunity, a good volunteer opportunity.

00:32:45 [Anne Malone]

Yeah and I'm always in awe of the competence and the range of knowledge with the staff. You know Father Roten is a walking encyclopedia about nativities, and you know their culture of social, you know any kind of context, artistic. Michele too, I remember right after I started we got back a shipment that had not been properly packed and it was just in shreds. You know some very beautiful large pieces from Mexico.

00:33:18 [Mary Jo Riegel]

The horror of everybody's face when that package was opened.

00:33:21 [Anne Malone]

Yeah, but I remember seeing Michele and she's working with this curved piece and trying to get all the pieces to be there perfectly, and she's holding one hand on the inside and another on the outside just sitting there waiting for the glue to set you know. And then Mary Jo Wilson, who sadly has passed away; I remember sitting with her and watching her. I was thinking, "Oh I'll learn how to match paint today." It was worse than watching paint dry because she, again was working with one of these large Mexican figures, and had a little paper plate and acrylic paints and she's doing dab of pink, dab of brown, dab of white, and putting it on the figure and then waiting. And it didn't match so another dab of pink and maybe add yellow and then white you

know and go on and do it and I'm thinking "I know I don't have the patience to do this." So you know, and Mike Foley also you know manages to put things together. We have a set of marionettes that he's very very particular about making all the motors and balancing everything for, for it to perform correctly. And you know he and Phil [Powers] and Harry [Mushenheim] just mastermind that whole thing you know? And then there's a thing Michele has this very, very strong sense of exactly how something is supposed to be and we were working once on a very large, um, SanTan set that was like this whole French village that would fill this room easily, and just the way she would attend to details. Like we painted the grapes once, they made a little gray barber with teeny tiny grapes on it and but they weren't the right color, so I came back the next weekend they had been painted again. I always think it was like the Mad Hatter's Tea Party or you know that that croquet game in Alice in Wonderland like "well we're just gonna paint the roses because they're not the right color" you know, but you know there's just that that same attention to, not just the big picture of you know how much space, and where are we gonna put things, but the teeny tiny things like are the grapes the right shade. Yeah yeah it's just a marvel you know how much time everybody puts in. I'm sure it's thousands of hours every year but you know, but, but the work always gets done and there's such a joy you know, probably because of the message but also because of the companions you know.

00:35:54 [Kayla Harris]

Everyone brings their skillset.

00:35:57 [Anne Malone]

That's right, that's right.

00:35:59 [Kayla Harris]

Thank you both so much for agreeing to answer some of these questions because we definitely really appreciate the work that all the various library volunteers do.