

Temple Emanuel Oral History Transcript

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Arden Craft: All right. So this oral history is being recorded as part of a project with the Temple Emanuel congregation in Greensboro, North Carolina, in partnership with grad students within the public history program at UNCG. So just to start out, do you want to give your full name, when you were born?

Peggy Tager: Rosenbacher. R O S E N B A C H E R. Tager. T A G E R. I was born, it's been a long time, May the 13th, 1930.

Arden Craft: All right. Let's get into some family history. So we did when you were born, but where were you born and what would you say is your earliest memory?

Peggy Tager: You mean, what city I was born in?

Arden Craft: Yeah, sure.

Peggy Tager: Winston Salem, North Carolina. Earliest memory? It wasn't being born.

Arden Craft: Okay. So what else do you want to tell us about your family history?

Peggy Tager: You can ask me a hundred questions. They were the most prominent Jewish family in Winston Salem. My grandparents got married there in 1885 and I got the newspaper clippings. I've got a whole scrapbook of newspaper clippings because my family and Winston were very, very, I didn't say wealthy, but very prominent.

Arden Craft: Why do you think that is?

Peggy Tager: Well, there were about three Jewish families in Winston Salem. My family moved there right after the Civil War which was a long time ago. Most Jewish people came over in large numbers about the time of the *Fiddler on the Roof* you know, that peddler story. My family who were German Jews, I've never really known exactly why they left Germany, except that they weren't terrorized, they were just, they didn't have any freedom. Jewish people in Germany have never had much freedom. My grandfather was like 17 and he came over on a boat, *The Hamburg*. I've got the passports and and stuff I have done my research. Came to eastern North Carolina, came up through

like Mississippi. There was no such thing as Ellis Island in 1875, 1870. And he came up through Mississippi as opposed to New York because most people came to Ellis Island. No later they still came to New York. That's why Winston Salem had three Jewish families and New York had thousands years ago, okay. That was a real popular destination for Jewish people in New York. And they came, he went to Kinston, North Carolina, I don't think he stayed long. My grandfather died when he was 39 years old. That's why I'm limited on my information. Cause he died nine years after he got married and left my grandmother a widow of four babies. Now, what else do you want to know about my family? Why would they prominent? They were prominent because, I can't say they were super rich. But they didn't, you saw a house, did you google it?

Arden Craft: Yeah I saw the house.

Peggy Tager: That was considered the most beautiful home ever built in Winston Salem in 1908, thats long, 110 years ago. And they had a huge, huge retail store. In those days most people had a little shop. They had a department store downtown. It was three stories high. So obviously they came to this country with some money.

Arden Craft: Did your family own a department store downtown?

Peggy Tager: They owned Winston Salem. You don't live in a mansion like that if you haven't got any money.

Arden Craft: Maybe that's why they were prominent. That would make, do you remember what the department store was called?

Peggy Tager: Rosenbacher Brothers. You could go home and Google it there is so much about it. And so that was there from 1880 to 1927 and the Depression did us in, it did many people in. It did not leave us poverty stricken, they had a little fire in the store, and they decided just to close up because my grandfather had died, my grandfather died in 1893 and like I said my grandmother had four babies.

Arden Craft: And then, how many siblings do you have?

Peggy Tager: Zero, but I have one brother and he made a mistake. Born in Winston Salem. Which was, is, the tobacco capital of the world. Camel cigarettes were so famous, so well-known, and so branded that every soldier in the second World War. Every day, they came around and gave them packs of cigarettes. They wanted to get them addicted. I'm talking about millions of packs, but you see I'm anti-smoking and I'm also anti-alcohol. I grew up and you open your windows in the morning and you smell, It's not a bad smell, the tobacco. It was leafed by hand and we had thousands of Afro-American women with no education, I am going back to when I was a child in

the 1930s, 1940s, and the whistle blew at five o'clock and all hundreds and hundreds of dark skinned women came out into the city from the factories. They had spent the whole day for probably 10 cents an hour, leafing tobacco, they have been replaced by mechanism. You can leaf tobacco now in two seconds. I mean, It's all computerized, mechanized, but they used to stand there all day. Get the stems off the tobacco and Winston Salem was known for the Reynolds tobacco company. I went to R. J. Reynolds High school and we had a Reynolds hospital and the big, huge estate in the country was called Reynolda. The Reynolds family built that house in the country, my home is now eight blocks from the courthouse square. That's how Winston Salem has grown. My father was born in Winston, North Carolina. They were two separate towns. Salem was famous and still is for the Moravians who came over from Germany and settled there. And all the other people, like my family, moved to Winston, North Carolina, and in about 1905 they put a little hyphen in the middle. Merged the two together. So, I was very proud of the fact that I went to R.J. Reynolds High school. That's where I finished. My father back in those days, daddy graduated from high school in 1905. I just interrupt you. Did you know that in 1905 only people who are rather smart and rather affluent finished high school? Most of them just dropped out of school and went to work, especially if you had a farm, but everybody, they finished high school. That was a big deal back 115 years ago. And now my grandmother, my fathers mother, went to Salem academy, which is a fine private school. And my father's sister went to Salem college. My father's brother went to Chapel Hill. This was a big deal, back in olden days, his brother went to Stanton military academy in Stanton, Virginia. German Jews were educated.

Arden Craft: So that's sort of, that's your grandparents, right? That's sort of the generation you're talking about.

Peggy Tager: No, my father's generation.

Arden Craft: Okay, your father's generation.

Peggy Tager: My grandmother also went to school. I mean, my grandmother finished school in Winston Salem. And she was a very lovely looking woman. And my grandfather who settled in Winston from Germany. Obviously they say it's all before my time. They fell in love. That home is still very much a landmark. Oh everybody wants to see that home inside. It's commercial now but,

Arden Craft: I'm going to have to drive by next time I'm over there.

Peggy Tager: Yeah. You can go in, they have a restaurant in there.

Arden Craft: Oh, wow.

Peggy Tager: Oh yeah. Charcuterie. It's called Charcuterie. Charcuterie is a cheese restaurant.

Arden Craft: I might have to stop by.

Peggy Tager: About my family. My grandmother is unusual too. She was born in Richmond, Virginia, almost during the Civil War because she was born in 1865 in Richmond, Virginia. And there was no Jewish cemeteries in the 1800s of any consequence, in North Carolina really, and about 12 members of my family born are buried in Richmond, Virginia, which is one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in the country.

Arden Craft: Wow.

Peggy Tager: I'm very proud of my family, I have nothing to do with it. You understand? And I'm very proud of my,

Arden Craft: Well, it's impressive, you know, so much about your family history.

Peggy Tager: It is considering that my grandfather. My grandmother, she died in 1943. I was a little girl. I mean, I was 12 years old, so I didn't quiz her about her history, but I just captured it. Articles have been paper, in the Winston Salem paper, so many times. They had a column, by a former school teacher, it was called, *Mostly Local*, she had a column every week on the past history of Winston, Salem. And she consistently, the lady who wrote it, she mentioned our name because we were so well known.

Arden Craft: Interesting.

Peggy Tager: It is. It is. In Greensboro you have three Jewish families, the Benjamin's, Benjamin Parkway. And you have the C O N E, Cone, which is very wealthy and very prominent. And they had Cone mills, which was the largest denim maker in the world for blue jeans. I'm talking about about a hundred years old. You had Levi's. I mean, so forth, jeans have been around for a long time.

Arden Craft: So is that based in Greensboro? The Cones?

Peggy Tager: Oh yeah. Cone Blvd. Oh yeah well I know all the Cones. I'm sure back in the olden days, it was probably KAAHN, Kaahn, as opposed to Cone. Then you had another family called the Sternbergers. And the Benjamins. I just love to talk about Greensboro. I had been here 60 years in my house. I've been here 60 years, right here. I was only 20 when I left Winston Salem. So I know about Greensboro in a way.

Arden Craft: Why did you leave Winston?

Peggy Tager: Got married.

Arden Craft: You got married. How did you meet your husband?

Peggy Tager: At a Jewish singles weekend in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina which is near Wilmington. I was aggressive, gorgeous guy, he had just finished Duke. He had been in the service for two years cause he was drafted in the second World War in 1945. And we had a Jewish singles weekend not for little teenagers, but mature, single.

Arden Craft: Right

Peggy Tager: And I wasn't necessarily looking for a husband, I was 21 and I'm walking along the beach and here's this gorgeous guy with green eyes and blonde hair sitting on the towel, putting suntan lotion on his back. I was cute. I was wearing a bikini. I had on a bikini bathing suit. Now I was a young child, good God, 20 years old. I walked over to him and I said, "I'll put that suntan lotion on for you." Six weeks later, he proposed, we started planning our wedding.

Arden Craft: That's amazing.

Peggy Tager: When I was married six years I had four children.

Arden Craft: So you have four children and then what's the order?

Peggy Tager: Boy, girl, boy, boy. I know you were a 6, 4, 2, and a new baby.

Arden Craft: Oh, wow

Peggy Tager: I mean, I love love. I loved having children and they grew up right here in this house. When I moved to Greensboro from Durham, I lived in Durham 10 years, because my husband was born in Durham and we had a chain. History. We had a chain of mens high-end clothing stores.

Arden Craft: You had multiple locations at some point, right?

Peggy Tager: At some point right, but no more. Now we got a thousand locations because we're online. People can order pants from France, or California, or Canada, I mean, it doesn't matter. Business is okay. Not like it used to be. When I went to school, college and high school, young men would take that last penny, dollar, to buy a cashmere sweater. We had what they call Weejun loafers. You see you could remember if you were older and they dressed so beautiful. And now the more holes you have in your jeans, the more expensive the jeans are. It's just so sad. So we had a store for 40 years in Chapel Hill.

Arden Craft: And what was it called?

Peggy Tager: The Hub. In Chapel Hill on the main street downtown, which is called Franklin street. Business was unbelievable. We had a half a dozen salespeople in a little store and they just, it was very important to people to look nice. I go to fancy restaurants and I see people in there that you wouldn't believe, they're wearing holey jeans. And we're talking about expensive restaurants. And they wear sandals. So we're lucky we've got the little store we have left on Battleground, but no, we would probably only have one anyway because the web changed everything. You don't have to have 20 stores in the state of North Carolina to do business because,

Arden Craft: Did you and your husband work there at the store?

Peggy Tager: Oh no, we started it.

The interviewee would like to note here that her husband did work at the store most days from 9-5 and she worked at the store part time, but she was initially confused by the nature of the question during the interview.

Arden Craft: You started it, and then

Peggy Tager: Started it, I was 22 and he was 25 and we started a store and this year we're still in business. 70 years my store has been in business.

Arden Craft: So your son runs it now?

Peggy Tager: Two of them. They're old men now, one is 62, and one is 69. They're thinking about retiring, but, yeah, The Hub. We started with a little store in Durham, North Carolina, where my husband went to high school, Durham high school, he was Jewish, and then he went to Duke for four years. I'm proud of that. He was smart.

Arden Craft: One of the things about the interview we want to kind of talk about is, you know, like your specific experience being Jewish in Greensboro. So I'm curious as someone who owned a business, as a Jewish person who owned a business in Greensboro, did you ever feel like you felt any tension with other businesses because you were Jewish or like you ever felt like you got treated differently because you were Jewish? Or not really?

Peggy Tager: I got to say, not really because we were such a lovely store and I got to interject this, it has nothing to do with Judaism. We had a store in downtown Greensboro in 1964, when all of the important businessmen worked downtown. We didn't have all these suburban office buildings they

have. You know, you got have all the big buildings downtown. At lunchtime, when it was lunchtime, hundreds of men in business suits, walking up the town, walking to get lunch and we had a black tailor. We had several because business was so good. We had a tailor shop in our store to just take care of all the customers. And one of the tailors was very polished, very charming, very well-spoken, and my husband, this is 1964, we're talking about 55 years ago, right. Said, "Charles, I want you to quit being a tailor. I want you to come up on the floor and wait on customers." And he said to my husband, "Henry, do you know what you are doing? People will not come in your store if you employ black people to wait on customers." It was unheard of 50 years ago. And my husband said "if they don't come in fine, I want you to work for us" he worked for us for 40 years in sales, but I'm just saying, open minded. And I didn't hurt our business, all the prominent black people came to the store. As far as being Jewish, you know, I'm sure it was very subtle when I was growing up, especially, antisemitism, I didn't feel it. I'm sure believe me, It's worse now than ever. It's gone in reverse. They have gone into synagogues around the country and shoot everyone. They had murders, bombs, you name it. It's very sad.

Arden Craft: It is sad.

Peggy Tager: Yeah. It was terrible. And they wouldn't, you know, they've gone up into black churches and have shot many people in the past year. We have always done a really nice business. We had so many wonderful people work for us. Downtown Durham where we started. We had four stores, I think, in Durham. In a shopping center, it evolved to be

Arden Craft: Do you know how many stores, like the most you had at once?

Peggy Tager: 40

Arden Craft: 40?

Peggy Tager: Yeah but I had three ice cream parlors at Myrtle Beach. We had a bingo parlor. I owned a nightclub in Chapel hill. Which was back in the 60s. Had a group of black people came every Saturday night with a band. They were called, I can't think of his first name but, Dick Clark and the Hot Nuts, but we had a nightclub. What else? We had a string of discount stores and high-end men's stores, high-end meaning when we opened our first store, a gentleman could come in and buy a nice, dress shirt. You go and walk into a store back in the old days, people wore dress shirts and ties. I went to see my stockbroker one day, he was sitting there at Merrill Lynch with his feet up on the desk, cowboy boots and, uh, you know, a sports shirt. We're lucky we're still in business, right? Because people dressing so, I hate to use the word bad, it's bad.

Arden Craft: Casual I guess.

Peggy Tager: A little too casual. It all started about 30 years ago, 20 years ago, where we had Friday, it was called casual Friday and it still is. I saw a girl the other day she had on jeans, I said “you have jeans on,” she said, “yeah it's Friday.” So then they decided that was wonderful. And the next thing, you know, every day was casual. It just really hurt things.

Arden Craft: That makes sense. Yeah. And now everybody works from home too. So nobody, people work from home so much because of COVID so yeah

Peggy Tager: Oh so much, you can work from your pajamas

Arden Craft: Okay. So let's get into this a little bit more of the religious background of your family. Had they been traditionally Reform or Orthodox?

Peggy Tager: There was really nothing. I got married in 1952. I was the first bride in our new temple. We didn't even have a temple. In Winston Salem, where I grew up, we used to meet, we had a little space downtown on the second floor of a store and we had, we had you know, bring 50 chairs in there. They had an arc and some little rooms around for Sunday school, but you wouldn't believe how slow we were getting a temple in Winston Salem. In Greensboro we had a temple by 1906, but in Winston we were slow over there because we didn't have a temple until the 1950s. Think about that. So you asked me, what was your question?

Arden Craft: Well, were your parents and grandparents, like, did they attend temple or

Peggy Tager: We had no temple. In Winston Salem

Arden Craft: They sort of had like that makeshift temple that you're talking about?

Peggy Tager: And it wasn't until after the turn of the century.

Arden Craft: Right.

Peggy Tager: Whereas in Charleston, South Carolina and other coastal cities, Wilmington, North Carolina, it's very old. Oh, Boston, New York, maybe some old temples. You say, how did they worship? They didn't worship.

Arden Craft: So you didn't go to temple growing up?

Peggy Tager: Yes, I did. In those makeshift spaces. I taught Sunday School. I came in after school and afternoon sometime when I was in high school and I used to, you've never heard of a mimeograph machine did ya?

Arden Craft: I don't think so.

Peggy Tager: You put a copy on there, which has been typed out and you roll around. And that's when we did our Friday night bulletins. I mean, today they come in, our bulletins are so polished and colorful and this was like historical, but, yeah, I was active. My mother was in sisterhood and stuff, but we just didn't have a physical building.

Arden Craft: Right, yeah. Doesn't sound like that mattered too much anyway. You all made do.

Peggy Tager: My father. When my grandmother got married in 1885 she would've had a rabbi come down to Winston Salem. They were Jewish enough to import a rabbi to marry her. And my grandfather, we're talking about 1885, we're talking about 135 years ago.

Arden Craft: Where would the Rabbi have come from?

Peggy Tager: Richmond, they got a train. I mean there were no cars. There were no cars in 1885. They got on a train. They came down to Winston Salem. And when my Aunt got married, my father's sister in 1920, they had to get a rabbi from somewhere else. People don't realize that there were no rabbis. Now I'm not talking about Birmingham maybe or Atlanta, I'm talking about these smaller towns. Winston Salem was what they call one horse town when I was growing up. Greensboro, when I moved here, I've been here 60 years. Our temple today is huge. We have, oh gosh, probably 600 families. When I first moved here, we had probably 150 families.

Arden Craft: So growing up, did you have Shabbat, like did you guys do all sorts of the ceremonies and everything?

Peggy Tager: I used to have a big Christmas tree up, and invite the rabbi for dinner. I had Christmas trees my whole life, my father had Christmas trees. Just for the record German Jews were not like Russian Jews. The idea was to come over here from Germany and be educated. See a lot of other nationalities, like Russia, Lithuania, Romania, the Jewish people, they were smart enough to come over here, but they were not very educated. My family, Germans, were snobs anyway. I mean, it felt like we were kind of affluent and, what were you asking me?

Arden Craft: I was just asking if you did, like you participate at any Jewish ceremonies in your home?

Peggy Tager: Not, not much, like I'm not proud of it. It's just the way it was. I didn't light the candles on Friday night, but I did have a Jewish wedding when I got married, I had a rabbi. And I taught Sunday School.

Arden Craft: Well, everybody lives their life differently you know, my dad, like I grew up with a Christmas tree too

Peggy Tager: Wait a minute, you had a Christmas Tree?

Arden Craft: because my mom is Jewish,

Peggy Tager: But your father's not?

Arden Craft: But my father is not.

Peggy Tager: So you had Hanukkah and you had Christmas?

Arden Craft: So I, we had both.

Peggy Tager: German Jews, you did not dare intermarry. When I came home and told my grandmother I was getting married to Henry, my handsome, charming husband, she was upset because his family was from Russia, Lithuania. They weren't German Jews and German Jews snobs. And we had quite a few families here in Greensboro. The Benjamins, Sternbergers, the Cones, and I can just go on and on. You're, young, a lot of prominent German Jews were quite wealthy. We weren't quite wealthy, comfortable.

Arden Craft: So do you, since you've been with the temple for so long

Peggy Tager: Oh, I mean, my mother joined the temple here in 1952. How long was that?

Arden Craft: A long time.

Peggy Tager: 70, 70 years this year.

Arden Craft: Wow.

Peggy Tager: And she always tried to go to temple. I went to a temple, I didn't mean to sound so horrible.

Arden Craft: Do you remember any like important leaders throughout the temple's history that you were particularly maybe

Peggy Tager: We have lots of wonderful presidents. I mean, presidents, I got a list of them right here. I've always paid dues. Very generous.

Arden Craft: Has going to temple changed over time do you feel like, or is it sort of the same?

Peggy Tager: To me it's sort of the same. All my three boys were Bar Mitzvahed. My daughter was not Bat Mitzvahed because Oh, rabbi when she was 13 didn't, it was a new thing, Bat Mitzvahed new, not Bar Mitzvahed old. He didn't Bat Mitzvahed anybody.

Arden Craft: My mom wasn't Bat Mitzvahed either. I think for the same reason.

Peggy Tager: She's from Alabama?

Arden Craft: She's from Atlanta.

Peggy Tager: Your mother is from Atlanta? Oh my. You know Atlanta is a big Jewish. I used to go down there to party.

Arden Craft: Yeah. Atlanta has a huge Jewish community.

Peggy Tager: Oh yeah. I'm trying to think of this thing we had. People came from all around once a year. I got an invitation to it in 1951. I've got it in my drawer.

Arden Craft: I know the Progressive Club was big there. Is that what you're thinking of?

Peggy Tager: Progressive club is interesting. That was a, Progressive Club. The old club where all the old German Jews were was called a Standard Club, and then we had The Mayfair. There were three country clubs and they're all kind of divided up. Old German Jews went to the Standard Club. I forget what the Mayfair was, but you're talking about country clubs? Yeah we used to have a good time there.

Arden Craft: You used to go to Atlanta?

Peggy Tager: Oh, that was fun. I went down to Atlanta for a weekend, these are Jewish events, and I was supposed to stay for three days and I ended up staying two weeks. I was so cute when I was a young girl. I did get all my dates in, isn't that funny. Went to the Progressive Club. And I don't know a lot of people in Atlanta. That don't mean a thing. If you told me you knew a lot of people in Greensboro I'd probably say yeah I know about half of them, but Atlanta is so huge. I mean huge. I love Greensboro. My children never left. Well, they did too, they grew up and went away. Very proud. Three out of the four went to UNCG. My daughter went to Chapel Hill for a master's, but I

have no negative comments about Greensboro, North Carolina. I have been a member of the temple there for 60 years.

Arden Craft: You think you're the longest member? Do you know anyone who's been a member longer than you?

Peggy Tager: People who are older than me, couldn't be many, could there?

Arden Craft: I don't know, you tell me

Peggy Tager: Wait, wait. I know a guy, he's a little sick now, 103. Dr. Marks. You're asking such good questions. The only people that could be members longer than me are older than me, and there are not that many left. I am now considered, at 92, I'll be 92 soon

Arden Craft: Well have they been with the temple as long as you too?

Peggy Tager: Oh couple of families started the temple, their fathers started it in like 1906

Arden Craft: And they're still there?

Peggy Tager: The family are.

Arden Craft: Wow.

Peggy Tager: The old man I'm talking about, and his brothers and his children. They're all old, you know grown up. Marks. M A R K S, but there is nobody you could have asked in that family because they have all died.

Arden Craft: Okay, I have another question for you. So how would you describe over time sort of the temple's feelings about Israel? Does that make sense?

Peggy Tager: I need my daughter here. You know how many times she's been to Israel?

Arden Craft: She was telling me a lot.

Peggy Tager: Over 20.

Arden Craft: I'm going this summer.

Peggy Tager: I went once. I enjoyed it. Are you going with a special group?

Arden Craft: I went already once on Birthright, you know, that program? And then I'm going again this summer with UNCG to study abroad.

Peggy Tager: Not March of the Living?

Arden Craft: No I haven't been on March of the Living

Peggy Tager: We have a March of the living, it's so popular. You're going with UNCG to Israel? Oh yeah, I wouldn't take anything from my one time I went there and it's been 25 years. That's not that long.

Arden Craft: Well, I was reading the, um, the anniversary book, the temple made and

Peggy Tager: I just got it

Arden Craft: I was reading it. And it's interesting because it talks about in the very beginning that there was a real, it seems like from the notes, from the temple, like from the, sermons, that there was a real desire to create sort of a state of Israel

Peggy Tager: Well 1948 is when they created it

Arden Craft: Right, right. So I'm curious, like, did the sermon sort of talk about that at that time? Was that something they addressed?

Peggy Tager: I was a teenager. You know, in 1948. I was graduating from high school. I can't give you any interesting statistics on that because I probably wasn't that interested.

Arden Craft: Right. Do you have, like, do you know how people sort of like maybe people, your age are friends, you have feel about Israel because there's a lot of stuff in the news about Israel, and a lot of times when you meet Jewish people, they have strong opinions about Israel. Do you feel like people you go to temple with, or people you're friends with, Jewish people, your age, sort of feel that way or not really?

Peggy Tager: I don't have many people my age to talk to. When I moved here I was 33. I didn't know anybody 92. And I can't believe that I'm one of the oldest people in our congregation and we haven't, have you ever been a Temple Emanuel?

Arden Craft: I haven't unfortunately

Peggy Tager: Oh it's magnificent, it's wonderful, beautiful. Have you seen the building?

Arden Craft: I have.

Peggy Tager: Oh yeah, it's wonderful. We have so many intellectual, smart, Jewish people in Greensboro, but there are people all over the place who are very anti-semitic. It's just the way it is. "He's a Jew" because you know why? I've had people come, talk to me, to my face and say "Peggy, I love you to death. You're just wonderful, but until you accept Jesus Christ as your lord and savior you will not go to Heaven." I said, well, I believe in heaven. And I think that if I do all the good deeds, I do, generous, nice. Blah blah blah. Doesn't matter what you do, if you don't believe in Jesus, you know, so to this day. Is that antisemitic? They don't mean it ugly, but they mean it.

Arden Craft: I get what you're saying. Like I grew up in Alabama, you know, so it's a very Christian

Peggy Tager: Wasn't that very anti-black? You had the marches down there and stuff.

Arden Craft: In a way, it's definitely a very sort of prejudiced place in general. But I had a lot of times, like I had a teacher who asked to pray over me when she found out I was Jewish,

Peggy Tager: Oh my gosh, because you don't believe in Jesus?

Arden Craft: Because obviously she thought I needed saving. So I definitely get where you're coming from. I definitely understand that feeling.

Peggy Tager: People didn't say that to me when I was teenager, but they didn't even think about it, but I'm talking about today, people will say, I have friends that love me, we will go out to lunch or whatever, but "until you accept Jesus you're not going to Heaven."

Arden Craft: That's so interesting that you feel like, I guess that you've experienced more antisemitism later in life. Right?

Peggy Tager: No, they're ugly to me, they're my friends, they just make a statement. Before COVID I went to Bible study. Christian Bible study for 25 years. So I'm not, I'm not typically of anybody. You say, why would I do that? I just got a lot of Christian friends, and I enjoy the fellowship and reading the Old Testament and the New Testament. I've had people, my friends, people there, they don't know much about Judaism.

Arden Craft: Right

Peggy Tager: Oh no. When I first started at 25 years, 30 years ago, Jesus was the son of God. They've changed that. Are you aware of that? Now they have a different feeling. Jesus is God. I brought up Jesus was the son of God. That is what you heard, but now Jesus is God. Whole new, in a way then I guess that's worse. But my family, we don't dwell on it. We been here for so many generations, you know, since, like I said, that's my fathers side, my mother's side were talking about 1850. I mean, being born in Pennsylvania. I'm from what you call an antique family.

Arden Craft: It's pretty interesting that your family's been in this area for so long. I feel like that is pretty unusual.

Peggy Tager: We came right after the Civil War right here. I mean, down the road, Winston Salem, that's not far.

Arden Craft: That's a long time for one family to sort of stay in a pretty close area.

Peggy Tager: I have to say you're probably right. I can't imagine being in any other way. My daddy graduated from Winston Salem senior high school in 1905.

Arden Craft: So this is sort of a more fun one. So since you've been in Greensboro for a long time, what do you enjoy doing around here? What activities, and do you have any, like hobbies or anything like that that you feel like

Peggy Tager: I'm aged out. When I came to Greensboro, I was very active in sisterhood. I was chairman of the social committee. So when BBYO or whatever had weekends, I was coordinator of all food and the stuff. I was in Hadassah, never active, but I was a dues paying member and I went to meetings. I went, I was an ORT, organization of what? You ever heard of ORT?

Arden Craft: No I haven't

Peggy Tager: Okay

Arden Craft: I can look it up later though

Peggy Tager: Yeah well, I'm trying to think what else I was in. I was active in four organizations. ORT, Council of Jewish women. Yeah that was a real big deal. And I was a treasurer for about 15 years. I was busy. There is an old saying, "if you want something done, ask a busy person" and being on committees and little chairmans and stuff. I found that people who accept it, like my daughter, who could do a hundred things, multitask. Well I was in four organizations,

Arden Craft: Well, you told me you like to go, you went to the symphony recently, right?

Peggy Tager: I have had season tickets to the symphony since 1963. I still go. I went to see Beethoven's No. 9 and the new Tanger not Tager center. People have been getting me mixed up with the Tangers for almost 60 years. You've heard, you know, the Tanger center?

Arden Craft: Uh huh

Peggy Tager: I have season tickets, I go to the symphony. Last Sunday I went to the UNCG recital hall for the chamber concert. I've been promoting the symphony and working on their committees, we have fundraisers. And then, uh, I'm a bowler.

Arden Craft: You're a bowler?

Peggy Tager: I bowled on a league up until recently. I didn't want to fall down. From 1964 - 2014. How long is that? 50 years? For 50 years I bowled on a league.

Arden Craft: Oh my Gosh. That's so amazing.

Peggy Tager: It's so interesting because I met so many kinds of people from all walks of life. Bowling is not necessarily the country club setting, but I love every minute of it. 50 years. Okay. So I had my bowling, my Bible study, I was in the symphony guild, I still am. That's our supporting organization to raise money for the symphony. I have been in there forever. Oh you can ask Karen, I have never been one to just sit around here. Now I have run out of energy. Yeah. I mean, at my age, I'm still glad, a lot of women at 92, their children have taken away their keys from them, they don't want them driving a car. Like I say I still got my red convertible, right?

Arden Craft: I saw it

Peggy Tager: It's so cute. What am I doing now for activity? Well, COVID shut down a lot of my stuff.

Arden Craft: Do you want to add anything else to your interview before we stop recording?

Peggy Tager: I want to show you my scrapbook real quick.

Arden Craft: Okay. Well then I'm going to stop recording.

Peggy Tager: Oh, please do.

Arden Craft: Okay.