

# **Abstract- Veronica Martin**

Interviewee: Veronica Martin

Interviewers: Brenna Venth, Matt McNally, Michael Mirabile, and Patrick McGuckin

Date: October 5, 2017

Location: Cortland Free Library, Cortland, New York

Length: 49:03

Veronica Martin was born on February 4, 1935 in Cortland, New York to her parents, both whom were Italian immigrants. Veronica's real name is Marian, however, that is a name that was passed down through her family, so when she became old enough, she asked people to call her Veronica. She was an only child and grew up surrounded by the love of her parents. Growing up in Cortland her entire life, she watched as the city of Cortland blossomed into what it is today, and what was prior. In Cortland, there were multiple stores and minimal restaurants different of how it is today. Her father and mother were both Italian immigrants, while her mother had a harder time assimilating to American society, and struggled to speak English. While her father assimilated rather quickly, he obtained several janitorial jobs for several stores downtown. Growing up during this time Veronica witnessed World War II and the effects it had on society. Food was rationed and many men that worked in the community were sent to war. After many years of Veronica's father instructing that her mother learn English she attended classes. She then took the test to become a naturalized citizen. Veronica attended St. Mary's School when she was a child and continued her education in college by attending the Eastman Dental Dispensary. She received her degree as a dental hygienist. After working as a dental hygienist in one of the county schools for a year, she went back to school to get her BS in Health Education at SUNY Cortland. In the midst of earning another degree, she met her husband, Richard. They got married in 1961. She had three boys, John and Joseph, who were twins, and her youngest, Thomas, born in 1967. Upon getting her degree there were no health education jobs. She went back to dental hygiene in the Tully and Fabius Schools for six years. Mrs. Martin then worked for the Groton Health Center for three years. She then stopped to continue to raise her family. When her youngest son returned home from college, he noticed a job opening for a health educator and suggested that his mom apply for the position. Veronica then applied and got the job that she held for six years. It was her favorite job, and she wished she didn't have to retire. Veronica being an only child made her appreciate her parents. They made sure to always include her in conversations, they told her things that were happening in the community and expressed their opinions to her. She tributes the relationship she had with her parents to the reason as to why she decided to stay in Cortland and raise her family. Veronica worked within the community her whole life. She now helps out at the Cortland Community Center, with her husband. She is also a member of the Catholic Daughters and the 20th Century Club. Her love for the community and town of Cortland is expressed in the many roles she has had throughout her life.

## Field Notes- Veronica Martin

Interviewee: Veronica Martin

Interviewers: Brenna Venth, Matt McNally, Michael Mirabile, and Patrick McGuckin

Date: October 5, 2017

Location: Cortland Free Library, Cortland, New York

Length: 49:03

The Interviewee: Veronica Martin is an active participant in the Cortland community. She currently serves at the Cortland Community Center. She is also a member of the Catholic Daughters and the 20th Century Club. She has resided in Cortland, New York her entire life with her husband Richard Martin, and her three sons, John and Joseph, who are twins, and her youngest, Thomas. She was a dental hygienist and then also became a health educator, which she considers to be the best profession she had. Veronica remembers Cortland at a time where Main Street was a two way street, and there were more stores then restaurants. Her parents had the biggest impact on her life. She was an only child, and they strived to teach her to continuously work hard not only for yourself, but for the community.

The Interviewers: Brenna Venth is a sophomore at SUNY Cortland and is studying adolescence education with a major in history. Matt McNally is a junior at SUNY Cortland and is studying adolescence education with a major in history. Michael Mirabile is a junior at SUNY Cortland and is studying history. Patrick McGuckin is a junior at SUNY Cortland and is studying adolescence education with a major in history. This interview is part of a series of interviews conducted in fall 2017 about the Wickwire Factory and the History of Cortland for History 280: Introduction to Public History at SUNY Cortland and for the 1890 House Museum.

Description of the Interview: The interview took place in the Cortland Free Library in Cortland, New York. The library is located on Church Street and is right across from Courthouse Park. The library provided their back room for the interview. The four interviewers sat on one side of the table and Mrs. Martin sat on the other side. We had no interruptions and spoke for nearly an hour.

Note on Recording: Zoom H4N device, as well as two iPhones.

## TRANSCRIPT – VERONICA MARTIN

Interviewee: Veronica Martin

Interviewer(s): Michael Mirabile, Brenna Venth, Matthew McNally, Patrick McGuckin

Interview Date: October 5, 2017

Location: Cortland, New York

Length: 1 audio file, 00:49:03

Brenna Venth: Okay. Today is October 5, 2017. My name is Brenna Venth and I am joined by Matt McNally, Patrick McGuckin, and Mike Mirabile. We are interviewing Ms. Martin in Cortland, New York. So to begin, thank you again for meeting with us. I think the first question that we would like to ask you is can you tell us about your childhood?

Veronica Martin: Oh, yes I can. Well I was born and raised here in Cortland, and I can remember a lot of things down on Main Street. Things were a lot different when I was growing up. My father was a custodian down in several stores downtown. It was much different than it is now. There were a lot of clothing stores, there were five and ten cent stores and there were not very many eating places downtown. We had, there were four or five of them downtown. And one of them, Newberry's, was downtown and they had a soda fountain type thing. That was the only store of the five and ten cent stores that had a soda fountain thing downtown. There was a couple of restaurants that I remember. The Community Restaurant was there, because my uncle happened to be a chef there, at the Community Restaurant and that was down in the 1930s because I was born in '35. So that Community Restaurant has been there since that time. And then there was another Greek restaurant down there, I don't remember what the name of it was, but there was another restaurant down there. There were no bars like there is now. And of course Cortland didn't have like malls and things, everything was situated right here on Main Street, okay? Also when I was growing up you couldn't go to the store and buy anything on Sunday. Everything was closed, you know? If you had to do something, you had to do it on Saturday, otherwise, you were out of luck. Let's see, there were a lot of women's clothing stores. There was GH Lucy's, which a lot of people used to shop there. There was also a men's clothing store Burgess, that was Burgess clothing. There were several other women's clothing stores. There

was Brotan's, and there was Leonard's, and there was a Sullivan's store. And my father used to do custodial work at the Sullivan's store. And also the Sullivan people they lived here in Cortland but in the winter time they used to have a place in Bakersfield, California. So my dad used to go and take care of their furnace, you know in those days you had to go and shovel coal. So I remember my dad going there and shoveling coal in the furnace so that it would be okay for the night. And he used to go a couple times during the day to do that. Let's see, there were a couple of banks too. And my father was also a custodian at one of the banks, he worked there for several years. Course, there was Wickwires at the time but I don't know much about that because I had an uncle that worked at the Wickwires, but I wasn't that well in contact with him to be able to know that much about it. Let's see, what else...I can remember. There was a little, like a newspaper store, the name of it was Basil's, and his mother used to have a popcorn machine right in the window there. And we used to be able to buy a bag of popcorn for a nickel. And I remember my dad stopping to get me popcorn there. It also was a two way Main Street when I was growing up. Let's see, anything else?

Matthew McNally: Can you just tell us what the community was like?

Veronica: The community?

Matthew: The community, the people?

Veronica: Well, like I said there weren't any shopping malls or anything. Everything was here in town. I don't know. The winters were a little bit more severe than they are now, because I can remember my dad and I... And that's another thing, we never had a car. So we walked everywhere, I walked everywhere when I was a kid. And the winters were a lot more severe, a lot more snow, I remember, growing up. I'm sure the library was here, I don't remember that, but I'm sure it was here. And the schools, St. Mary's, that I graduated with, had nuns. I had nuns from kindergarten through twelfth grade. They didn't have any lay teachers. Of course there was always Cortland High School which was down here on Central Avenue where the county building is now. It was former Cortland High School. Let's see, what else. Do you have anything else in mind?

Michael Mirabile: Yeah, you mentioned the schools and stuff, how was the education like

growing up?

Veronica: How was the education? Well, I think that, well my going to St. Mary's maybe was a little bit different than Cortland High School. But, going to St. Mary's, we didn't used to have a cafeteria. We used to have to walk, for lunch you used to have to walk home. And some of the kids that I went to school with, if they lived far away from the school then parents would come and pick them up somehow to have lunch. And actually we didn't have any gym classes either, there wasn't anything like that or music classes either. Of course, nothing with computers or anything like that when I was growing up. Cortland High School probably, I think they had a little bit more for gym and they may have had music, too, but St. Mary's didn't have that at the time. It was mostly study...you know, that's all I can tell you. And of course we also had religious classes too. Anything else about the education?

Patrick McGuckin: You said that Cortland was much different now than it used to be and how things have changed. Do you like the overall change in Cortland?

Veronica: Do I like the overall change?

Patrick: Yes.

Veronica: Not really. Not really. You know my son once told me that- he said "Mom, you grew up in the best of times." Which I think that was really true because I can remember people used to have chickens in their backyard. And now people wouldn't even think about doing that now. And I remember my dad used to go...He'd have one of those little pull carts and he used to go to the grocery stores. And in those days anything that was outdated, they would give you free. So my father used to come home with this little cart with a lot of potato chips and bread and stuff like that to feed the chickens, I remember that. So things were much different than they are now, much different. And of course things were a lot cheaper in those days too than they are now. Anything else?

Brenna: You mentioned your son, when did you get married and when did you start having children?

Veronica: Okay, well I was married in 1961. So my husband and I have been married for

56 years.

Brenna: Wow.

Veronica: I have three sons. I worked at one of the counties for the schools here as a dental hygienist. And then I decided I wanted to go back to school, up to the college to get my health education degree. So I went back up to school for about a year and a half, I got my B.S in health education. And then at the time I couldn't find any health education jobs around so I went back to dental hygiene. And I worked for six years at Tully and Fabius schools as a hygienist. Then after that I started my family, so I stopped for a while. And when I got a little older, I went to work at the Groton Health Center as a dental hygienist. And I worked there for three or four years. So then I stopped for a while, kids were growing up you know. One of my youngest son graduated from Glassboro State College. He came to work at the county because he took communications in college and he didn't have any success in finding a job. So, something came up at the time. Smith Corona was going out of business, they were shutting down the factory. So, he got a job at the county. They had like an office for work placement for people from Smith Corona who may want to go back to education or finding jobs someplace else. So anyway he got a job there in the office there, and one day he calls me and he says, "Mom, there's a job coming up for the county as a health educator." And he says, "I'm sure you're qualified for the job." So he says, "Why don't you apply?" So, I applied and I got the job. So, I worked as a health educator for the county for about five or six years. I used to go around to the senior centers and give them programs on health topics. Then I used to have other people come in to present other programs to the senior centers. Basically, I just loved that job, I really hated to retire. But at that time I was getting older and my back was hurting me, and so I said "You know what, my body tells me I can't do it but my mind says I still can." But, I had to give up, so anyways...that's the extent of that.

Matthew: What made you want to get into the health field or the dental field? Why did you love it so much?

Veronica: I'm sorry.

Matthew: What made you want to get into the health field or the dental field? Why did

you love it so much?

Veronica: Well, I guess maybe because being a dental hygienist I had to... When I was going to college there I had to take a lot of health classes. And I just figured it would be a good switch over I guess. Health education would be more in my line, you know, being a hygienist anyways. So that's why I went back, plus the fact that if I had my B.S I would get more money. So that's what happened, my salary would go up.

Michael: Can you tell us a little bit about your involvement in the Cortland community?

Veronica: My what?

Michael: Your involvement in the Cortland community.

Veronica: Oh here in the community. Well, let's see... I can tell you that right now I volunteer at the Cortland Community Center which was the former railroad station. I belong to a couple of groups, I belong to the Catholic Daughters, I also belong to the Twentieth Century Club which is a group of ladies that meet. Let's see, I used to be... When the kids were growing up, a Cub Scout den mother. I taught religious education. I also played the organ at St. Anthony's. I was an organist at St. Anthony's. That was before my kids were born. I started taking organ lessons when I was in high school. So at the time they were looking for an organist at St. Anthony's, so I started being an organist over there and I did that for a few years too. I belong to a couple of organizations over at St. Anthony's too. What else do I do...I don't know, I used to do one of the religious organizations at St. Anthony's, they used to have mixers, in my day and time, they were called mixers. So I used to chaperone for those because they used to have chaperones in those days and once you got into that dance there, you weren't allowed to go back in. So anyways I used to do that. I don't know. I think that's about all.

Michael: That's a lot there.

Patrick: You said that you had three sons. Do they all still live in Cortland or...?

Veronica: No, no... I had twins and one of them is down in Florida, he's a pharmacist down there. And the other one is in Albany, he works in a restaurant in Albany. And then my

youngest son works for the government down in Washington, he works for the Department of Labor. So that's that.

Brenna: I think the big question is, why did you continue to live in Cortland after you grew up?

Veronica: I think I can tell you the reason why, because I was an only child. I think I was closer to my parents, maybe, and of course they always lived here in Cortland. My parents were both from Sicily, and then they came to this country, so they always lived in Cortland. My father had a lot of brothers at the time here in Cortland. So, he used to tell me he used to take like two or three trips back before when he was single. He used to come back and forth about two or three trips. But in those days, they can do that if they had a relative living in this country, and of course my father had brothers, so he was able to come over. Afterwards, he went back to Italy and married my mother, and then they both came over here. When my mother came here, she couldn't speak a word of English. She didn't know anything. When I was growing up, actually, they spoke to me in Italian, and I used to respond to them because I was brought up with that language. But then, when I went to school, I had to learn to talk English. So, I kind've forgot the Italian, how to speak it, but I could understand it, and I still can understand it to this day. I mean, you know there aren't that many older Italian people around anymore. But, I still can understand it. I can tell you a cute story. When I was going to school in Rochester, I got on a bus one day, and I happened to end up standing close to two ladies, two little Italian ladies, and they were talking away in Italian, and I thought to myself, "These ladies don't think anyone on this bus can understand them," and I was listening to everything they were saying. So, I thought that was kind've cute. So, anyways, I still can understand it, but I can't speak it anymore like I used to be able to.

Matthew: Growing up, were there anyone else who had parents who immigrated from another country? Maybe even Sicily?

Veronica: Oh, yes. Well I had uncles and aunts that came over, too. And my Grandmother and Grandfather also came over here, too. Yeah, so.

Matthew: Did anyone else in the community have parents that came over from another

country? Like any friends, any peers in school?

Veronica: Well, yeah, I guess there might have been because I went to [school with] some other kids who were Italian, and I'm sure they had some parents, maybe grandparents that came over from Italy. That's about it. But, as far as staying in Cortland, I stayed here mainly because, I think, of my parents, really. Because the only years I was away was the two years I went to Eastman in Rochester, to school. So, then I came back, again. So, I've been here ever since.

Matthew: Did you enjoy it being away from Cortland for a little bit, and then coming back? Did it make it more enjoyable to be back in Cortland?

Veronica: Well, I don't know if I really, I kind've was glad to come back, but by that time most of the students I had graduated with had gone other places. So, I really didn't have anybody to be that close to. Because I only went to school for two years, because that's what the course was. But, a lot of the other kids that I had graduated with were going to four year colleges, so they were gone longer than I was. When I came back, and I started working, then I just got involved with the people I was working with. As far as keeping in contact with the kids that I had graduated with, there are a couple, probably, that still live here in Cortland that I see. Otherwise, I guess it's always just the people that I had been in contact with through the workforce.

Michael: I have a general question. What's your opinion on the town, in general, becoming more of a college town, having more of a college influence?

Veronica: Okay, alright. Yeah, when I was going up to the college, there were two buildings: the main building and the one next to it. It used to be the health education. I don't remember dorms. All those things have been built since I went to school up there. Another thing is I used to walk up to the college, when I was taking classes. I lived down on Clinton Avenue, and I walked from Clinton Avenue up to the college. But, there weren't all of those buildings up there at the time. I can remember the main building and the other building next to it. That was it. There might have been one dorm, but I can't tell you which one. I'm sure there were students that were coming from out of town, but certainly not the way it has expanded today. There are a

lot more college students walking around town and having cars, than there were when I was going to school up there.

Patrick: If there was one thing about Cortland, that you could change, what would it be?

Veronica: Well, I don't know. I realized that the students bring a lot of their finances and stuff into Cortland, which is helping Cortland. But, I think there's just a little bit too many bars and things downtown, I really do. When I was growing up, there weren't any bars like that. That's about the only thing. And, of course, there's a lot more cars now, because the students have more cars. So, that's probably the couple of things that have advanced more than when I was going to school up there. And, naturally, there weren't as many students either, attending college then. It probably wasn't publicized, like it is today, to high school students. Which is good because the kids have to get an education somewhere, and I think there's probably a lot of good professors up there, and a lot of different courses you could take than when I was going up there. Like there's Phys. Ed., and a lot of recreation that wasn't there when I was going to school up there. A lot of more advanced, I don't want to say courses..

Matthew: Subjects?

Veronica: Yeah, maybe. I don't know.

Brenna: Do you still live in the same house that you grew up in, or did you move to a different house with your husband?

Veronica: Well, that's another thing that is interesting, that you might like to hear. As I grew up on North Greenbush Street, I don't know if you know where that is, but it's right next to the railroad, where the railroad goes down, and I remember as a kid, I used to sit out on the porch and wave to the brakeman. In those days, there were a lot more railroads going through Cortland. There were freight trains, and there were commuter trains, so I can remember. And they would wave back to me, when I was a kid. Another thing, too, they had the crossings and they used to have little shanty's. There would be somebody in there that would stop traffic. They didn't used to have signals, like they do now. The man would come out of the shanty, if he knew there was a car coming, and stop the traffic. The funny part is that my parents were friends with one of these shanty-men, and every Sunday, my mother would make a dish of macaroni, and I used to bring

the macaroni dish to the little shanty, so that he would have Sunday dinner. Then, I remember, occasionally he used to give me five cents to have an ice cream cone. When I was growing up, for an ice cream cone, one dip would cost a nickel, and two dips were ten cents. He used to come every Christmas to the house, and bring us a box of candy, I can remember that. I used to work, when I was a teenager, at the Goodell Dairy, it's not here anymore. But, I worked there for fifty cents an hour. This was back in, probably, fifty-three, fifty-four. No, maybe earlier, because I started working there when I was sixteen. So, I made fifty cents an hour, and I thought it was just wonderful when they went up to seventy-five cents an hour. Let me tell you, they used to have cigarette machines. Cigarettes cost eighteen cents a pack. You used to put twenty cents in the machine, and you would get two pennies back in the pack of cigarettes. That's something that nobody would even realize that had, today, but that's the way it was, back when I was sixteen. Skim milk, they used to throw it away, because people didn't buy it. There was pasteurized milk and homogenized milk, and stuff like that, they still had. But, it was interesting. I think bread cost eighteen cents a loaf. You wouldn't believe that happened, but it's true, when I was sixteen. And I am eighty-two now. Anyways, that's another interesting thing that happened when I was growing up. Things were a lot cheaper than they are now.

Matthew: I think the cigarette machine is really fascinating because you don't see that anymore. So, I think that's really funny.

Veronica: The funny part is, like I said I was sixteen, and if I had been thinking ahead, I should have saved one of those packets of cigarettes, so I could show that today. Another thing, too, I remember when growing up, I was ten years old when World War II ended. I can remember, they had a big celebration when that day came. I remember my dad, they had a big parade downtown, and my dad took me downtown. So, then another thing, too, we used to have tokens because stuff was rationed. My mother had red tokens for meat. You could only have so many tokens to buy for meat because meat was rationed. I think tires were too, but I didn't know about that. Sugar was, [too]. These were all things that were rationed because the troops, they had to have all of this stuff for the troops in the war at the time. Does, this sound like an interesting life?

Matthew, Patrick, Brenna, Michael: Very interesting.

Matthew: I am very interested. What was the community like, because you say when the war ended, so what was the community like during the war, and how did it change after? Or the city of Cortland?

Veronica: As far as traffic, and stuff, was concerned?

Matthew: Was there a different sense of community during the war, and then after the war?

Veronica: Oh and after the war. I don't know really whether there was... probably because things were rationed, people weren't able to get stuff as well as they could after the war was over. Supplies was probably more available after the war was over. I do remember that we had a neighbor who lost a son in World War II. I don't know if you've ever heard of gold star mothers but they were mothers who lost sons in the war. They use to have posters or something in the window that had a star on it. Things were probably more available after the war then they were during that time.

Michael: Your children, do you know their thoughts on growing up here in Cortland, did they like it or were they ready to leave? How did they enjoy growing up here?

Veronica: Oh, other kids?

Michael: I meant your kids.

Veronica: Oh, my kids! I don't know well, I think my kids they grew up in Cortland, went to Homer schools, and I think they got a good education because they managed to go to colleges we were able to afford. Especially the kid who went to five years of pharmacy school. His education doesn't cost us as much then as it does now. It probably was much cheaper to send kids to school than then it is today. I'm sure there are a lot more students with student loans today then there was when I was growing up. Does that answer your question?

Patrick: If you don't mind telling us did you meet your husband in Cortland?

Veronica: Yes, I did but he's not from Cortland, but I did meet him in Cortland. He came here to work and he roomed with a cousin of mine she use to have rooms and things. So that's

how I met him. But he isn't from here.

Matthew: Is there anything else you would like to talk about, that we haven't hit on or anything specifically?

Veronica: Well no not really, I didn't know how much you guys actually wanted to know.

Matthew: We want to know everything.

Veronica: I don't know is there anything you have in your mind that I didn't talk about?

Brenna: Who was the most influential person when you were growing up?

Veronica: Who was the most important? Brenna: Influential. Veronica: Oh influential.

Brenna: Was it your parents? Did they have a big impact on your life? Or were there any teachers who really hit you and got you to do what you wanted to do?

Veronica: My parents were very supportive. They were also very protective of me because I was an only child. But I don't know I think there were a lot of people in my life that helped me make the choices that I did. The nuns at Saint Mary's help the kids a lot to stay on a straight path. I don't know but I had a lot of cousins because my dad came from a big family. There were ten children in my father's family. So, I had a lot of cousins and things because my father came from a big family, there were ten children in my father's family so we had a lot of cousins. We were a close family. Everybody kind of helped each other out you know, if something happened. We were really a close family. And out of those ten children and those cousins, I am the only one left. I'm eighty-two, life is getting short let me put it that way.

Michael: Did a lot of your family live around here, did you see them often?

Veronica: Yes, they did, the family lived around this area, all my cousins lived in this area. And an interesting thing that you will notice on my thing is that my full name is actually Mary Anne, only because my birth certificate says that. I had a grandmother who was named Mary Anne and all of her sons and daughters (my aunts and uncles), the first daughter that was

born in my family was named Mary Anne after my grandmother, so there were a lot of Mary Annes when I was growing up and so my father decided to name me Veronica, too. So, he decided since there are so many Mary Annes growing up that everyone would call me Veronica. Everybody calls me Veronica but on my birth certificate it says Mary Anne. All my health things and important papers say Mary Anne on them too, so some people call me Mary Anne and some people call me Veronica, so I got to remember. Yeah so that's kind of an interesting thing. They all wanted to name their first daughter after my grandmother. I mentioned before that my mother could not speak one word of English when she came to this country. My father would always be after her saying, you know, you have to speak English now because we're in this country. When I was growing up I remember my mother going to citizenship classes to become a citizen and she use to take classes and she had a teacher, I'll never forget this lady. We would go into the class and she would have the whole board with questions about government questions and things, the whole board was covered with all these questions. When the class was done she use to let me and my cousin, my cousin came at the same time because her mother took citizen classes too. She use to let us erase the bulletin board, I'll never forget that. The board was completely covered with government questions, you know, so that was kind of interesting. My mother took her test and then became a naturalized citizen. My father was always after her, you know, you have to speak English because you're in this country now. This one time my mother told me that she went out for a walk one day because she wanted to go visit her relative, she got lost. She couldn't speak a word of English so she couldn't stop anybody on the street to ask them what direction she could go, but someone came along that knew her in a car and picked her up and brought her to where she was going. But wouldn't you think that's kind of scary, you're on the street and you can't ask anyone where you want to go? But my mother told me that, you know. I was all appreciative of the fact that my mother and father told me a lot of things when I was growing up. Which I think a lot of families don't do that anymore. My Father use to tell me a lot of things and my mother too. That was nice, because there's a lot of my second cousins that come and ask me, "do you remember this?" or "do you remember that?" and a lot of times I was able to answer the questions because of the fact that my parents always told me stuff as I was growing up. That was nice I appreciate that and I still appreciate that today because otherwise I wouldn't have known anything either if they hadn't have told me. So does it sound like I've lived an interesting life or hasn't it?

Matthew, Patrick, Brenna, Michael: Yes, definitely.

Veronica: So, that's it, I'm glad I was able to help you out with your class.

Matthew, Patrick, Brenna, Michael: Thank you. We really appreciate it.

Veronica: So now what do you have to do? Go back and report to the professor there?  
What was his name again?

Brenna: Dr. Faulkenbury.

Veronica: Okay, yes because I talked to him on the phone.

Matthew: So were going to make a transcript. We will type out the dialogue and present it to the class and talk about what we learned.

Veronica: Yeah he told me that.

Brenna: This project is all were doing this year so we are working very hard on it and its going to be a great project at the end.

Veronica: Okay that will be nice, you know the other day I was talking to one of my kids and he said, "Mom, would you tell them about..." You probably don't know because you guys are too young but do you remember hearing about Ronnie, what was his name? He was a musician. He passed away but he used to be Ronnie Dio and the Prophets, Ronnie Dio, does that sound familiar? Well anyways he was a big musician and he was from Cortland. I remember him as a teenager and he had a band and he went by Ronny Dio and the Prophets. He played at some of the mixers in those days they called them mixers not dances. He played at some of the mixers the church had. I remember chaperoning when he played but he became a rock star and I knew him as a kid as a teenager. So I said you guys wouldn't know that because you probably didn't hear him. I forget the name he went by but he passed away there was a band, he had a rock band but I don't remember the name he went by. They have a little street named after him here in Cortland.

Matthew: I always thought that would be a cool thing to go to a dance with like a live

band instead of a DJ. So, I think that is really cool.

Veronica: But you guys are way too young to hear about that stuff.

Matthew: That's really cool though.

Veronica: So anyways it's not very nice getting old I can tell you that, but I don't know are your parents are they young or what?

Matthew: Mid-fifties.

Brenna: Late forty's.

Matthew: I'm the oldest in my family. I have two younger sisters.

Veronica: Oh, do you that's nice. Well I'll tell you enjoy your time now.

Matthew: Thank you so much. This is really big.

Veronica: Now, what year are you up to in the college?

Brenna: I'm a sophomore.

Matthew: Junior.

Michael: Junior.

Patrick: Junior also.

Veronica: What are you majoring in?

Michael: I'm a history major.

Veronica: My son started out as a history major at Le Moyne and went for two years at Le Moyne. Then I think what happened was Le Moyne dropped their history program and went to English and he didn't want to take English that's why he changed and so he went to Glassboro. Then he took communications but he was always interested in history, always liked

it.

Matthew: History education, so I want to be like a high school history teacher.

Brenna: That's mine as well.

Patrick: Same.

Brenna: The three of us have the same major.

Matthew: My uncle went to Le Moyne, he said that he liked it.

Veronica: You got a lot of good years ahead of you to think of things.

Brenna: It was so interesting learning about your life.

Matthew: Absolutely, a lot of cool stories.

Veronica: Well I hope I helped you out. I remember when I went to college up there I took a sociology course and I had to interview somebody then I remember.

Matthew: That's pretty cool, funny because you had to interview someone and now we have to interview you.

Veronica: Yeah, and I'm sorry I took so long to answer your email.

Brenna: No, you're fine I am just so glad everything worked out.

Veronica: Okay well yesterday I had a pretty busy day I went to the community center and volunteered and apparently, somebody came in and took some stuff so they had the policemen there and there was a lot going on. Usually it isn't like that Wednesdays are usually quiet days. Anyways we do that, my husband and I do that together. Something that gets me out of the house, you know, there are a lot of stuff I can't do anymore. So I have to choose the things that I can do.

Matthew: I think that concludes the interview. Thank you very much again.

