

Interviewee: Lorraine Elizabeth Joseph  
Interviewer: Cecelia La Pointe-Gorman (CG)  
University of Washington  
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LJ: Don't mimic anything. You know one of the things that was interesting was...we moved in between Little Boston and Kingston and Port Gamble, and we wanted to play "Shake", were little, and (Indian Shaker Religion) momma was busy washing clothes, and hanging them, we decided my baby sister was going to be the patient so, ...we going to preach, then we're going to pray, and of course we're going to work on her. We were playing Shake, and she did get sick...she went into convulsions and we had to call our mother, and then we had to call my brother to go get the Shakers...and work on her. And we always got in trouble...don't ever mimic.

Whenever we were alone...we didn't have toys, so we...we had a house, my dad two houses actually, there was a boardwalk and another room and another room...(not audible)...preach, the other kids would sit long side me, they'd preach and we'd sing and we'd do everything the Shakers did, and ...we didn't have toys, we didn't have anything so...because back there we lived in the church, Friday night, Saturday night, all day Sunday.

We lived away from the church, so mom would fix up a basket, so we could stay there and not have to drive home for lunch or for supper, or we'd leave and Aunt Ellen would

invite us (not audible) and that is all I knew. Friday, Saturday and Sunday was church, and when the war broke out (WWII) things changed of course...

**1:38**

**LJ:** It was strong then (Shaker Church).

**CG:** You said a brother of yours used to sing a song, or was it your dad?

**LJ:** No...well, My brother used to sing songs, when he would preach, he was a preacher, and he'd talk about how we don't claim these sicknesses because people go to the doctors and they tell you, "You have cancer." This is why I don't even get the flu-shot because; well the doctor told me "be careful you're going to catch the flu" Well! If I m going to catch the flu... I am going to get a shot. Well, no...I fully believe in God that he is going to protect me from these dangers and keep me physically well on his terms. Because, isn't it the desire of a mother to have a well child? Well, that is the way our heavenly father wants us to believe he is the healer, and he's the provider and that is the way I believe my life is.

Everything I have, people wonder why [when] I was widowed at thirty-seven... "How come you didn't remarry?" Well, I live for my children. They were the reason I got up, went to work and did all that I did, and couldn't have done it without the will and grace and hope and faith I have in God. He left me to provide for my children the way he believes that I should.

**3:03**

I brought them up...not that they stayed in the faith. They went to church faithfully, but they went their separate ways for a while, but any time they got into trouble or sick or something, they'd call me "pray for me". I never forget my one daughter was at work and

she said “mama I need this job, but I am so sick, I want you to pray for me on the phone so I could stay here and work”, so I prayed for her on the phone, and she said, “Well, mama I made it through the night.”

And that’s the way I feel as children of the Lord we call on him when we don’t have money. I been sick almost a year after heart surgery, and I noticed the medication I was taking added to it. I went without medication for two days up here (Puyallup Tribal Health) and I went to get it, and I thought ...well my God I feel better than I ever did, and I am not going to take these anymore. I stopped taking them, and I feel better than I ever did, I get up in the morning, before I get up when my feet hit the floor I thank God for a new day. When I lay in bed at night I thank him for everything he’s done, I thank him for my health, I thank him for my life and all I hope to pray. Because I am his child and he is my father.

**4:06**

**CG:** What are the names of your parents?

**LJ:** My father was Henry Napoleon, he was Suquamish, but he had signed a paper early on...before the settlement came into the tribe, because he married a Puyallup. He said he wanted all his children to be Puyallup, because he was a poor man and he didn’t have anything. My mother was a Meander; her parents were Minnie and Bill Meander here at the Puyallup Tribe. (I ask her to spell Meander). And Henry Napoleon, and his father was Lewis Napoleon, and his mother was Susan Parker out of Neah Bay...

**CG:** And your mother’s name?

**LJ:** Lena.... My dad was considerably older than my mother; I never knew how much...my mother was born 1889.

**CG:** Wow, same time my grandfather was born, 1888.

**LJ:** My mother used to tell us stories about how the “Shake” began, how they’d drew (not audible) the patients, they used to have to hide it, because they would put them in prison, there used to be a block jail here on “D” street. She said they’d bring the patients on the bottom of the Canoe from across the Island. At one time Sara Sincade told me there was a Shaker Church here, she had pictures of them, but nobody ever went to get them. She said they used to bring them up in the Canoe, at the bottom of the Canoe, and yet if they could hear the bells, and the songs, singing. The terminology of the white man back there was “Ghost Dancer” they called it, and they would put them in jail.

**6:04**

Then finally in 1910, that’s why they Shaker gets the word, “ I m a 1910 Shaker” They took them to jail here, and then they finally took them to court. You know what really made it possible, whether they believe it or not, the bible! They draw in, a good interpreter, because they couldn’t speak good English.

They brought the interpreters in, and they’d ask them “What did this higher power tell you?” and then they’d ask the priest, and it was catholic then. And ask if it’s “found in the word?” and it did, and it correlated with what the Indian people were telling them. The court system... “And this is what the Higher Power tells me, what I do” And that’s

what made it finally...a law in 1910, to justify it was a religion, and could be a religion. And they quit putting them in jail for it, and it went into the books as “1910 Shaker”. But you don’t hear people say it that way. [Laughs].

**6:58**

There are some books out there... I remember, because there used to be a battle over the Shaker faith, years ago, well, they voted and William Kitsap was wondering what to call it, “Bible Believers Church” we read the bible, and they voted two times and he won, but the more powerful nations like Yakima and Colville who had larger number of Shakers because their larger tribes compared to here, they went back home to their own area, and voted and voted him out. And it stayed “1910.” But in the books of history...Kitsap would have been the Bishop for all the Shakers. If those other people didn’t go home and change it, man changed it...and I think that is what happened to all religions, man wants to improve on it.

**CG:** O yeah...yeah

That’s why we have branches off...why? we only have one God, that’s what puzzles me. Nations going to hell in a hand-basket because we have these multi-mega churches, and yet one man could step up and change it; well we don’t want God, prayers in the school. Why? Where [are] all these Christians? Why don’t they say “no!” I remember when I went to school; we had one hour of rest after lunch. We put our heads down, and guess what they read to us? The Bible. The teacher read us the bible, while we had our head on the desk after lunch. Now they don’t want it in the school. They don’t want to pray, they don’t want the American flag, they don’t want...I guess they got too many

foreigners here and they want to adapt to their own. Well the church should stand on it's...but they won't. (Not audible).

**CG:** When you were three, you went to boarding school? Was your mother in boarding school? Or were you in boarding school?

**LJ:** No, first they had a complex of buildings here, they had an Old catholic church here, and they had I remember when they had a catholic church. And they had A, B, C, D buildings for little boys building, and a little girls building, and the older boys and girls, and they had one building where all the TB patients were. Those that were really sick were in that one. And then a school, and some of us worked in the little cafeteria, they had the older, but some of the older people took care of the little girls, like myself. And that's where I first met Betty. She used to make my bed, used to make sure my bed was made, and up a ready to go to church, or go to breakfast, or whatever and that's where I knew Betty.

**LJ:** I was nine when I left there; I was born in 29 (1929) so it was...I must have been almost ten when I got home. My brother's son was born when I got home...he was born in November? ...Right after I got home from Cushman... so I must have been almost ten when I got home...when I got out of Cushman...it was 39 (1939) because it was two months. ...Let me see... it was two months and then Pearl Harbor was bombed... it was two years. And the world changed, because everybody eighteen and older went to work in the defense plan...and our world was upset, and we didn't get to go to church as much.

**10:34**

Because we were all working, and extra homes, and the chores, and we didn't have all the modern stuff we have today...had to wash clothes by hand, they had pack wood, split wood, you know...

**CG:** Life was a lot easy then...

**LJ:** I think so, ...sometimes I wished I could just go back, if my health would provide...then you know I really believe, that our youth are being destroyed by man's ultimate wisdom. You've got to have wisdom, but it's destroying our youth...I don't think kids belong on cell phones, I can see computers, but not on cell phones. I always feel the phone is for emergency. Yet, if you have an emergency, you drop to our knees and pray, "God you've got to help me, [and] I can't do this on my own." Ask me. I had two children...ill. One got burned, and he couldn't breath, and three were working on him (on the ground after the house fire).

And my oldest son come and grabbed me by the back of my arm and he said, "Mom, can you go over there a pray for"... So I go over there, and a fell on my knees and put my body over him and I prayed, my God this is my baby, you've got to make him breath. And I asked him, Lord, Oh God in heaven I ask you, give him life. He began to breath and they wrapped him up in the thing, and took him away. But when we got to the body, he didn't have any clothes, none of us had any clothes, and it took a while for anybody to get me some clothes to put on, so I could go see him. But when I got there the doctor said, "He's not going to make it." And as usual I went over there, and I pray and I said your [going to] make it David.

And several days had gone by and the nurses asked me, “Would you come over to this room, there’s people who want to talk to you?” And they asked me what I did when I went in there, and I said I prayed, and I then would sing then a Shaker song. I’d pray, and then I’d sing a Shaker song and I’d brush him and he would respond, he had nothing but his eyes looking out, he looked red, he had braces here, and when I would sing these songs he would want to move. And they didn’t want that. They said, “Your disturbing him”, and I said, no I...he is responding to my singing. And so, they noticed...because at night he would thrash about...and they said, “Can you get a tape for us”.

So I had to go buy a recorder, and brought some Shaker tapes, and one of the nurses would play it for him when they had to take him, and put him in cold water. And he would respond to it, and in those burn units there’s one bed here, and when they improved they go around the room, and he went faster then anybody I know. But, twice they called us to take him off the machines and let him go, but I said no.

### **13:40**

And I had a daughter that got comatose. They called me at work; it was a Sunday, because “you daughter is dying, we’re trying to get her to Virginia Mason.” The ambulance came and the ambulance driver said, “She’ll never going to make it there.” I left my job and I went up there, and they had her on a gurney already, and I just threw my arms across her and said, God you’ve got to give her life. She was my youngest daughter...she’s alive, but she’s not normal, she can’t work anymore, but she’s alive. I said I give this, and I place [her]into your hands.... you can rebuild this body.



She was comatose for four months before she came around, she had this thing in her throat, and they had to take her to ah...Tukwila to take it out. From there she had to go to the ...to learn how to walk, and talk and do everything. And she finally came out of there in July. She got this comatose on the fourth March (March 4<sup>th</sup>). I am sure [that] Gods hands [will] move graciously; and people just have to have that faith. A lot of people don't, they say they go to church and they believe in God, but you got to have the faith, its got to come from the heart of man. I wouldn't be here, and gone through the things I've gone through on my own, I couldn't survive. It's by his grace and the faith I have in him. I always close [my day with], in him I move and have my feet, and without him I would not be, because I am his child.

**15:40**

**LJ:** Let me tell you something, when I heard Betty (Cecelia Betty Sampson, the researchers grandmother) was in [hospital]. I was there and there was no body there with her, and I took her hand and said, Betty this is Lorraine. And you know what? She squeezed it, she knew I was there and I was thankful for that. She knew I was there.

**CG:** She was great.... I miss her.

**LJ:** I do too. It seems like everybody I had gotten attached to, I had another friend Maggie Sanchez used to be my friend. I'd go out with her, I'd take her from her grand kids, she'd always take care of...and we'd go out for a ride, we'd go out to eat. And I had another friend she was Yakima, she came here and lived here and I was her friend. And

she moved to California she got what we call an inoperable tumor in the head...she died. Then the latest one was somebody from here again...she was gone [a sad laugh].

And you know its just life, what life throws at you I guess. You don't find very many people that have the faith in God. I never forget (Valvet Latear...not audible) one time moved to Canada. Her daughter was riding a motorcycle, got hit and was in critical condition. She came down here, because...she was going to leave.... her and I were going to leave here because I got slammed with a...I call it a with an abuse case on the children I was raising, and they took them from me, and I feeling bad and her daughter talked to the niece I had, "and oh yeah, all you have to do is go to school and tell them that you mom slapped you with a ruler" and that's what she did.

So my friend lost her daughter, she was a teenager. She was hurt by that, her and I...I planned to leave my kids, they were still in the drinking mood, doing their thing. And her and I were going to leave. I went to the tribe for something...because I used to be night janitor. I went to a funeral early and I came back late, and there were people coming out of Council Chambers, that's when the building sat up there (formerly Cushman Hospital) and they were crying. I walked past them, and got the vacuum and started down the hall, to vacuum. Then pretty soon somebody touched me, and then they asked me, "What do you think we could do about Council? They'll never change." I said I don't know, I try not to get involved into politics, but I'll tell you something, I'll prayer. I prayed. So when it came my turn, when I got to Council Chambers, I had put polish on their desks, and

polish on their table they sat around, and I sat in each chair, I sat in each chair and I prayed for each council member.

And something happened a few days later, and I went to talk to the secretary. And then she told me, "You know I used to be secretary in the church back home in Oklahoma, and I haven't found a church since I came here. But you know something happened." And she told, "Well I went home, my husband and I are kind of at odds, he won't come home and I went to bed." And she said, "I went to bed and I thought he came in and went to bed, because I could feel somebody touch me, call me name, and I rolled over and he wasn't there."

You know I was here two days ago, and prayed for everyone that sits in these chairs, and ...and that when she see told me, "I used to go to church, but I don't go no more." I said, that's God talking to you. A lot of people don't understand when God reveals himself to them. They don't answer him. He calls, maybe an audible voice of somebody they'd recognize, but they don't answer. Its him speaking through them, but they don't answer they just turn it off.

And I think he as ways of getting their attention, but a lot times when something happens they blame God, instead of asking him for help, they blame him. Like "God why do you do this to me?" ... We go through all these things for a reason.... When we burned out (1982 house fire) I ask him, why? And he says, "You know what? Only I have right to judge the smallest the incident in your life." You know I had planned to recall, that meant

no signing recalls anymore...leave it up to him, because we lost everything. I had no insurance, I had nothing, and that's the answer I got. You don't that the right to judge the smallest, simplest matter, leave it up to him. So many people, I don't believe these people that go to court and sue somebody over simply little things that something that money can't buy.

**20:23**

This is my life through the faith that I have. I go to work; I go home...I do things...I don't have anything to do out there. I don't gamble, I don't smoke...There isn't a shaker church for miles anymore, and I don't like to drive by myself anymore.

**CG:** let me say, when my uncle Joe past away, by cousin Joe Goodwin has his Shaker bells. And it was a probably about twenty, fifteen years ago, he showed me the bells, and I touched them, and I could feel...and I went ahead and started singing with the bells. It was like this spirit... this power came up through...

**LJ:** You know the bible does...there's a scripture in the bible that tells us about the "river flowing backward." You know what that is? That's the Holy Spirit. It comes through the groin.... up and that's what it is (she expresses a flow from her groin to her throat). If you feel that down within there...it's with the bible terminology, "The Holy Spirit coming up like a river." Like they say, "going backward, coming from the groin." Everything God's has in store for you is prepared down in there. When he prepares a child in the womb, it just comes from there. People just don't understand that.

**CG:** Wow, that just always puzzled me.

**LJ:** Its just like I've gone some places, and said maybe I shouldn't heal the sick or something. I could feel it coming; I'll never forget...we went to a funeral for a Williams in I think it was La Conner. His wife was there Zelma and he had died, and along a lot of Arizona people came for his funeral. I went to the wake, because I couldn't go to the funeral because I drove to La Conner (WA) and these Navajos were dressed in the way they dress in Navajo country in long dresses.

And they sang in their native tongue, and oh my God I didn't know what they were singing but you could feel, what I say the unction and the movement of the Holy Spirit. I said to my daughter... she is sitting next to me, stand up. When we stood up, everybody else stood up. I was taking the whole thing in; you could just feel...just feel it flowing out.

When I went to Crow Montana for a camp meeting one time, two greyhound buses of those Navajos came to the camp meeting. They were all dressed in that same regalia, and the faith that they have is amazing. Don't find often here anymore. Too many of ours, I think, they fall from grace from our heavenly father, I hate to speak about it, the casinos and the bingo parlors, [has] taken a lot of them in that direction. They don't have church anymore; they're too busy going to gamble or the casino, or to the bingo. You don't have time for...yeah, we have to remain humble.

**CG:** Too busy, too busy...

**LJ:** That's my terminology. And too many, I've seen too many get too bold and full of pride, they take this bible under their arm, and they walk right passed you, they don't see you, they just walk up give their sermon, and walk right back out. They don't acknowledge those that are supporting him. Or even.... so many...we had one preacher come through here, and he wanted a thousand dollar pledge from here, that [isn't] what going to church is.

(Lorraine talks about an experience she had at a church meeting). ...

There's one man named Campbell. He kept asking about translating...finally everybody gets done, and look back...you get up and say something. So I got up and [makes the sign of the cross] and we do it three times and then I begin to feel that thing come you just feel it. I never know what I am going to sing. You just feel it coming. I got through, and then I began to sing and I heard him begin to, "Oh my God that's a Canadian song! Where did she learn it?" It was not from me, it was from the Holy Spirit. ...I never know what's going to come, he (Lord) says, "Open your mouth and I will fill it." How many people sit down and write the message... their going write? It shouldn't be that way...it should come from there (points to her belly) [hearty laugh]. Not many people say it that way, but it's the truth, it's his anointing, his message to you, as his child. [Laughs].

**Track Three:**

How people of different faiths... so they can learn about each other, because they say, we all pray to the same God. Yet there are many who condemning because they worship different from they do, and it shouldn't be that way. The only religion that I found that I

kind of empathize with is the one they call the “Seven Drums.” You ever seen that? I went to a funeral...our bishop died in Oregon. So we went, when we got there, they didn’t do it the Shaker faith way, they did it “The Seventh Drum”. But I feel the seventh drum is...usually they were brought up that way. Like: I was brought up Shaker religion way. They learned it from the beginning.

Now today the more modern seven drum religion do “Shake out.” They need seven drums and they sing, and when they begin to sing...you can feel...what I call “anointing” of the Holy Spirit. That’s...and I watched it there in the funeral where our bishop was. And (not audible). ...Bell was, and drumming and the singing. And they danced around the casket doing it. And when they got done those same men set the table, and they put out paper plates, set up the chairs, the men served the food. They’d pray and the blessing.

And that’s one...I think you find it in Warm Springs, Penaltion, and Colville country...its called “Seven Drums”. You have to experience what’s out there, but the Lord has given to other people...and they never believed it. The bible people don’t just read the bible, we have to live through what “Du’sh ats”- The Holy Spirit is abiding, we’re his children. Abides in here, it not in the church made of wood. It comes from here [points at her heart]. So many people go into church say, “am a child...” but I don’t like to use the word Christian, I like to use, I m a child of God, because, it was the Christians that crucified him, and put him on the cross [Laughs].

**CG:** Yeah, yeah you have a good message.

**2:25**

**CG:** Yeah, you got a good message.

**LJ:** In fact I got a letter, was it last week, first of last week? From a guy, he (not audible) incarcerated in Mc Neal Island. He said he knew me here at the tribe through Alice... He said, "I know you're a Shaker" and said "I want you to send me show me, or tell me about the Shaker faith, out here we have what we call the sweat lodge and other traditionalists, but I don't want to go that way. I want to go Shaker." And I haven't answered in a letter because I have to have somebody write it for me, and I wanted to ask them, if they would let me send him a recording. I could tell it better that way then.... I don't know how old he is, I imagine he's in his early thirties, but he wants to learn about the Shaker faith.

**CG:** You want me to...we can get together, and you can tell me about the Shaker religion...

**LJ:** You know there is even a third religion...they call "All tribes, all nations", they believe in intermixed. Its man trying to improve on what there is. [Laughs]...that's what I say.

**Forth Track:**

**LJ:** He was the minister of our church (Husband who passed away) well, this is where he left me, so I'll stay and follow the Lord, and several years have gone by and I was an



elder in the church and finally they decided I could have license to do weddings and funerals, and stuff.

But I never advertised any place. Some people found out and I begin to doing that, and then I got condemned because I used to have Shaker meetings in my home every second weekend. But all of a sudden I wanted to go to Crow Montana to a big camp meeting, so I canceled my meeting and I went. I got back and they were mad at me, and they wouldn't let me have my meetings back because I missed them, I abandoned them. Well, couldn't somebody else take over? So I gave my papers back. And a few months went by and I went back to do weddings, will I got to go back and ask for papers, because I can't do weddings and funerals without the license.

But I say you can't tie the word of God, and we have fellowship we have with one another, we've got to go get, what I always say, go get spiritually refilled by listening to the word. And I said that's why I go out there, and we don't have too many preachers in our church after my brother died. There weren't too many that were anointed to preach the word so you have to go outward to listen to the word. In fact I went one time to camp meeting and I had a "broken spirit" so to speak, and I went and I got there, and the last man they had preach the last night, was a little black man. And he preached, and said, "Did you know you...they say, 'I lost God somewhere.' Did you know yourself could literally walk away from God and not even know it, and you wonder why your going through what your going through?" And you know what I swore that man was talking just to me. There were two thousand people there, but I swear he was talking to me. I

hadn't darkened the door of a church, I hadn't gone to listen to the word of God, and I was just being me. And I thought, why he talking to me? And I came home equipped with his word and I thought, well, he was just an instrument in the hand of the father. When I got back things changed, and I was a different person when I came home from when I left. It is [by] listening to the word of God that keeps us going...

On time I went to a camp meeting and I was down to my last tank of gas. I had only thirty-five dollars. I could put five dollars (for gas) and that left me with thirty left. (There is a need request from the camp meeting). "Having a hard time getting home, and its snowing...for a love offering...so I put in a "love offering". So I said, now I only have fifteen dollars, what am I going to do? So I went to sleep that night. An audible voice woke me and said, "Open your wallet." I got my purse and opened my wallet and in it were five crisp twenty-dollar bills. \_\_\_\_\_ he's done it over and over in my life. He knows what our heart need, he knows...sometimes he tests us.