

The College at Brockport: State University of New York  
**Digital Commons @Brockport**

---

Interviews With Staff Past & Present

Brockport Oral History Project

---

Spring 4-28-2021

## Rosie Rich, interviewed by Layla Taha

Jacob Tynan  
jtyna1@brockport.edu

Betul Duru  
SUNY Brockport, bduru1@brockport.edu

Layla Taha  
SUNY Brockport, ltaha1@brockport.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/staff>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Tynan, Jacob; Duru, Betul; and Taha, Layla, "Rosie Rich, interviewed by Layla Taha" (2021). *Interviews With Staff Past & Present*. 22.

<https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/staff/22>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Brockport Oral History Project at Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interviews With Staff Past & Present by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@brockport.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@brockport.edu).

## TASCAM\_0005.wav

**Layla** [00:00:02] Okay so it's recording.

**Layla** [00:00:07] My name is Layla Taha, and I am interviewing Rosie Rich. And today is March 18, 2019.

**Layla** [00:00:19] So first I just wanna I ask I know you did coach...

**Rosie** [00:00:25] You did coach. I don't call it coach and we didn't call a coach. OK. In those days. All right. So, people might call me Coach. I was not a coach. OK. Coach in the sense of today's coaching.

**Layla** [00:00:37] Right.

**Layla** [00:00:38] What, what would you call it. Like as a.

**Rosie** [00:00:41] Physical education teacher.

**Layla** [00:00:43] Okay. Right.

**Layla** [00:00:45] I saw because I saw a news article about the dolphins. Did you help...

**Rosie** [00:00:52] I was synchronized swimming instructor and gave shows and dolphins was the name of the swimming group. Oh, I guess so. That's where we got dolphins from. Yeah.

**Layla** [00:01:03] So you were a health and physical education.

**Rosie** [00:01:04] Health and physical education instructor.

**Layla** [00:01:07] OK. All right. But first I want to talk about you and the way your family setting growing up. How. How was it. Was it supportive and the like sports playing sports?

**Rosie** [00:01:26] I was the youngest of five three brothers and a sister and all my brothers were involved in athletics big football players and track and field and that sort of thing except for one, one and he became a doctor say he wasn't going to get dirty but so that was athletics is fine in my family. That was big thing and my mother my two parents were immigrants from Italy and so Italian was spoken at home dialect and, but my mother loved it when I got involved in sports, I don't know why she just got tuned into that. She thought it was the greatest thing so. Okay yes. So that was my background in Endicott New York is where I grew up. It's near the Pennsylvania border and you catch Kansas City Binghamton.

**Layla** [00:02:14] So sports is a big thing in your family.

**Rosie** [00:02:16] Well yeah. Because it was, we were very active kids were very active

**Layla** [00:02:23] How would you describe the way you were raised?

**Rosie** [00:02:29] Strictly.

**Rosie** [00:02:32] I had Italian parents you know no dating no and you know we had groups of people at the house teenagers. That was good. But in fact, I think I went to the senior prom and that was a big discussion before I went but did go because I was the youngest and my sister was the oldest that she was the ones that got me through some of these problems as far as socialization is concerned.

**Layla** [00:02:56] I completely get that. I was definitely raised strictly.

**Layla** [00:03:01] So did your family influence your choice to play a sport?

**Rosie** [00:03:07] Only that because my brothers played. And we all played together you know growing up because they were active, and I was active, so I guess so in a way.

**Layla** [00:03:22] How did playing sports affect your education and your personal life. Social life.

**Rosie** [00:03:30] Made me very outgoing. Leadership.

**Rosie** [00:03:37] I don't think I'm that competitive but maybe there's some competition that I'm not sure. I don't. I would not call myself competitive. I do my own thing. Question again? How would it influence...

**Layla** [00:03:49] How did sports playing sports affects your both your social life and your education.

**Rosie** [00:03:57] Social life I guess a lot of girlfriends, education had me go to college and have a major in health and physical education.

**Layla** [00:04:07] Yeah that's a huge life choice.

**Layla** [00:04:14] When you went to college, I know you said you went to...

**Rosie** [00:04:16] I went to Cortland.

**Layla** [00:04:20] What did you prioritize there?

**Rosie** [00:04:22] What was my major or what was I...

**Layla** [00:04:25] Um like what was important to you there?

**Rosie** [00:04:29] Social life. How did I get out of a home in free social life. I've always been outgoing and had a lot of friends. Female and male. However shy of males because of my background. I think that was basically it. And got involved in a lot of social life a lot of Physical Education. I was a major in physical education and health so that we had mixed classes and so forth which was good. So that was the social part.

**Layla** [00:05:03] Ok, so that was your major?

**Rosie** [00:05:04] Yes it was. That was my major in my bachelor's. But I did go on to master's in something else.

**Layla** [00:05:12] Ok, what did you master in?

**Rosie** [00:05:12] I went to University at Buffalo and had Master of Education with a not a minor but a concentration in counseling and international education.

**Layla** [00:05:23] I saw that.

**Rosie** [00:05:23] Did I write that down? Yeah, so but in education so I could go anywhere with that Masters.

**Rosie** [00:05:32] I went into administration and so forth.

**Layla** [00:05:35] OK that's amazing. What sports did you play?

**Rosie** [00:05:43] Where, in high school?

**Layla** [00:05:46] Sure we can talk about high school first.

**Rosie** [00:05:48] High school or do you but you don't have to talk about high school unless you want to.

**Layla** [00:05:50] No I want to!

**Rosie** [00:05:51] They actually our high school had an awful lot of things, softball, track, and field I did high jumping. Basketball, volleyball, stunts and tumbling.

**Rosie** [00:06:06] Swimming was not in our school. But we had a swimming pool next door outside, and I was a big swimmer. Hockey.

**Rosie** [00:06:17] Did I say soccer? I mean I think they; I think they had almost everything there in high school. And then college same thing. Because I was in physical education because we had everything. Yeah, you name it we had it. Yeah. Not that I was good in anything it was just that I was that I was a top athlete in high school and that's when you go to college because you think you're gonna be the top but when you get to college everybody was the top in high school.

**Rosie** [00:06:44] So you now became at a different level. But we were all pretty good.

**Layla** [00:06:49] Did you have a favorite?

**Rosie** [00:06:49] My favorite sport?

**Layla** [00:06:51] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:06:55] That's an interesting question. Not really. I had archery too. Just thought of that. Yeah. I'm not really favorite. I suppose I went swimming every day. I mean that was a big thing.

**Rosie** [00:07:11] I don't know. I can't really tell you, my favorite.

**Layla** [00:07:13] Okay. How long did you play for, sports in general?

**Rosie** [00:07:20] All through high school all through college. I mean after that did, did not.

**Rosie** [00:07:29] Well actually when I was at University of Buffalo, I taught tap dance for the first time,, so I was one, one day ahead of everyone have to learn. And that was not my, that's my big thing I had to teach it because no one else wanted it. So, I got it because I had a fellowship an assistantship at University at Buffalo. In other words, I taught in physical education and health and I also was able to get my masters. So, they gave me my masters and, but I had to teach also.

**Rosie** [00:08:00] It would be like an internship here. But we called I had an assistantship at school so that I was paid to go the University of Buffalo to get my masters because I had to teach. So, I could teach tap dance which was (poor people \*laughs\*) but it was just terrible.

**Layla** [00:08:17] Did you know how to tap dance?

**Rosie** [00:08:17] Absolutely not. All I knew was the basic shuffle or whatever.

**Layla** [00:08:26] That's kind of a lot.

**Rosie** [00:08:33] The challenges. Go ahead.

**Layla** [00:08:33] OK. How was it balancing your academics and your sports at the same time?

**Rosie** [00:08:42] Well I was a good student.

**Rosie** [00:08:45] I did my homework. Excuse me.

**Rosie** [00:08:51] I was a, as I said I was a good student. I hope. My classes were very important to me. I was not a nerd. You know I don't think I was. But there was a lot. It was a science basic, basically science major. That's what science means we had an anatomy, physiology, kinesiology all those things which took a lot of time. So, and I like the health area. So, I mean it was a lot of work. I like it is and I talked to a lot of students here and they're over the top you know you don't have time to anything but that was basically it. We had all the athletic events which for and a quarter time we've got a quarter of a credit. And which was quite... but we had we actually our curriculum was worse than the amount of regular of business but the regular academic majors if they weren't health and physical education, we had the worst time. Worst amount of time to, to spend with ourselves it was just constant, constant, the time and timing of health and physical education was really over the top. So. Then the academic then you go home and all we do this you know work till 3:00 in the morning and get up and start working. So now it is a lot here too, I talk to a lot of students who are over the top. It's a lot of work.

**Layla** [00:10:18] Have you talked to any PE students here?

**Rosie** [00:10:23] I haven't really, I haven't really gotten into their curriculum at all, but I suspect it's probably the same thing because you have to do a lot of physical education things along with your academic and. Always felt the academic is extremely important.

**Layla** [00:10:41] When you were at Brockport did you feel like there was a support system present for female athletes? Did you feel supported?

**Rosie** [00:10:55] Well I was here before Title IX, '72. It's never been equal. It's pretty bad. So, I'm trying to think if so if I wanted let's say the gymnasium for class, I was second rate. The men would get it first.

**Rosie** [00:11:14] Men were always scheduled first then the women. It's always been that way. When I went to teach after that in public school it was pretty bad as far as men and women. I had a Saturday activity Saturday and tomorrow's. I don't think the guys had Saturday in tomorrow's pick so we couldn't get on the courts or we couldn't get on the on the field or whatever because they were taken by the men. So, it was pretty bad then.

**Rosie** [00:11:39] But you know you think you think well that's the way it is and what can we do but it wasn't couldn't do anything about it. So. That was before, after I went to college and I was teaching public school which I did before I taught here.

**Layla** [00:11:53] Right. And um so they were there like they would have a place during a week and that's why had to do Saturday intramurals?

**Rosie** [00:12:03] Well because the gym was taken, or the field was taken. So there no way you know. And I remember then I'm thinking. And then after school it was always late. Men had it first. And then the women got it later. And I remember thinking this is ridiculous. You know we get the worst of the worst. And we don't get paid for it, it's part of it. It was our job. In other words, I taught at Troy High School it was one place I taught but okay. And I was thinking then I get a salary. I did not get extra for intramurals which were Saturday mornings and Saturday afternoons and after school on such and such a days because that's the way it was scheduled. So that was those days I think it's a little bit better now maybe not quite all the way.

**Layla** [00:13:01] Definitely not all the way. But definitely an improvement, but not all the way.

**Layla** [00:13:01] Can you tell me like how do I know this is very generic but how did that make you feel?

**Rosie** [00:13:18] Well I didn't like it. And as I said I was thinking I get a salary and includes all this extra time that I have to be. I mean I hardly had time for a social life basically. Saturday night Sunday. We had field not Field Days. Sports days but when we had competition between different schools, I was never I never consider myself a coach. This was a joke between my friends and me they would call me coach and I'd say, "stop calling me coach!" I just didn't like that word actually. But I wasn't coaching. We had our basketball team but, I, it was more like an intramural setting.

**Layla** [00:13:58] Right. And that's what when I talked to Charlie, he said it was more like intramural club fun for women that were playing as opposed to competitive sport.

**Rosie** [00:14:11] It was not a schedule of the role Brockport was going to play so and so, yeah, we're going to play them but it's not really who cares and then I remember all...I think this was high school it had to be high school, where I would umpire. We'd be playing softball against a team and I'd be the umpire. I mean this doesn't make sense, does it? Why should I be umpiring my team? But that's because that's how short you were in things. The emphasis was not on the high competition. I wanted to win but it wouldn't go through these crying out. Yay yay yay let's go.

**Layla** [00:15:06] How would you, cause you instructed the dolphins right? Was there a men's swimming team?

**Rosie** [00:15:11] This, interesting question. They had swimming.

**Rosie** [00:15:17] We had swimming comp; the Dolphins also had competition racing. The men had to have it. Of course, they did. Jim Fulton was the was the coach for...Jim Fulton was the person who had the men.

**Layla** [00:15:33] OK so how would you describe the way the Dolphins function as opposed to Jim Fulton's team.

**Rosie** [00:15:42] I I really don't even have a feeling about that. I mean I was happy, and I knew Jim Fulton who was fine.

**Rosie** [00:15:50] They were not sexless type of people, but you know what. Those days you just expected things to be a certain way and you didn't make complaints and if you did, they just went over somebody's head. So, I don't remember having any big deal with scheduling or anything with him. But I think probably we were put in at the late day late at day and they were put in the morning the same thing as on the field and so forth. We had the second choice. We just accepted it.

**Layla** [00:16:27] I know because you were before Title IX. So, I was gonna ask how did Title IX impact the experience but you never...you didn't....You weren't in doing sports. When Title IX came. Correct, or no?

**Rosie** [00:16:39] Seventy-two. No.

**Layla** [00:16:42] OK. Sorry, what were you gonna say?

**Rosie** [00:16:45] No Go ahead.

**Layla** [00:16:46] You 58 59 I saw. He was showing me (Charlie) the directory that's like what time were you specifically at Brockport? what years were you specifically at Brockport?

**Rosie** [00:16:55] 58 to 64.

**Layla** [00:16:56] Ok great. For the... What you instructed did you feel, not what you instructed, the I'm talking the sports the intramural what you did...

**Layla** [00:17:10] Did you feel like there was a community type, like almost family bonding kind of?

**Rosie** [00:17:19] With the participants?

**Rosie** [00:17:23] Well of course when you're on a team. Yeah. Same thing here. If you have an intramural team, you get together with your buddies and so forth you play. Yeah. Yeah, yeah of course. I remember in high school I mean my best friends were the ones that were on the sports. They're. Like they're still today. I had contact with. Her name is Josie, and I was Rosie. So, she was this high and I was this high...I lost four inches by the way I was five eleven and half I had back surgery. So, they call it Josie and Rosie and so

her actually her granddaughter went to school here and graduated last year. So, I had contact with her, but I never saw her. Because she said having a few physical problems.

**Layla** [00:18:05] Josie?

**Rosie** [00:18:05] Josie yeah. Rosie is doing okay.

**Layla** [00:18:09] I like that I live with Josie Rosie, it's cute.

**Layla** [00:18:11] Oh Dr. Leslie wanted me to well he didn't want me to ask but he said bring up sending back varsity club jackets.

**Rosie** [00:18:28] I knew he would, I knew he would. He interviewed me a long time ago. And this was a big thing with him.

**Rosie** [00:18:36] The women in Brockport on the teams would buy the men's jackets from the stores so they were.... I didn't like it. Because I'm a big feminine type of person and otherwise I would tell my team get out there I don't care if you win or lose.

**Rosie** [00:18:56] But I want you to look nice. That was my big thing. I want you look nice. In other words,...play a good game. Don't. Don't change your tactics to be like the men's. But they were them, they bought the men's jackets which threw me off the wall and I went to the bookstore where they were selling them, I said don't sell any of the women men's jackets. So, he remembered... that's a big thing. Because I remember telling him that and he went "WHAT!" I said yeah that's the way I was. And that's before a gay lesbian even came into mind. It's interesting because when I went to college where there were a lot of physical education majors that were women today, I know a number of them were gay.

**Rosie** [00:19:41] But I didn't know then because the word was homosexual, and I just never even used the word. It was not part of our vocabulary. But it was not part of mine either here is just that I liked the women to be feminine. That was my big thing. Rather than have the persona of the men's teams.

**Rosie** [00:20:01] That's, that's basically what it was. But yeah, it was a big deal.

**Layla** [00:20:04] So why did you want them to really be into their femininity?

**Rosie** [00:20:10] Because they were women. And I was brought up well that's the way I was brought up, you're a girl, you're a woman and my brothers were men. And that was that was the big not big thing but that's the way I was brought up. So as far as gay and lesbian homosexuality that wasn't even in the, it wasn't even in the spectrum. It was more of acting like you were born a woman you act like a woman you respect people you answer the same way, if you're a guy you may use harsher words but that's sort of accepted but you're not going to. So that's basically it. Do you understand that?

**Layla** [00:20:52] Yeah no I get what you're saying kind of like carry yourself...

**Rosie** [00:20:52] Be proud of yourself as who you are. And well today if you're gay or lesbian I could care less. But if you are, carry yourself as one. But, but in those days as I said it didn't even cross my mind. It was more of the gender of being a woman and what a woman should be.

**Layla** [00:21:16] Right.

**Rosie** [00:21:16] That's probably so old fashioned isn't fun. And I'm still the same way. Even the way I dress. Actually, I have I have to go to PT after this. That's why I have an appointment and so that's why I'm dressed this way. Otherwise, otherwise. But I don't wear skirts all the time. But I would love to wear skirts all the time.

**Layla** [00:21:35] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:21:35] But it's too cold.

**Layla** [00:21:37] I know it's freezing oh my god.

**Layla** [00:21:40] Yeah no I, I get it. I know I'm dressed in all black but usually I like to.... I know that, okay we already talked about that....

**Layla** [00:22:03] Your co-workers at Brockport/colleagues. You know. How were they, how was the environment with them?

**Rosie** [00:22:11] It's fantastic. Yeah. Do you know that Rose Draser dance studio here?

**Layla** [00:22:18] The dance studio?

**Rosie** [00:22:19] Yeah. It's called the Ross Draser dance studio. It's in Hartwell.

**Layla** [00:22:23] It's in Hartwell, yeah, yeah, yeah, I pass by it all the time.

**Rosie** [00:22:23] But you know where it is?

**Layla** [00:22:26] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:22:26] Have you been in there?

**Layla** [00:22:27] Not in.

**Rosie** [00:22:29] Okay well then, it's hard for me to explain this so I'm going to use this. So, here's the studio right. Entrance is here to go into the studio to go to see a dance thing. My office was there.

**Rosie** [00:22:45] In my office with the head of women's physical education. And actually, one of my roommates who was also phys. ed. teacher. Next door was Ross dresser. And so, this place she was a dance teacher. So, this whole room was named after her. And this every time I tell this story everyone goes "you gotta be kidding".

**Rosie** [00:23:04] If you went into this door from the outside went downstairs there's two bowling alleys and a swimming pool.

**Layla** [00:23:10] Oh wow.

**Rosie** [00:23:12] It's still there. Yeah. Swimming pool might not be have water in it but that's where we had synchronized swimming to begin with. With no windows it's like a room like this but bigger with a pool in the center. And about that much space for people to

watch the synchronized swimming. It was a tough one. Then we had two bowling alleys and I also taught bowling, throw that one in too. We had two bowling alleys down there. Yeah.

**Layla** [00:23:37] How was teaching bowling?

**Rosie** [00:23:37] Oh I love bowling so that was a big deal. So anyway, we got so cool ok. Who was I with? I was. There were three of us in the office. Which was fine. Because we didn't need much space. And so that's where my office was and, and often there were classes always in here so in order to leave to go let's say out to somewhere else I would go this way.

**Rosie** [00:24:06] While classes are in session and so you have to walk from my office this way and out.

**Rosie** [00:24:12] And often there were smiles et cetera.

**Layla** [00:24:16] Yeah. Oh that's good.

**Layla** [00:24:17] Did you work with any men teachers?

**Rosie** [00:24:21] Oh yeah. And then the men's offices were right here. The head of men's department, they're all in physical education. People were basically most of them were in the same area we had offices which are now no longer there anymore. But along here the men's physical education director was there I taught trampoline with one of the men. We had a class which is men and women.

**Layla** [00:24:48] Trampoline?

**Rosie** [00:24:49] It was, should say gymnastics but there was a trampoline in it.

**Layla** [00:24:54] I'm sorry I didn't mean to cut off.

**Rosie** [00:24:55] You know what a trampoline is?

**Layla** [00:24:56] Yeah, no I do.

**Rosie** [00:24:56] Yeah but that's what I think of when I think of Marty Rogers.

**Rosie** [00:25:01] He's not alive now. So yeah, he might have one of the boys say demonstrate something and then the girl and then everybody else should try it.

**Rosie** [00:25:16] You're sending me way back in my memory now.

**Layla** [00:25:19] Good. I'm glad. If you think of anything you wanna say, please do. Were there ever any issues with your coworkers?

**Rosie** [00:25:34] I can't remember. You know I'm pretty easy going.

**Rosie** [00:25:38] Until something happens, I guess. We had the women's department. There was a men's department, but we got along. In fact, we often had as I recall now that

I'm thinking we had meetings together. So, if we had like a department meeting it would be the men and women together. Marty Rogers was our director.

**Rosie** [00:25:58] He was so he was the head of the whole thing. Then my head. I'm trying to think of the name of my boss. Can't think of it at this moment.

**Layla** [00:26:07] The athletic director?

**Rosie** [00:26:07] But the women's had a physical education...we didn't call them athletic directors then.

**Rosie** [00:26:12] That was, we never called them that.

**Layla** [00:26:15] Oh athletic directors?

**Rosie** [00:26:16] No, Physical Education Director. Director of physical education, director of athletics maybe. Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:26:25] But a little different terminology.

**Layla** [00:26:27] Yeah cause when I was reading past interviews, they were bringing up like several past athletic directors, but I think the first one that was brought up was...

**Rosie** [00:26:38] Yeah give me the name. Maybe it was the person who hired me.

**Layla** [00:26:43] Yungberg.

**Rosie** [00:26:43] No I didn't know that name.

**Layla** [00:26:44] No ok so that's later.

**Rosie** [00:26:45] No that's before.

**Layla** [00:26:48] Oh before. Where are you. Well first Yungberg then I got Panaggio.

**Rosie** [00:26:54] Panaggio!

**Rosie** [00:26:54] OK. Back farther, that's back farther than me.

**Rosie** [00:26:59] They are older than I.

**Layla** [00:27:01] What about Crawford?

**Rosie** [00:27:02] Crawford?

**Layla** [00:27:02] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:27:03] No.

**Layla** [00:27:04] Those are the only three names I know.

**Rosie** [00:27:06] Okay.

**Layla** [00:27:06] Yeah.

**Layla** [00:27:13] Were there any challenges teaching and...

**Rosie** [00:27:17] Everything was a challenge. No, I took it very seriously. It was all challenging as I said I was a, in a way an academic. Had to do things just right. Classes were always planned was never going to see what we'd want to do you know. So, I mean I had lesson plans and a lot of work. I'd say most people work that way. I'm thinking. Because you never know.

**Rosie** [00:27:45] Because everyone's different. Like some people can do something faster than someone else. I was very meticulous and specific in my lesson plans.

**Layla** [00:27:54] Right.

**Rosie** [00:27:55] And I would write him out even though I taught the class maybe before...didn't matter. I had specific lesson plans.

**Layla** [00:28:05] So you kind of went above and beyond?

**Rosie** [00:28:08] No... I mean I figured everybody did that.

**Layla** [00:28:10] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:28:11] That's the way I was brought up. Cortland was an excellent, excellent school. Ot still is but I can't talk too much about it because people will say I'm at Brockport now. Which is okay.

**Layla** [00:28:24] Youre right. No that's okay.

**Layla** [00:28:27] Cortland, so what you say it's an excellent school. What did you like about it?

**Rosie** [00:28:37] Cortland?

**Layla** [00:28:37] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:28:37] I'm still on a committee there, I'm on a committee there. So, I go back there. It's just an outstanding school. Outstanding instructors. Kids were great.

**Rosie** [00:28:52] There was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed it.

**Layla** [00:28:54] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:28:55] As every college should be.

**Layla** [00:28:57] Right. Yeah, every college should be, because some people find they go to college and they don't like theirs.

**Rosie** [00:29:04] Get involved. You gotta get involved. I was very involved; it was like student council. I did all those things that you're supposed to do.

**Layla** [00:29:14] That's great.

**Rosie** [00:29:32] With the swimming? Dolphins was a swimming team. Then there was synchronized swimming. Two different things. Because the swimmers, the racers were not necessarily synchronized swimmers.

**Layla** [00:29:43] Right. So, did you work with both?

**Rosie** [00:29:45] Yeah. The Dolphins was the racing same, they were racing against other schools or like a....play day. Now all I can think of is the word play day. Have you ever heard that term?

**Layla** [00:30:03] Play day?

**Rosie** [00:30:03] Yeah. That's what that's what they were when we played another school. We're gonna have a play day. that was in high school play day with, with let's say Holly. Yeah. So we'll play softball with them and that's a competition but see it wasn't this big thing of so-and-so. And it's never in a paper and never made the paper you know. Saying that we played other schools.

**Layla** [00:30:29] Was that because it was...

**Rosie** [00:30:30] No its just it never it wasn't that important quote unquote.

**Layla** [00:30:34] Right.

**Layla** [00:30:35] What was the differences with synchronized swimming and the racing?

**Rosie** [00:30:39] Well synchronized swimming. Do you know what synchronized swimming is? That's like a ballet and water that's entirely different technique.

**Layla** [00:30:48] Was it easy to do like instruct both? Or was one more difficult than the other?

**Rosie** [00:30:51] Well different times.

**Rosie** [00:30:55] I mean they were not the same people they could be the same people but not necessarily. So, think of the dolphins as being a swimmer competent competitive swim team then the synchronized swimming. We did ballet in the water basically. Now I'm going to tell you something else that's different for you. OK. All right you know Tuttle north and south. OK I always forget which one is which. But anyway, you go up the ramp and so you can either go right to where they play basketball, or you can go left and there's another building and ones South. I think that's South. I don't know why anyway, the one on the left. All right so you go on the one on the left and as you go into the building to your right there's a door. If you open that door. That was the synchronized, that was the swimming pool. It's no longer a swimming pool. The swimming pool is underneath the floor. If you go in there, there's windows all over because that was the pool, that was the one that I had synchronized swimming shows in also. So, because pools have been changed so, so that has a pool underneath the floor, which is used as a probably dance studio now, I don't know. Now you go underneath there, there are windows, and you can see people swimming underneath the water. It was under the water. So, in my

synchronized swimming I could go down there and see how someone what someone is doing down there to do a particular stunt above the water. So, if you were let's say a new student or couldn't figure out a certain thing didn't know what to do with your hands, I'd take you down below. Have somebody up above do that particular stunt. And, and you could see how the hands are going to. So, there you have it. See that I'm teaching you all this stuff you don't know anything about the place. All these new things. But there's been a lot of changes.

**Layla** [00:32:53] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:32:53] So that's there. And most people don't know that. But we know that there's no water in it now. But it's just covering the old pool. They have a new pool now with just so many pools goes from one place to another.

**Layla** [00:33:05] Right.

**Rosie** [00:33:09] How did I get off on that track, you asked me something. Oh, the swimming between the Dolphins and the synchronized swimming the two different things.

**Layla** [00:33:16] Yeah two different things. OK. Right.

**Layla** [00:33:20] OK. What was it like to lead them? To instruct them?

**Rosie** [00:33:30] What was it like to instruct them?

**Layla** [00:33:33] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:33:34] Like anything else. Like any other thing that I was teaching I knew I was more of a racer, I was a poor synchronized swimmer. But I'm a choreography. Choreographer. I called it natography because "nato" comes from water. Natography. So i'm, I mean I loved choreography, so I did a lot of dance choreography and back.... ask that question again because I just lost my train of thought.

**Rosie** [00:34:04] Oh what was it like to.... So, the dolphin. So, this was I was a racer so I could teach them technique. And that's what I taught in a technique to racing it saying Be faster whatever you do don't take a breath every time and all that some stuff tough to do a turn. All sense go with reason. Synchronized swimming was teaching ballet in water. So, in other words I'm saying ok we're going to do something where you lift your leg up you know and stick it up above the air. Then in order to keep that leg up there without sinking you have to do this on the side. So, I mean that was teaching there so they didn't meet at the same times because I couldn't be both places at the same time so different.

**Layla** [00:34:47] Right.

**Rosie** [00:34:48] But the same pool was used. You know I might have dolphins. I had no idea it was too long ago. I might have dolphins from 3 to 4 and synchronized swimming from 4 to 5. Could be that they were in both.

**Layla** [00:35:01] Oh yeah like an overlap.

**Rosie** [00:35:03] Could be there in both. Some of the same students. And no they were I know a lot of were. So, we had shows every year. And I just a little aside.

**Rosie** [00:35:15] The girls choreography did the choreography of all of the routines except for the last number, and I did that one because that was with the whole group. It was a finale. But just a little story there. My thing was, all right now if you can't swim, let me come tonight at the show. I will substitute. And basically, it was with the we always started with the officer's duet.

**Rosie** [00:35:47] Because the president, we had officers in the synchronized swimming club. So that's the one I would substitute for. And I never wanted one of them to get sick because I couldn't do the darn routine because I wasn't practicing the stuff. I might have helped them with the choreography. So, one night, a girl couldn't go in. "You're on Ms. Lasorte", Ms. Lasorte, my name was Lasorte. "You're on Ms. Lasorte". I said oh crap. It was just I was dying but I did it. I was dying. I mean my college my roommates that I taught with, they taught well there were a number of us who lived together on camp when I was teaching here. They were, I could hear them yelling and screaming and saying, "there goes Rosie, look at her feet". They said my feet were horrible. Oh God, they kept me laughing and I'm in this pool trying to catch my breath and trying to get a leg up in the air which I couldn't do. So anyway, so I had to substitute once.

**Layla** [00:36:50] That's...wow that's a good story. I couldn't imagine my coach having to jump in.

**Rosie** [00:36:55] It was awful.

**Layla** [00:36:58] But now that I'm thinking when I danced if any, no I don't think...

**Rosie** [00:37:01] So what would happen if someone couldn't dance?

**Layla** [00:37:02] If someone got sick, we did take dancers from other classes that maybe weren't in that class already and we would quickly teach them the choreo.

**Rosie** [00:37:11] It has to be though the night of your performance, what would you do then? Would you do it without having that spot on the floor?

**Layla** [00:37:19] Yes, most of the time you just do it.

**Rosie** [00:37:22] Well you can't do that in the water.

**Layla** [00:37:24] Right, I was gonna say it's completely different.

**Rosie** [00:37:24] No, not for a duet.

**Layla** [00:37:24] No yeah, wow. So, you learned it in one night?

**Rosie** [00:37:29] Well I, I knew all of them!

**Layla** [00:37:32] Oh you knew them.

**Rosie** [00:37:33] Of course I know everything. I mean I; we were training for; I knew every bit of choreography. I knew it all, in fact I helped with the choreography.

**Rosie** [00:37:41] Now this story off the line. I did choreography and we did Guys and Dolls at the college and did that come up at anything any time with Charlie Cowling?

**Layla** [00:37:51] Guys and Dolls? No, I didn't see that.

**Rosie** [00:37:52] Ok we did Guys and Dolls. I choreographed Guys and Dolls. It won an award to go to Europe. Because they were lacking some funds, they said to me, "you could go but only if you can do the piano score". So that because once someone's playing the piano during guys and gals it was not a recording.

**Layla** [00:38:15] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:38:17] It was. I played the piano but not that good and I couldn't so I couldn't go. I couldn't do the score. So, we no, so I was responsible for the choreography of that show that went overseas. Yeah, that was in the yearbook too, Charlie knows about that. They should know about it.

**Layla** [00:38:33] Yeah. He showed me the yearbook, but it was um, I can't remember which year it was.

**Rosie** [00:38:37] Well it has to be a 60' 62'. Might have been the year. And there's a 62.

**Layla** [00:38:44] Yeah. There's a picture of you and three other guys.

**Rosie** [00:38:50] And I'm standing, I'm tall, 5'11 and a half. I was taller than they were! At the drinking fountain. And there's another one with my class. Did he show you that one with our freshman class and health?

**Layla** [00:39:03] No I didn't see that one.

**Rosie** [00:39:04] We had the course was in the basement of Hartwell, they were short, at that time there were an awful lot of students we had no trouble getting people here and we had very few places to teach. So, I was put in the basement of Hartwell. And there's a picture there's two pictures actually. But they always show the one where I'm standing at the desk and I'm just up because I was just in and the whole class just might like this room squeezed in like crazy. These people looking up at me like this. And on the windowsill, they're sitting on the windowsill inside because there were no seats. And there's one girl in the class. These were vets. A lot of them were vets. We had the war all right. And these were vets who got G.I. bills and that, so they came back down, and they were given they were given free schooling right. So anyway, so the class I had was that Saturday morning at 8:00. Who gave me the worst class going, people smelling a beer et cetera.

**Rosie** [00:40:16] And I would go into the classroom and there'd be a note on the board, "Ms. Lasorte, we'll be very good today". And I was the same age they were if not younger. In many cases, because they were vets, and I was like twenty-two twenty-three. So "Ms. Lasorte we'll be very good today. There's a game at eleven, get us out of here". You know they wanted to go to the football game or something. So, they do things like that. And one time I was teaching the most boring, boring unit ever it was called rest and relaxation. I mean I would've fallen asleep in class. And the poor little girl was in class. They put a box underneath her seat which she didn't see, in it was an alarm clock set at a particular time. And it went off in the middle of class and it was hysterical.

**Rosie** [00:41:05] And I had trouble because I was trying to maintain my composure because I was the teacher. And that was one of my problems was I was the teacher, and they were students. That was that was my demeanor in most cases. So, I was the teacher, and they were the student and especially because I was so young. And you know you can have kids you tell them you're probably 18-19 years old and I was 22-23. There's not much difference.

**Layla** [00:41:33] Right, not really.

**Rosie** [00:41:35] I taught sex education. To vets.

**Rosie** [00:41:40] To men. And, I was not married.

**Rosie** [00:41:43] They'd ask questions and how do you like how do you know this business. I'd say shut up and read your book. It was a challenge.

**Rosie** [00:41:54] I'm getting out of the sports but I'm in the health area now.

**Layla** [00:41:57] That's okay. So was that....

**Layla** [00:42:06] I guess we should stay...I'm thinking sorry. No, I want to ask like because, sex education, that was new? Was that new when you were teaching?

**Rosie** [00:42:12] Well I was teaching majors.

**Rosie** [00:42:19] I was teaching physical education health majors. In other words, they would have to teach this.

**Layla** [00:42:24] Right.

**Rosie** [00:42:25] So that's why I'm teaching these different units which they would have to teach when they got a job. Most of the...in fact I probably taught maybe a couple of general education classes like volleyball or soccer or something like that. But most of the classes I taught were majors. So, when I taught them let's say hockey. They learned technique how to teach. How to have their hockey when they're out on a job or volleyball or synchronized swimming or any of those things. So it wasn't, their majors. Do you understand that?

**Layla** [00:42:59] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:43:00] Like what is your major?

**Layla** [00:43:01] History.

**Rosie** [00:43:02] All right. So, if you're going to become a history teacher. Probably, well I don't know if they do it the same now but because these were majors that means I taught them as potential teachers to teach that particular subject whether it's volleyball field hockey archery whatever. And that's what I learned when I was at Cortland.

**Layla** [00:43:25] Right. And it was a teacher, teaching, a Teachers College.

**Rosie** [00:43:30] So was this.

**Layla** [00:43:32] Yeah. No, I meant sorry I meant Brockport was a Teacher's College.

**Rosie** [00:43:34] Yeah and so was Cortland.

**Layla** [00:43:35] OK.

**Rosie** [00:43:36] All the SUNY. They had different majors, different things.

**Layla** [00:43:39] So everyone that went there was becoming a teacher?

**Rosie** [00:43:44] A teacher, yeah. And right now, the class of 63' of which I was an advisor has a scholarship to students here who are going to become teachers.

**Rosie** [00:43:59] This is, you're learning an awful lot today. You're getting a lot of stuff in. And there was no tuition.

**Layla** [00:44:06] Oh it was free?

**Rosie** [00:44:09] Mhm. SUNY system was free. So, I paid no tuition at all. Nor did people when they came to Brockport pay any tuition, and then they started paying tuition.... I'd say in the 70's. Later in the 70s I think but it wasn't very much. I'm not clear on that so I don't have that exactly. But there was no tuition.

**Layla** [00:44:31] You went to you UB right after?

**Rosie** [00:44:34] Yeah.

**Layla** [00:44:34] Did you have...was there tuition?

**Rosie** [00:44:35] I went to UB after I taught at Troy high school.

**Layla** [00:44:38] Right.

**Rosie** [00:44:39] Yeah. Oh wait. No, they gave it. I had an assistantship they made me pay. They paid for my courses. So, they paid me to teach, and I could get my courses for my masters. The same type and I think an assistantship probably does that too.

**Layla** [00:44:58] Yeah. Yup, yup they still do that.

**Rosie** [00:44:58] So it's the same type of thing.

**Layla** [00:45:00] Mhm. Okay.

**Rosie** [00:45:03] So the internships, they didn't call them interns then.

**Layla** [00:45:07] Right, it was like graduate assistants.

**Layla** [00:45:09] Yeah. For so Brockport, the campus culture. What was that like?

**Layla** [00:45:16] Like. Between Yeah. What was that like?

**Rosie** [00:45:22] Don't forget I'm a teacher right.

**Layla** [00:45:24] OK. Yes. As a teacher.

**Rosie** [00:45:29] Mostly at that time really was teacher - student. It was not teacher student together. It was that same tense. Type of thing. So today a lot of you call your professors by first names. The only time they call us by first name is behind our back. There was a lot of respect in other words just and I'm not saying you don't have respect now. But it's just entirely different. Things have changed a lot you know we're talking about how many years ago how many years ago, 70 years ago. 50 60. Yeah, it's a long time ago.

**Layla** [00:46:08] What made you want to get into this field of physical education?

**Rosie** [00:46:19] Because I was an athlete, I was an athlete in high school I was good. I was going to become a teacher anyway. Because my family were teachers as background in my family.

**Rosie** [00:46:29] So I want to become a math teacher. So, I went to Albany State Teachers College. The day I went for my, the day you go for your interview or whatever it is. Pouring, pouring rain. And to get from one place to another you had to go outside, and I said to myself I will never ever go to school that has this type of weather. So, then I went to Cortland and interviewed for my health and physical education. It was a fantastic, beautiful day. We stayed overnight, all the girls who were interviewing who were applying. We stayed in the hotel. We had a fantastic time. I said this is it. We had the worst snowstorm going. I didn't get home twice because of snowstorms.

**Rosie** [00:47:12] And that goes back to the Albany thing when I said I would never go to school with this terrible weather. I went to the worst school with the snow.

**Rosie** [00:47:19] Yeah. So yeah. So, no I was an athlete that's when you know that was what I had two, one was mathematics, mathematics teacher because I was good at math because I was a student. I was really a student in high school and college. You know dean's list and all that crap.

**Layla** [00:47:37] Yeah, you took your education seriously.

**Layla** [00:47:47] Did you, did you teach math?

**Rosie** [00:47:49] No. I taught health.

**Layla** [00:47:56] Sorry.

**Rosie** [00:47:58] It's okay.

**Layla** [00:47:58] So. Is there anything else you want to say about your time at Brockport?

**Rosie** [00:48:11] Is this all about Brockport?

**Layla** [00:48:15] It's about women. Well. Yeah.

**Layla** [00:48:21] Yeah. Women, sports, Brockport.

**Rosie** [00:48:23] In Brockport?

**Layla** [00:48:24] Yeah.

**Rosie** [00:48:26] Okay. Cause I have other things but not Brockport.

**Layla** [00:48:28] Well, no anything. Anything in general that you wanna say please.

**Rosie** [00:48:31] Then you're gonna really get into a talk here.

**Layla** [00:48:34] Okay.

**Rosie** [00:48:34] I went overseas.

**Layla** [00:48:36] Right. Yes. Charlie told me that.

**Rosie** [00:48:39] OK. So, I finished UB, University of Buffalo. I was at Troy then I went to University of Buffalo got my master's. Then.

**Rosie** [00:48:53] There's nobody in Brockport. And then I got the job at Brockport in 1958. That's right because Buffalo was of fifty-seven, I got my masters. Okay so fifty-eight. So, while I'm at Brockport I got a call from New York City.

**Rosie** [00:49:09] And they said your name has been given to us as someone who might be interested in going to Beirut, Lebanon to start a program and health and physical education for the first time for women and this will go into your women thing.

**Layla** [00:49:21] Yes.

**Rosie** [00:49:21] For women with no facilities, no budget, no equipment. I said terrific. I'll be there, where's Beirut? This was in 1964. I said where's Beirut? I'd thought they were talking about Bayreuth, Germany. I was single and sure, and I was very, I am one of those people "you want to go, want to drive to Canada right now?" "Yeah, let's go!" That's me right. So, I had to tell my mother I was leaving the country which was a little tough because she left her country coming here and I'm going to now go over there. This was, so I had to promise her I'll be back every year in the summer, which I did. It was tough for her. My father wanted; my father was the person who loved what I was doing. He was the person who probably encouraged me to be independent and all that sort of stuff. Anyway, so I went to Beirut. And yes, there was no budget, no facilities, no equipment, I had nothing. So, I built fields and it's a long story I wrote a book. So, I built fields and all these things and did all this stuff and I found that I had no equipment. So, I was borrowing a tennis racket and borrowing this type of thing and I built a field, I built tennis courts, I didn't build personally but I had them built. And I ordered all this equipment I had to order it from the United States because of the American University of Beirut. It would take a year. And then I thought jeez I'm going to have a head. I was able to without any equipment, or anything have nine. I'd start teaching right away all of the females. All the female women. But none of none of this stuff things being built and so forth, it was quite a challenge. I loved it. Challenge unbelievable challenge. So, to make a long story very short. I knew a lot of equipment was coming in because I would have twenty-one, twenty-two activities after I get the equipment that I would be teaching.

**Rosie** [00:51:20] Opening those boxes etc. I said, so I came Brockport and I suggested why don't we have a student teacher come over, have a student teacher come over to help me. I won't pay her way, but I'll get her free room and board. And get her classes so she can take courses also. So, I had a student teacher come over the second year I was there. Worked out very, very well and she unpacked the boxes etc. And she went back and then back here and then I had another student teacher come over the next year. And.

**Rosie** [00:51:54] To continue the program. So that was the end of that would be and the three years. And it worked out beautifully because I taught them everything that they missed here as far as their physical education and health. And I mean for them it was a fantastic opportunity. Think about it.

**Layla** [00:52:09] Yeah, I bet.

**Rosie** [00:52:11] So at the end... is it getting cold in here or is it me? It is getting, they did turn the heat down. They turned the heat down now.

**Layla** [00:52:17] I'm sorry.

**Rosie** [00:52:19] I'll live. It was hot over there over a hundred degrees one time. So anyway, at the end of three years my contract was up. And so, I had set things up, advertised that my job was open. So, I got all these letters from people who wanted my job. Then the day as I turn in my letter to the president saying that "thank you very much it's been a good three years etc.", I got a phone call from. In fact, I handed that letter at 9:00 in the morning. I put it in the campus mail to go to the president of the college to tell him I'm not gonna be here anymore. 9:30 I got a call from the president's office from his secretary saying,

**Rosie** [00:53:01] "There's a meeting at 5 o'clock. Cancel all your classes. You have to be here."

**Rosie** [00:53:06] I've had meetings before. I mean it wasn't one of those things, "I wanna know what it is!". It just, you know one of those things. I had to be there. I had some sort of thing. And I had a student teacher. Take my class. So, it was easy. So, I went to the meeting. And went into the conference room with the president's office and a huge table bigger than this room with seven men sitting around it. Men that I had seen before some I knew personally; they were all professors. I was the only woman. "What are we doing here?" "I don't know". We just had no idea why we were there. In then in walks the president of the college with a person from the American embassy. And the person from the American embassy said, "What we're going to talk about....is classified. If you don't want to be here leave, please". That was it. Are you kidding me? Are you gonna leave? I wanna know what's going on!

**Layla** [00:54:11] No yeah.

**Rosie** [00:54:13] So nobody left. He says, "everything's classified also between us all". Not those two because at the top. But that eight of us, "eight of you are gonna be responsible for the evacuation of the five thousand Americans who were in Beirut in the event that we're in a war because there's some rumbling going across borders between Israel and Syria". So.

**Rosie** [00:54:39] Maybe it lasted maybe an hour. We were given our jobs. And. Can't talk to anybody. Can't talk to my student teachers.

**Rosie** [00:54:50] Teacher. This is the day I sent in my resignation. It was a Monday. And, two weeks later, on a Monday, I had a call. Saying the war has started.

**Rosie** [00:55:12] Phase one or phase two. Whatever, we had these phases. We knew what we're supposed to do. And that was a Monday, I was on the last plane out on Wednesday. And I'm making it very short because you're gonna read my book.

**Layla** [00:55:32] I am!

**Rosie** [00:55:34] You're gonna read my book.

**Layla** [00:55:34] Yeah I am.

**Rosie** [00:55:35] So this is only part of the book. This is the end of the book. All the others is how I set up my programs. But this is so I'm giving you a very short version of this. So, I went to Cypress.

**Rosie** [00:55:50] Sounds romantic, doesn't it? It was, it was beautiful. Actually, I was taken to Athens, Greece and then we had made a pact about 40 of us made a pact to wherever you're, because you never knew where anybody was going. Wherever you go let's meet in Cyprus.

**Rosie** [00:56:08] So about, went to Athens and got to Cyprus and there we were, a group of us who all know each other. And during that time.

**Rosie** [00:56:21] Was the director of a school next to us which was like a high school, we would call it a high school, it was called International College they call it like America. So, your Beirut was a university and college was a high school level. And he said "Rosie", he says, "why don't you come (it was an all-boys school). I'm thinking about bringing women in, how about becoming our Dean of Women?" I said "Well it depends what's going on. I hadn't been back to Beirut yet, I don't know if we're gonna get back!" 3 weeks, 3 weeks it took us to get back. I got the first plane back, so it was I got the last plane out, first plane back was a three-week time when... nobody got back. I mean people stayed a lot of people did not want to be evacuated but only Americans. Americans. We were responsible for 5000 Americans to be evacuated, not all of them wanted to go but basically it was about 5000 then. Canada had their own evacuation. Britain had their own evacuation, all these, but the locals stayed in Beirut. As it was the war did not come to Beirut.

**Rosie** [00:57:32] During that time. So, we got back and found out that the people wanted my job didn't want and didn't want to come to Beirut. This place that's a war zone. So, all the people who wanted my job said forget it.

**Rosie** [00:57:50] It took me three years to plan this program. And now what do I have? Nothing. So, I promised to say on the fourth year without any student teachers. Teaching 22 different activities etc. And I also took the job of Dean of Women at the same time with these women coming in. You talk about the difference in women and different things, I don't know if you wanna hear, but the differences I had over there. You talking about differences. The men's field, gorgeous, beautiful field overlooking the Mediterranean. I have pictures of it. And I had to build my own little area because they had never taught

health and physical education before, I got there to the women. So, and women were different there. And it'll explain this in the book too. You've probably heard that in different Arab countries that the women are not treated very well and so forth. So, I went through all that stuff. So, I mean that's my book and I'm going to send it to you. On your email. Because two years ago I gave my last big talk here and they taped me, and they put it on a computer. So, it's online so I will give you the link and you'll either be able to read it online, download it on your Kindle, or watch me for an hour and a half in living color.

**Rosie** [00:59:22] I haven't even watched myself on it.

**Layla** [00:59:23] Oh you watch it?

**Rosie** [00:59:25] Watch me. So, the three ways you can do it you can do all three if you want.

**Layla** [00:59:30] Oh ok.

**Rosie** [00:59:34] What I'll do is send you the link and I'll say...

**Rosie** [00:59:37] Answer me if you get this because I've had a little problem lately with, I don't know what is either my computer or something else where they don't get the message until I send it in a couple of times, but I think because I haven't sent in since last week I think you'll probably get it right away. So, and there's also a book. It's also and I think they have it in the library.

**Layla** [00:59:59] Yeah. I was gonna ask, is it in book form?

**Rosie** [01:00:01] Oh yeah. I gave about twenty-three talks. Sold and, and self-published. It's just a paperback. Got some pictures in there. But it's an interesting story. If you have time to read it, it's a, if you read it straight through it be three hours and 15 minutes. If you read it straight through. But you don't. Sometimes you can what you can do is you want to go to the back first go then in the back is where I talked about the war. I wouldn't go there first because I think to talk about the Arabs culture and so forth before that to right and how I set up my program.

**Layla** [01:00:38] Right. So, when you did when you became you were the dean.

**Rosie** [01:00:43] Dean of women, with a very small group of women.

**Layla** [01:00:46] Right.

**Rosie** [01:00:46] I think we had 40 maybe.

**Layla** [01:00:48] Wow. Ok. And um you didn't have like a field or there was a small field?

**Rosie** [01:00:54] No I had no where. Oh, I'm sorry. Here's American University of Beirut. Here's International college.

**Rosie** [01:01:01] It's a gate goes through to the International College, right next to it. So, I didn't teach physical education over there. I was the dean of women. Different. Dean of Women for women who are not treated as you would think that women should be treated but the ones that want to become educated. But a lot of them... were matched with a man

maybe 10 to 15 years older than they to get married that they didn't know. This will be also in the book. So. So. But I did with them with things like teas, how to be a Woman. How to entertain in your home, how to pour the tea, how to make the tea. But we had a social activity, I tried a social activity with men didn't work too well. Because they're not supposed to date. But I had a huge thing that was very, very proud of when I was there. I had a... I can't remember what I call them. But that'll be in the book too. I can't remember how many. I think I had twelve different, twelve different occupations, secretary, baker. nurse. All the jobs I can think of that a woman could do. And I had representatives from all those areas to come and I had a whole day of a workshop. That the students can listen to all these jobs and they would go to all that to all, not just one that they wanna go to and it was really the first time anybody ever did that in Beirut. And I got some other schools to come and join us and so forth. Excuse me they had a woman's college in Beirut.

**Rosie** [01:02:59] I haven't read my book lately. I read my book when I have to give a talk at the last talk, I gave was it with a book club and it was about four months ago. But the one I did here was....

**Rosie** [01:03:12] Was I think a year and a half ago. I can't remember what it was but anyway. So, my job as Dean of women was entirely different from the job I had at the American University and when the Dean of Women of the University American University went on vacation, I took her job at American University in her office. Besides doing my own thing. 24/7 twenty-four seven. I worked constantly. Constantly, even especially when you didn't have any student teachers that last year that nobody, so I'm by myself did teaching twenty-two activities, Dean of women. Yeah.

**Layla** [01:03:56] Yeah. And did they receive like this teaching while the women did. Like did they enjoy. I'm sure that because they didn't have.

**Rosie** [01:04:06] Let's try that again.

**Layla** [01:04:07] In Beirut. The women when you came over and you started this program for them. How... did they receive it well; were they super into it?

**Rosie** [01:04:17] But when I was hired as when I hired and went over.

**Layla** [01:04:23] Yeah when you went over.

**Rosie** [01:04:23] Well there's also a story in my book about when I was interviewed by the men's Director of Physical Education which was extremely interesting. No, I was not. I was questioned "Oh my gosh the woman teaching physical education athletics. She can't do that." So that's in there. I don't wanna tell you too much.

**Layla** [01:04:47] Right but how were the.... how were the girls there playing sports?

**Rosie** [01:04:54] Oh totally.

**Rosie** [01:04:59] Uncoordinated! They had no physical education in their lives.

**Rosie** [01:05:05] None.

**Rosie** [01:05:07] So I had to teach basic movement, did a lot of modern dance because you know why modern dance. Because of the movement walking.

**Layla** [01:05:16] No. Yeah. I know modern dance.

**Rosie** [01:05:17] I shouldn't say my modern I called it modern dance there where we walked and walked with small steps long steps rhythmic. Steps. That sort of thing. To get them so they could walk. I mean. They were not. They were not. Agile. generally speaking. But there were Americans who went to their schools too.

**Layla** [01:05:51] Did you know of them.

**Layla** [01:05:54] So it was both Americans and...

**Rosie** [01:05:59] There were 62 different nationalities. Had the Chinese and the Japanese. I had anybody that wanted to go to.... that was a central... do you know where Lebanon is?

**Layla** [01:06:10] Yeah!

**Rosie** [01:06:10] OK. It's sort of central there so that American University of Beirut was a huge well they had American University of Cairo too, but Beirut was the big one. There was a hospital there was a central hospital of the Middle East which belong to the American Embassy. What's your background? And. What what's your last name from.

**Layla** [01:06:37] Oh like where is my family from? We're actually from Palestine.

**Rosie** [01:06:41] You're from Palestine? OK. So, you're sort of familiar with that area. OK so it might be interesting to read that book.

**Layla** [01:06:48] I'm excited. No really, I am.

**Rosie** [01:06:50] It's very easy. It's an easy read. No intellectually anything it's just easy as it can be. But I had Palestinians, I had everybody. You name it.

**Rosie** [01:07:01] But all over... The reason also I had like the Americans I had usually their parents were embassy people from anywhere like they might be far east from there but sent their kids to Beirut because it was a central it was a big university there. So yeah, in the area that they could go to. Yeah, yeah. Now have you been overseas.

**Layla** [01:07:25] Yeah, I have. Last time was a long time ago.

**Rosie** [01:07:29] Where did you go?

**Layla** [01:07:29] I went to. Well. You mean in general or...

**Rosie** [01:07:34] I wanna know where you went.

**Layla** [01:07:35] Yeah. Oh, ok well when I was 12.

**Layla** [01:07:39] That was the last time I went to Palestine. But.

**Layla** [01:07:43] That's not the last time I've been overseas um my when I was at St. John's.

**Layla** [01:07:47] You know I told you i used to go there my second year there I spent a semester in Rome.

**Rosie** [01:07:53] Terrific.

**Layla** [01:07:54] Yeah.

**Rosie** [01:07:55] I'm Italian.

**Layla** [01:07:55] I know you told me so. I mean so I know a little bit about both countries. Oh yeah. Rome but when I was there I kind of visited a couple of different European....

**Layla** [01:08:06] You know the typical like Paris.

**Rosie** [01:08:06] It's very close it's like going to Pennsylvania or Ohio.

**Layla** [01:08:08] Exactly. It's like traveling around the U.S. you know. So, I went to a couple different countries.

**Rosie** [01:08:12] Good for you.

**Layla** [01:08:13] Yeah it was one of the best, probably the best experience of my life.

**Rosie** [01:08:19] But did you go with your family to Palestine? Or did you go alone?

**Layla** [01:08:24] No I went with my family here. My immediate family because I don't have a lot of family members in the U.S. I just have a couple uncles but all my family lives in Palestine, so when we went, we went to go see them.

**Layla** [01:08:44] Um so the West Bank, like where my family lives is in Ramallah.

**Rosie** [01:08:46] Oh! Ramallah?

**Layla** [01:08:46] Yeah.

**Rosie** [01:08:46] I've been there.

**Layla** [01:08:46] You've been there?

**Rosie** [01:08:50] For four years I was over there we went everywhere.

**Layla** [01:08:52] Right because you traveled around. Yeah. So that part is, is safe. Other parts no, Gaza definitely no. Well, you can't go there because it's kind of closed off.

**Rosie** [01:09:04] I miss the.... They went on a week and I couldn't make it. I was so mad.

**Layla** [01:09:08] To where?

**Rosie** [01:09:09] to Gaza Strip.

**Layla** [01:09:10] Really?

**Rosie** [01:09:11] Yeah.

**Rosie** [01:09:12] Well that was a... We're going back.

**Layla** [01:09:13] Right back then. Yeah. No, I'm sure now No. And there's other parents' kind of.

**Layla** [01:09:21] Just in different settlements. There's... its not safe... there's a lot of tension. Yeah, I'm sure. Yeah. And then when I was a baby my family took us to Egypt. I was a baby, so I don't remember that but that's where I've been overseas.

**Rosie** [01:09:39] Good.

**Layla** [01:09:39] Yeah. So, this is great.

**Rosie** [01:09:41] Is this one the reason that isn't one the reasons you took me to interview, is it?

**Layla** [01:09:46] No because I didn't find out about that until after when I talked to Charlie, he said "you know she taught in Beirut?" And I was astounded. That's amazing especially health and physical education there.

**Rosie** [01:09:58] Yeah well different.

**Layla** [01:10:00] Exactly.

**Rosie** [01:10:01] Well just even I made up a multi-purpose field so that it could be converted at any time to basketball, volleyball, archery whatever. OK.

**Rosie** [01:10:14] And so I needed these polls, talked about differences in culture, needed these polls that I could easily remove like polls to put in for volleyball nets or whatever, to easily remove so I could have basketball.

**Rosie** [01:10:27] So try talking to somebody. "I would like....

**Rosie** [01:10:31] These polls that you can put in and I could take out easily" "No problem whatsoever."

**Rosie** [01:10:35] I couldn't get the stupid polls I was just I mean the, the, the communication was I was talking to the workers.

**Rosie** [01:10:46] I didn't know any Arabic. I mean you know, and they didn't know anything English. And I explained this in there yeah. Oh yeah. And then I talked to somebody who had some English. Oh yeah, they understand what you want.

**Rosie** [01:10:57] Yeah. Just a lot of problems I had. The little problems I had that were turned into major .... But then you have to. This why I'm so easy to. Like if something doesn't go right it's there's another way, we can do it.

**Layla** [01:11:09] Yeah.

**Rosie** [01:11:09] You know just it's crazy.

**Layla** [01:11:11] That's great Yeah, I think I think you get everything. No please I said still going on.

**Rosie** [01:11:25] So I have your email.