

OH 512 Eunice Lin

JENNIFER SHEA: I'm going to start by doing this. This is Jennifer Shea. It's July 19th, 2023. And I'm at Chesapeake Beach, speaking with Eunice Lin, for the Her Helm Oral History Project. Okay. So, could we begin by you introducing yourself?

EUNICE LIN: [00:00:23] Okay, Jennifer. My name is Eunice Lin. And I live in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. I was born July 4, 1960, in Washington, DC, and grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, until my parents moved down to Florida. Then in 1979, they came back up here. Now let me back up. I went to Emory University for college, and majored in finance, and then came back up here and went to Georgetown for law school. I practiced in DC for almost 26 years, until the company that I worked for was bought out, and I was able to retire. And that's when I really got into sailing.

JENNIFER SHEA: How did you get into sailing?

EUNICE LIN: [00:01:11] Well, back in the '80s, at my first law firm, a group of friends of mine and we still sail together, and we are still very, very close, we would charter a boat once a year. And this was 1987, 1988. And every year we would charter a boat. And then one of my

friends bought a boat, and we would go sailing. But that was really cruising. Back in, oh, 1992, I got into racing for a couple of seasons with one of my ex-husband's friends down in Occoquan. And the bug bit me. So, I took a cruising course, I went to... You know, I raced on his boat, but honestly, I can't remember what I did. I think I did something with the spinnaker. But I didn't drive, I didn't really know anything, except for my discrete job. Then my friend who had the boat, she sold it, moved to Dallas. So, and then I had some shoulder injuries and different various surgeries and restrictions, so I didn't sail for probably 15 years, over 15 years, until 2011. And that was when I was working. We were working 24/7 to try to sell this, get our company to be ready to be sold. And I was told I couldn't go on a vacation. And so, I was cleaning out some stuff. And I saw one of those Start Sailing Now, I think it's called Start Sailing Now brochures or pamphlets. And I was flipping through it, and I saw an ad for J World. And then I thought, hmm, you know, maybe I should just go out and go out and take a lesson. And I talked to Jeff Jordan, who was the director at the time, and he said, "Come and take a weekend course." So, I took a weekend course on a J/80, it was a boat handling course. And I went out with Buddy, the coach. It

was just the two of us. We went out and flew the spinnaker. I didn't even know what a spinnaker was. And the bug really, really bit me. And that was my vacation for the year. Then I found out that there was a regatta that J World was going to enter. And I registered for that. And we had a week of training and then we had the regatta, and we had a female coach doing it and I have not looked back since. Then in December, I was laid off. So, my last day was in, I think it was in the next January. And I just feel like there was a reason why I found that Let's Sail Now brochure. It was meant to be because this has become my hobby. It's become... And for a little while it was kind of a profession, a part time profession, but it's my favorite hobby now.

JENNIFER SHEA: What do you say was a profession, a part-time profession?

EUNICE LIN: [00:04:32] Well, that's kind of a joke. It really wasn't a profession. But back in 2019, I got my basic keelboat certification from, I think it's US Sailing. And for a couple of years, I would work with J World, and I would help with corporate events. And I would substitute for some of the coaches if they were doing a program. I never was a full-time coach. But I did do a number of corporate events where you take four people on a J/80, and

within a half an hour, you get them to sail the boat, and then you have a competition, and they have a little mini regatta. So, it's very challenging. It can be frustrating. It can be downright harrowing, life harrowing. But I was... I did that for a few years until COVID hit and I wasn't comfortable being on a boat with people that I didn't know. So, after COVID, I decided that I just didn't want to do it. I wanted to sail for pleasure. It's a lot more fun sometimes than to have to deal with all of the issues that arise when you're dealing with people who don't know how to sail. That didn't sound very positive, did it? [laughs]

JENNIFER SHEA: I was just thinking, how do you how do you teach people how to sail that quickly? What a challenge.

EUNICE LIN: [00:06:08] Everybody has their own techniques, but you have to... I think you have to take the different positions. So, you have the driver, you have the main, you have jib, and then you have navigator. So, this is on the J/80 without the spinnaker. And so, you say, okay, this is the position that you start out in. And this is what you do. And you have to just basically say the basics, show them how to move the tiller, show them what direction to push it in, or to pull it in, with the main show them how to cleat, uncleat, show them the jib, most important thing,

show them the direction to wind the jib sheet and how to release it. You don't fool around with trimming and, okay, watching the telltales, and look at the shape of this sail or using the outhaul, you just teach them the basics. And then within an hour, they'll catch on and it's a teamwork type of project. So, they knew enough to be able to cross the start line, to go around different marks, to tack around one mark and then to come back. And you know, we did have some collisions. But it was fun. Yeah, it was fun. We lost things overboard, but nobody was ever injured. And sometimes we hooked the mark, and so, we had to go into the water. We had some good times; we really had some good times. And if people are willing to learn, they will learn. But it's nerve racking sometimes, especially if it's windy, and you have four people on the boat. And the most fun was when we would take the STEM kids out. That was great. Because I remember one day, we were told to practice penalty turns and 360s. And on a J/80, it's so easy. You just shove the tiller and then you don't really do anything, and then you just go around and around and around and around. And these kids laughed so hard. They had such a good time. And it was great practice for me, too. So, you know, you just got to kind of read the crew, too.

JENNIFER SHEA: Well, that's great. What do you like about sailing?

EUNICE LIN: [00:08:45] It's funny that you say what do I like about sailing? I was at my niece's wedding a couple of years ago and one of my brother's friends came up to me, he goes, "I love you know your pictures on Facebook, and it's so great to watch you and doing all your sailing." And then he says, "John says that you don't sail, you race." And I thought that was pretty funny, but I thought about it, and it's true. There is a difference between sailing and racing. And I'm sure you have all people understand that there's sailing, where you go out and you enjoy the calm and the interaction with the wind and the water and then, you know, you have your cocktails and if your sails are trimmed, okay, that's great. If they're not then, you know, you don't need to. One of my friends, the woman who had the boat, instead of trimming to the course, they would sail to the trim of the sails. They would just set the sails and then they would go, "Okay, well we'll just go wherever they went." That was cruising. I mean, she had a really nice Catalina. But I like... I love it because it's on the water. I love being on the water. Being born in July, I'm a Cancer. So, Cancers like water. I love the... It's a challenge. It's always a challenge. It's

not just getting on a boat turning on the engine and going bump, bump, bump, bump, you know, at 40 miles an hour. But what I really like is racing and I think that's just the competitive part of me. I love driving. Driving is my favorite. And going back to the first J World course that I took, or the J World regatta, one thing about J World, and this is not an ad for J World, but one thing about J World is when you take a course, there are four people on a boat. There's the helm, main... Helm, main, jib, pit, spinnaker trim, mast, I mean, there're different positions. And the one thing about their courses is that every race, you rotate, and you don't have a choice. You don't say, "Well, I like to trim spin." Well, too bad. You're on the helm. And so, first, the first regatta that we did, and I think I had to drive the first regatta, and where there are 20 Other J/80s going around and back and forth, and I barely knew the right of way rules. And the coach, Coralina, was telling me what to do. But I almost threw up in the cockpit, I was so nervous. I was so, so nervous. And if we had just been cruising, it would have been fine. But we were interacting with all of these different boats. But now, was it, eight years later? No, no, more than eight years later, the starts are my favorite because it's strategy. It's instinct. It's reading. It's knowing who

your opponents are, your competitors are. And it's honing your skills. And this is a... The J/80 fleet, they have some of the top racers on the Bay. I mean, it's an incredibly experienced crew... I mean, set of boats. So, it's not for the faint-hearted. And I've really learned I love that adrenaline rush. I love the adrenaline rush. I love, you know, the boats being close. And...But the problem is sometimes I'll be in the middle of the day during a race, and I will look around to the crew and I will go, holy, you know, what do you realize we're in the middle of the Bay? We are on this beautiful body of water. And we're so focused on racing and getting to the next mark, we don't even appreciate it. And so, I want to go back. My goal is to get back out there and cruise a little bit more and get back down to the fundamentals, appreciating the wind, the water, and not having to worry about, okay, where's the next mark? You know, where's the competition? Okay, what's the layline? Are we at the layline yet? And...but I do like the competition. I do like the challenge.

JENNIFER SHEA: It's like a big chess game. Yes.

EUNICE LIN: [00:13:33] It is. It is. Although I don't play chess very well.

JENNIFER SHEA: It is...it's always fun. It's like your drawings, there. Do you have a boat?

EUNICE LIN: [00:13:44] I do have a boat. In fact, I have one and a half boats. And I have... In 2015, I bought an Alerion 28, and it is a... So, it's a 28-foot boat that is rigged for short handing. And I started racing that boat. See, I didn't even sail it, I just started racing that boat in 2016, or maybe, no, I bought it in 2014 and I started racing it in 2015, and I race it in Herring Bay. I've done a couple of races in Annapolis, but it takes almost four hours to get up there, so I very rarely do that. But I started racing with the Harrington Harbor Sailing Association almost immediately. And it was, I think, the second race, I did a practice race and I think I did the first race, but it was either the first race or the second race, really, really windy and I was out there with only one person. And it was still a new boat to me, and I didn't really know how the boat reacted. And after the start, we had a starboard... Well, we were both on starboard, and then we tacked. And it...the main wasn't out enough and we started rounding up. And the boat, *Mirabelle*, was on starboard tack, and we got closer, we just got closer and closer and closer, and we crashed into the boat. Yeah, this was my second race, didn't know any

of the boats. And if the wave had not carried us up higher, we would have T-boned them. But instead, the wave carried us up onto *Mirabelle's* deck, like *Jaws*, and then kind of slid off. So, the damage was pretty extensive, but it wasn't as bad as it could have been. And the worst part was, I had to get on to the radio and say, "This is *Liberty Prevails*," that's the name of the boat, "This is *Liberty Prevails*. We just hit a boat, and I have no idea what boat this is, but we are retiring." And it turned out that the boat was... here's the dock, and we're here, and *Mirabelle* was right there across the dock. But you know, you just got to get back on that horse and ride it. And after it was fixed, we just kept on racing. And it turned out well, and we kept on racing. And we've won High Point twice for the non-spin racing class. And this year, I haven't raced that much on the boat. But anyway, that's *Liberty Prevails*. That's the Alerion. And then back in 2019... well, back in 2014, I started racing on a J/80 called *Vtess* up in Annapolis. And I did all of the weekend races and Thursday night races. And John and Cindy went away one weekend. And I said, "Can I take the boat for Annapolis Race Week?" And he said, "Sure." So, I got my girl band, you know, these four women, and we raced Annapolis Race Week. And that was the first time I'd ever helm driven the

boat. It was the first time that I had actually done a regatta by myself, and you know, paying the fees, and going to the registration. And it was a hoot. So, we did that one other time. And then, I thought, I'm probably taking advantage of him. But he found out that I was interested in maybe getting a J/80, so we ended up... I ended up buying half of his interest. So, that was back in 2019. So, I own half of a J/80 up in Annapolis, and then the Alerion down here. So, the long answer is yes, or the short answer is yes, I do own a boat.

JENNIFER SHEA: All right, so many questions. First, why *Liberty Prevails*? Where's that name from?

EUNICE LIN: [00:18:06] This was not my name; it was the boat's name. And I don't know the... I don't know the history. Unfortunately, the reason that the previous owner sold the boat was because -- this is what I was told -- is he had had a stroke. And they had tried to figure out if there was any way he could operate or sail the boat, even with the way it was rigged, and they weren't able to do it. So, he sold it. So, I was never able to talk to him. I'm not even sure if he was able to communicate. But they lived in Bozman. See, I pronounced it correctly? Yeah, I was going to, you hear people say Bozman, I'm like, was like Bozman. They lived in Bozman. And I bought it out of

Oxford. And I was really hoping to be able to talk to him or his wife, but I think they just wanted to just get the deal done, because I think it was very difficult for them to sell the boat. And it had been in storage for two years, I believe. So, I don't know the name. I've done some research and, you know, I come up with pamphlets and speeches from, like, the 1700s, you know, Patrick Henry type of speeches, but I don't know the meaning. I thought, okay, *Liberty Prevails*. Well, I can change the name because I had a whole list of boat names, possible boat names. And then I thought, well, maybe I'm okay with it, because I was born on the 4th of July, so it's kind of patriotic. And then enough time went by that I got kind of superstitious because I didn't... I wanted to make sure that Neptune was happy. And I wasn't sure if Neptune was going to be happy if I was going to do everything right, so I'd never changed the name. And we call her *LP*. Everybody knows her as *LP*. In fact, the HHSA, I don't even refer to her as the name, I just say *LP*, and everybody knows who it is. So, that is the nickname that we have given her. And I believe -- I cannot believe I'm going to say this and be recorded -- but I believe boats have souls. And so, whenever I come to the boat, I always go, "Hi, little girl, you know, I'm sorry, I haven't been here," I talk to her

like I talk to my cat. And then when I leave, I always go, "Bye, little girl. You know, it was fun. And we'll see you in a little bit." So, I just didn't feel that I should change the name. And I don't know, it's kind of [laughs] my friends say it's very Tea Party-ish sounding. But you know, people can interpret it as, you know, as whatever way they want to. But she's *LP* to me. That's a picture of her.

JENNIFER SHEA: She's lovely.

EUNICE LIN: [00:21:12] She's a beautiful boat.

JENNIFER SHEA: Lovely, lovely.

EUNICE LIN: [00:21:14] She's beautiful. But she's very classic above the water, and below the water. She's like a J/80. She sails like a J/80. Yeah, she's a very, very modern design. But very, very classic lines.

JENNIFER SHEA: Who designed her?

EUNICE LIN: [00:21:29] I want to say it's a Herreshoff design. Oh, I used to know that. And I've forgotten. Yeah, my memory, my memory, but it is based on a Herreshoff design.

JENNIFER SHEA: Nice. Nice, nice. Looks like she goes through the water well.

EUNICE LIN: [00:21:50] Very, very well. And she's fast. She's a shoal draft. So, it's three and a half, only three

and a half feet. There's a standard keel. But for some reason, I mean, if I had known that was going to race, I probably would have gotten the four and a half foot, the standard keel. But she points as well as the other Alerion. And this year, we're trying something new. We're racing with the class jib, which is a 90 percent jib. Yes. And we got nine more seconds because of that. But, you know, there are advantages and disadvantages. But we've done well, I've only done two races this year, but we've done pretty well. And you need... Just she's just a great boat. Really sweet boat.

JENNIFER SHEA: What was it like buying a boat as a woman? Was that...?

EUNICE LIN: [00:22:48] Well, I will say that the racing community and the boating community is more male centered. I've used the word misogynistic, but I won't use it. I'm not going to say that. It was very eye opening. And before I got the boat for a couple of years, I belonged to the boat... The Chesapeake Boating Club that's connected to J World up in Annapolis. And I would take the J/80s out and then I would take the Harbor 20s out and then I progressed to the 105. So, I would take them out. And I never thought anything about it. And then I thought, well, I want to buy a boat. And I carried around for, I don't

know, six months, I carried around a piece of paper. And I still have it, and I wrote down everything I wanted, everything I didn't want, you know, what was a must have and what was a nice to have, what I didn't need. And the Harbor 20s are very much like Alerions. Are you familiar with them?

JENNIFER SHEA: No.

EUNICE LIN: [00:24:03] So, they're 20-foot boats, and they're those little, I'd describe them as the boats that you would play within the bathtubs. They're different colors. And if you go to the Annapolis Yacht Club, the sailing center, you'll see a row of them and they're all these different colors. They have electric engines, and they just have a little cuddy cabin, but they have a jib boom. So, you just pull out the jib and then it goes back and forth and back and forth. And I love that. I love that concept. But I didn't like to... It was too small. So, one of my requirements was to have a boat that I could sail by myself because I'm single and I didn't want to have to rely on anybody and most of my friends still worked. So, I did some research and... Oh, before, you know, I should go back, there was one boat that I was really interested in, and I think it was a C&C 100 or Tartan 100. Anyway, it was this beautiful race boat with this open transom, and it was

absolutely gorgeous. But it was hardcore. But it got a great review in *Sailing World*, or *Sail Magazine*. And so, I went to the boat show. And this was in 2014. It was 2014, I went to the boat show, and I... I think it was 2014. I'm getting my years mixed up. Anyway, I went there to look at, you know, the different boats and this C&C or the Tartan that was here, it was there. And I looked at it and I looked inside. So, I went over to this boat booth, I probably should not have mentioned the the maker. But I went to the booth, because I really wanted to talk seriously about this boat. And I go into the booth, and here are these guys, these salespeople. And I'm walking towards the booth, and one of the guys comes out from behind the booth, and I was about to say, "Excuse me, I'd like-," he walked right by me and went to the older couple behind me, acted like he did not even see me, acted like I was not even there. And I told people about that. And they said that they weren't surprised, that a lot of women have that experience. Or they're with a guy and they immediately started talking to the guy. And I've had my... I think... I can't remember who it was. But there was one woman who said, "Excuse me, I'm the one who's looking for the boat, not him." Or maybe he said that "She's looking for the boat." So, what was it like? That was not a good

experience. And I walked out, and I thought, you've just lost a potential sale. So, we're walking down the dock and I see the Alerions. And I was like, okay, I need to get more information. And it had the jib. And I'm really talking a lot about this, but this is... I mean, it was such a memorable experience. And I looked at it. And my friends were looking at the multimillion-dollar boats. And I'm like, I'm just so focused on this beautiful Alerion. And so, I get on it, and I look at it. And the guy is, you know, the sales, who was doing sales is David Cox. Do you know, David?

JENNIFER SHEA: I know his daughter, Sybil.

EUNICE LIN: [00:27:47] Oh my God, lovely man. And we're still Facebook friends. And when I see him, you know, I give him a big hug. And he asked me if he could help me. And I said, "I'm interested in learning more about this," and I went down to the cabin. I just sat there, and I just looked around. And I said, "I just want to... I just... Do you have more information?" And he said, "Yes." He goes, "I'm with somebody right now. But I'll go get you some information. I'll be right back." And I thought, "Yeah, right." Sure enough, he comes back. And he gives me the information. And we talk. And I told him what I was interested in. And we worked, you know, together. And

it was a wonderful experience, an absolutely wonderful experience to work with him. And I've told him this, too. And I have told other people this, that he was one in a million. He treated me like I was a serious buyer. He was just... He was just, he was great. But then we went, we took the boat out for the test ride. And we're sailing down the Tred Avon. And it was a short ride. But we sailed upwind, and then we come back. And it was always dead downwind. And so, the jib swings over and we're sailing wing on wing, which I'm crazy, that's one of my favorite, favorite, you know, things to do. It's kind of a joke, because I'll try wing on wing in any condition. And the inspector goes, "Are you sure you want to do this? You know, this is a hard point to sail." And I just said, "Don't say anything, just don't say, don't say anything, don't say anything." But I thought that was very interesting that he said that. Because a lot of people don't like it, it's not the most stable, you know, way to sail. But it was fun. So, that's my experience. And so, I didn't have to deal with that with Vtess. And John has, you know, the more experienced, the more we've gotten to know each other, you know, the more I think he realizes that I'm, you know, I'm a boat owner. And I mean, we have a great relationship. And I tell people, we're like an old

married couple now. You know, we're on the boat, and he's like, "Do this." I'm like, "No, no, no, I think we should do that." And we sit there. And we, you know, we kind of argue about it. But I've learned a lot from that relationship. And I think he's... I mean, he's been a wonderful co-owner, too. So, that's my experience.

JENNIFER SHEA: What's next in your selling agenda here? You said you're not racing that much. Or you're going to try to do some more this summer or?

EUNICE LIN: Well, a reason that I have not been... I've been doing Thursday nights like I usually do on *Vtess*, on the J/80. The reason I haven't been racing my own boat, is... well, if I'm not out of town, the reason is because my regular crew member Ted has a Tartan, a 28-foot Tartan. And because my boat was launched later, in the middle of the series, I said, "Let's, you know, race your boat." So, he's been racing his boat in the cruising class, and he's been doing so well. You know, he won the Wednesday night series. So, I said, "Maybe you should raise the second series." So, what we've been doing is we have this bigger pool, because I can only have three people on my boat, he can have, like, four or five. So, we have this pool. And we kind of assign people to the different boats. But I've been, you know, we've had weather, we've had cancellations,

we had the Canadian fire smoke. So, there are different reasons why we have, you know, we haven't raced. But like tonight, we'll race. We'll race tonight. And last year, we won the... last year, we won the Non-Spin High Point. So, that was the second time we did that. And there's a part of me this year that just, you know, I missed half of the first series, it was like, okay, pressure is off. So, I, you know, like to race with Ted, I want him to... I hope he wins High Point for the cruising class. And I'll race, you know, when I race but I... My goal this year was to not let racing control my life. I've missed a lot doing races. And I haven't even put down races on my calendar this year. But the next thing is Friday night, I am going to race on my friend's J/30. I have not raced on a J/30, and I've been wanting to do that. So, I'm going to race with him on Friday. And then on Sunday, we're going to do the AYC Annual Regatta. And he's going to... I think he wants to do the J/30 North Americans up in Bristol in August. So, if I don't get kicked off, you know, fall off the boat, maybe I'll do... Maybe I'll go up there with him and help him crew the boat. I don't know. I'm not sure. But that's going to be my newest adventure is racing on a J/30.

JENNIFER SHEA: Have you ever sailed in the ocean up there?

EUNICE LIN: [00:33:25] No. The closest thing that I've done is helped deliver one of my friend's boats to New York up the Hudson. So, we were off the coast of New Jersey, but we could see New Jersey the entire time. But I've never... Like, I didn't do the Block Island race. My friends did the Block Island race a few weeks ago.

JENNIFER SHEA: It's fun.

EUNICE LIN: [00:33:49] Yeah, and then we... They had a good time. And then that was when I went to Martha's Vineyard, and we stayed up there at a house. There's a lot involved in traveling, and the logistics, and planning, and all of that it exhausted me just to talk to them about what they needed to do. I would like to, but if... This might be my first experience if they do it up in, to go into Bristol, if he needs crew. And that might be my first experience doing it out of town.

JENNIFER SHEA: That's going to be fun. So, you mentioned you have your special crew that you sail with on the...?

EUNICE LIN: [00:34:32] I don't, it's not a special crew. For Thursday nights, John puts together this crew schedule. And so, it's usually co-ed. Sometimes John will be the only guy, or sometimes I'll be the only female. But they're... Since 2017, when I first did the regatta by myself on my own, there is a core group of women who I've

been racing with since 2014, most of them since 2014. So, we call ourselves The Girl Band, or I call...I call ourselves The Girl Band. And we like to race together because we know each other, there's no yelling. We all know what to do. They like it when I drive, because I have total confidence in them, and they have confidence in me. So, then we all focus on our, you know, on our own jobs. A common problem with drivers is that they don't trust. They can't focus on driving. And so, they're so focused on everybody else doing their job, that they, you know, go off course. And I have the ability... I trust my crew, I have the ability just to sit there and drive, and I'll go, "What's going on? I hear noise behind us, who's there?" instead of looking back. I just ask them for the information.

JENNIFER SHEA: That's great.

EUNICE LIN: [00:35:59] Well, that's the only way I can do it. Otherwise, I'd be going there and going over there and going over there. But I have a good time with the... I don't mean to be sexist, but it's just fun. It's just fun to have a group of women. And we go out there and we sing. We do crazy stuff, we wear pumpkin hats, we, you know... It's fun, it's a lot of fun. And we don't take ourselves seriously. I mean, we know that we will never be in, you

know, the top of this fleet. I mean, these guys are good. And you know, some of the women. But it's mainly a male-dominated fleet. And they are really, really good and really competitive. So, as long as we don't come in last, we're happy. You know what? We have a good time, and we are getting closer and closer and closer. So, if we're last, [laughs] we're not as far last as we were before. And it's just a good time. I don't want to be that competitive, where I'm racing with people that I might not be crazy about but might be good, but not crazy. Personality is big with me on boats. You have to get along. You can't come on the boat with an ego. And you have to respect me. If I'm driving, and I'm the skipper, you can argue with me, you can disagree with me, but don't act like you're the boss.

JENNIFER SHEA: So, have you ever found it a particular challenge being the female skipper up there?

EUNICE LIN: [00:37:51] You know, I don't really think so because of my upbringing. I've been thinking about this. I've been thinking about this since we talked. And I grew up in a very nontraditional Chinese family. And my dad had his... He was an engineer. And, but my mom was an anesthesiologist. And so, we're kind of a prototype latchkey kids, very independent. But she was one of two

women in her medical class, in her medical school class in, I think she graduated 1958 or so. So, and my dad was always very supportive. He... I remember him saying, asking him, "Well, does it bother you that Mom makes more than you?" And he's like, "No. More money for all of us." I mean, that was his attitude. He wasn't threatened. They were very supportive. And he always taught me, he always said, go to the best school that you can, get the best job you can, make as much money as you can, and be able to live on your own no matter what your marital status is. Be able to live on your own. You can do anything." And so, I grew up never doubting I could deal with something. So, maybe it's ignorance, and maybe ignorance is bliss, but I never went into racing thinking that I couldn't do anything, or I was at a disadvantage, or people thought that I wouldn't be able to do the job. I did notice though, that in the last few years, when I started... I started racing the J/80 more, I sensed that some of the boats thought they could intimidate me. And at first, I was intimidated. They would scream a rule out at me, and I'm going, "They're wrong," but I wasn't able to kind of process it fast enough. And now, they know I might not be as aggressive or as fast as them sometimes, but don't cross my path. Don't mess with me. And I will push you right up. I mean,

they... You know, I used to be kind of a, I don't want to say a creampuff, but I don't let them bully me anymore. And I think that they tried to bully me. And we were fouled a few times. And I didn't have... I didn't pull the protest flag. And now, you know, you do something, you look at me the wrong way, I'm going to pull the... Well, that's exaggerating. But I've never really felt that there was a challenge. I felt the, I guess the... I know that people aren't used to female skippers. And the first Annapolis race that we did that I did on my own, when I say we stole Jon's boat and raced it while he was away, my friend Bethany and I went to the clubhouse and got the registration bags, and we get up to the desk, and the woman looks at me and I said, "We're here with Vtess, the J/80." And she looks at me and she says, literally, she says, "Oh, honey, did your skipper pick up the registration bag yet?" And Bethany started, she's just like, "Oh, my God, I can't believe she just said that." And I said, "No, I am the skipper." And she... The look on her face made me realize she knew what a mistake she had made, what the assumption that she had made, that there couldn't possibly have been a woman who was registered. I think there was only one female, that, you know, that raced the boat, you know, in the fleet. And, but she realized that she was... she had

made an assumption that was wrong. And I shouldn't say this, but I think that the racing community is not exactly the most diverse community, and there aren't exactly a lot of Asian women out there racing. So, one, people know me, so I have to be on my best behavior all the time. And two, I think that there is a, just like when I practiced law, there is an assumption, you know, about Asians, and I don't mean to be politically incorrect, but I think there is an assumption. But I think I've kind of broken that stereotype. And I'm kind of proud of that. I'm proud of that. So, there's a... This is another political, you know, probably off-color thing to say, but when, when I would talk about getting a J/80, and I would say this with my, you know, to my friends, and I would say, "You know what? People need to stay out of my way," I said, "I just want to say, female Asian driver, you know, coming, you know, approaching, get out of my way, get out of my way." And then one of them said... No, I said, "Yeah, I'm female, I'm Asian." And then one of them said, "And you're old." And I said, "That is the name." I said, "I want to name a boat *Trifecta*." Because that would be a great story. I'm female. I'm Asian. And I'm old. I mean, three great reasons just to stay the hell out of my way. So, that's kind of the joke, that the next boat that I have

is going to be named *Trifecta*. I mean, I can laugh about it. So, I hope you don't erase that. [laughs]

JENNIFER SHEA: I love it. I'll do the same. What kind of boat would you like to get if you got a new one?

EUNICE LIN: [00:44:29] You know, the next boat that I would like to get is not to replace either one of these sailboats, I would love to get a nice center console, to be able to just go... Yeah, you just go out there and I mean, you can't talk because it's so loud. But I had... I dated a guy who had a really, really nice one and it was fun just to go out and not have to worry about sails, and not have to worry about this or that. So, that's the one. That's the only other boat I'd get. I don't want anything with any systems, no systems, because every system is thousands and thousands of dollars. And I like my daysailer with the J/80 and the Alerion. We have buckets. And that's good enough for us. And I don't crew, so it doesn't really matter whether or not I have a real head or a galley or anything like that.

JENNIFER SHEA: Do you do all the work on the boat yourself, or...?

EUNICE LIN: [00:45:42] No, I don't. I did take a boat maintenance course that was, I think it was presented by Zimmerman, it was part of one of the powerboat shows. And

so, I know the basics, and I know what to look for. But I also want to make sure that things are done right. And so, I have the mechanics winterize it and then commission it in the spring. I have done... I mean, I'll do more of the cosmetic things. I paint my boat. This is one thing I do, and I don't have anybody else do it. I had somebody do it one year and it was such a lousy job that I decided I wanted to do it myself. So, I sand and paint my boat, the bottom of my boat, every year. And if there are repairs, like you know, usually there are pieces of the keel that need to be repaired, I would do the repairs. So, I've learned a lot of that just repairing the boat, epoxy, I stripped all of the teak. Well, I did strip, I stripped all of the teak of the varnish, except for a couple of pieces. And I just said, "You know what? This is not for me. Maintenance of the teak is not for me." And people, it's a philosophical question and debate in the Alerion community, but I think more and more of them are actually going au natural. And I don't regret it for a second. I mean, it's a race boat. It's not... I'm trying to be practical. So, I'll do stuff like that. I'll do, you know... The engine, anything that has to do with the engine, that's left to the professionals. But everything else I pretty much do.

JENNIFER SHEA: So, our mutual friend Casey told me that you were her role model, for being a woman.

EUNICE LIN: [00:47:54] Okay. [laughs]

JENNIFER SHEA: Why do you think she said that?

EUNICE LIN: [00:48:03] I don't know. I mean, I raced with Casey for a number of years. And I, you know, you have... I'm at a loss for words. I guess I'm an example of somebody who, unlike Casey, who grew up racing, I mean, she just... It's amazing how much experience she has. But maybe it's because you know, I got into this late in life, I got into it, really got into it when I was 51. And I don't know. I'm not... You have me at a loss. But I did feel this was on the boat I used to sail on, I did feel like I should guide them. And I had experience that she didn't have. I mean, I learned a lot from her. And she learned a lot from me. But there were certain things and there was one situation, and I think Casey might have been on the boat, but there was a crew member, and it was before a race, and we were all kind of milling around. And somebody said, one of the boats said, "Your spin sheet's in the water." And this particular crew member said, "I don't effing care," and blah, blah, blah. And I was appalled. I was shocked. So, after the race, I pulled her aside and I said, "I just want you to know this is not something we do

on this boat." I said, "Annapolis is a very small community. You are going to get a reputation and you're going to give this boat a reputation, and you don't say things like that." And she was just, I mean, she was, like, mortified that she had done that. But I felt like that was my responsibility. It was my responsibility because, you know, I was kind of the boat mom. But, you know, I guess I feel like maybe I've just set an example of somebody who... You know, I don't know. I am at a loss. I'm at a loss. But I have watched Casey. She has grown. I mean, she's always been a phenomenal sailor, but she has gone onto different boats, I mean, I don't know, if there's a boat out there that she doesn't race on it. it's almost like she's cloned herself. She's on so many boats. And she's getting so much experience and I'm really, really happy for her. And I often had to remind myself how young she was when I first met her. I mean, she just, you know, I'd go, oh, you just graduated like a few years ago, or two years ago, or a year ago? And it's been really wonderful just to see her still be involved with the log canoes and, and her family and, you know, she's a great person, I need to call her. [laughs]

JENNIFER SHEA: So, what advice would you have for younger women captains sailing?

EUNICE LIN: [00:51:40] Be yourself. Be gracious. Know the rules. Know the rules, know the right of way rules. And, you know, just be generous in spirit. And help. Help others. Let your crew drive. Let your crew... That's one of the really important things that I... Bethany, who's been racing with me for a few years, last year, our project was to have her be comfortable enough with my boat, the Alerion, to be able... I said, "I want you to be able to take the boat out and take your friends out, your family out without me, that's my goal." I said, "You don't need to do that. But that's our goal," to the guy that we crew with. And so, I would have her take the boat out. And I would have her dock it. And the first time she did, she's backing in -- and she's going to kill me that I'm telling this story -- but she's backing the boat in. And so, I said, "All right, put it in forward to stop the boat." She's facing this way. She puts it in her forward, you know, her forward, and it went, and then she realized, and she put it in neutral. But the boat is so low, it went under the dock. And the flag was there, and it went [grinding noise] and pulled out. So, that was one thing I actually did repair. I repaired the deck, and we remounted the flagpole. But she said, "I'm never going to do that again." And I said, "no," I said, "Next week, you are

going to do this." Or maybe it was like two weeks after that. I said, "You're going to do this, you have to get back on that horse. You cannot let this intimidate you because it happens." And I said, "And if you hadn't done this, I wouldn't have discovered those huge wasp nests, and a frayed backstay." I mean, because I had to take a cover off of the trans in the back of the boat, and I discovered these problems. I said, "So, you know, there's a silver lining to all of this." But one of the... So, what would I say? One of the most important things is that you teach your crew how to -- it sounds very basic -- how to start the engine, how to stop the engine, how to operate, how to drive. And I said, "Because if your skipper falls off the boat, somebody is going to need to go back and get them." And I've had people who say, "I don't want to touch the helm." No, no, no. That means you're touching it right now. And once Bethany... I said, "You want to drive out there?" She's like, "Okay." I said, "Want to do the start?" She's like, "Okay." She goes, "Well, I'm not doing the race." So, she did the start. And I, like, kind of went far away from the helm. And I just let her do it. And so, a lot of times, I think you just kind of let them, you guide them, and you don't force it and you don't tell them what they're going to do, you just kind of let them do

it, and let them get gain their own confidence and realize, oh, my God, I'm doing this. So, yeah, be yourself. Don't try to be a guy. That's just like, you know, any other thing. Everybody has their own style. Everybody has their own personality, way of doing things. And don't be intimidated.

JENNIFER SHEA: You're a great mentor.

EUNICE LIN: [00:55:58] I mean, I don't have a lot of tolerance for, you know, just letting people kind of bumble on, you know, you got to tell them how to do it and what to do, and why. My mom always explained why. And I like to explain why. This is why we do this. This is why you don't do this. And it clicks and they go, "Oh, that makes sense. That makes a lot of sense." I'm also quizzing them. I also quiz them all the time. You know, what tack are we on? Who has right of way? And 99 percent of the time is, we're right of way. We're a sailboat. But what about, now we're under power. What about this other? You know? And one of my friends, one of my really, really close friends, she was a launch driver up in Massachusetts, so she's been great in just giving me tips. And I just think that's so cool. She was 16 years old, and she would be driving this launch in this harbor in Massachusetts. And she never thought that you know, she couldn't do it.

So, that's... Never think, yeah, my advice would be never think that you can't do it. There are some physical limitations that I have run into. But we can do anything that anybody else can. Practice. Practice, practice, practice.

JENNIFER SHEA: How did you get involved with the Her Helm Project? I should have asked that before.

EUNICE LIN: [00:57:44] Kristin, I'm thinking that maybe Kristin had a question, or Kristin sent me an email, or Kristin somehow contacted me, or we were put in touch with each other about HHSA. And I was much more involved with HHSA at the time and so I think I just kind of reached out or gave her some information, or did something, this and that. And we kind of just hit it off. And we, you know, I really liked her a lot and discovered that she had a boat at the end of my dock. She and her husband had a boat at the end of my dock, and I was coming to the boat, my boat once, and I guess she and her husband, or she was walking the opposite way and she stopped me, she goes, "Are you Eunice?" I was like, "Yeah," and then we started talking. And then she told me about this project, and she said that her first portrait was Janet, my next-door neighbor. And then, she asked me if I'd be interested, so I became her second portrait. And then I referred her to some other

women who she's covered, or taken pictures of, or featured, I guess the word would be featured. And so, we keep in touch. She sold her boat, and she has raced on my ex's boat. I don't know if she's still doing that. But that's the last time I saw her. We did the Oxford race together.

JENNIFER SHEA: Very nice. I didn't know that story. That's great. I have three last questions and whatever. What would you like people... What do you find special about sailing on the Chesapeake?

EUNICE LIN: [00:59:47] It's my home. It's my home. I grew up in Maryland. And when we were kids, before we started going to Ocean City, when we were kids, we would go to, you know, the... We would have family picnics, family outings at, I think it was usually Sandy Point, or Breezy Point. And there's a story about Breezy Point, too. But it was just a... This is where I grew up. And when we would go to Ocean City, or Fenwick Island, crossing the Bay on the Bay Bridge was... Kind of that was, okay, we are on vacation, we're going to the beach. And even now, when I cross the Bay, I open up the windows, and I stick my hands out, and I'm like a little kid on a roller coaster. And to me, it's the most beautiful body of water in the world. And I think it's... Well, I think it is, but I think also is because I grew up here. And, you know, we would have,

you know, I grew up on eating steamed crabs, and it's just part of my... It's part of my life and part of my growing up. It has a history. But with a little... This is the short story I was going to say is Breezy Point, which is just south of here, my mom said that, I think it was a second date that they had, and I'm going, "Wow, Mom, you let him see you in a bathing suit the second date," I was really impressed by that. But she said that he taught her how to float on her back. And that was in the Bay, you know, that was right down, you know, right down the street. So, that kind of is a special story. But it's because I'm a Marylander and this is my bay. This is my state. Sounds kind of hokey, but that's the truth. [laughs]

JENNIFER SHEA: It all makes sense. I mean, so you may not have sailed when you were growing up, but the water was part of your growing up.

EUNICE LIN: [01:02:09] It was. It was and yeah, we did not sail, but it represented... The Bay represented freedom. It represented, wow, we're going to go to the beach, and we're going to go to Phillips, we're going to do this, we're going to do that. And it still has that feeling. I still get tingly when I go across the bridge. And now, I can see it and I look at it in a whole different way now.

JENNIFER SHEA: From your vantage point, you can see all the changes. I mean, just looking at the water every day, it's different. It's wonderful.

EUNICE LIN: [01:02:43] It changes from hour to hour. And you know, it's Maryland, it's the Bay. They say you know that you just, oh, it's calm, we'll just wait an hour, you know, and it'll be changing. And I have way too many pictures of storms rolling in, of rainbows, of just the cloud formation and the light on the water. And it never gets old. I think I sometimes take it for granted. But sometimes I have to pinch myself and I just stand, I stand out there and I just look at... I'm sorry, I'm looking at my cat who's like doing cat yoga out on the porch. She has her, like, foot plopped up against the... She's over there. I don't know if you see her but she's crazy. She's a crazy cat. Okay.

JENNIFER SHEA: Last question. So, future generations, what would you like them to know about you? The future, your legacy?

EUNICE LIN: [01:04:00] Oh, God. That's a tough question. One of my favorite sayings, and I had a bracelet... This is going to have a point. I had a bracelet. I had a bracelet. And this is when I first started racing, when I was really nervous when I felt like puking every time, I

would go out there, I would approach this start line. I found a bracelet and it said, "She believed she could, so she did." And then it broke and then I got another one and I lost that one but that's one of my favorite sayings because I thought, okay, you can do this, you can do this. And I guess it would be, I believed that I could learn to race, and learn to sail, learn to race, and do everything that people usually learn in their twenties and thirties at age 51, and still, even in my sixties, still be able to do it. I believed that I could, so, you know, I did. And that goes back to what would you say to young captains? Don't ever think that you can't do it. I will say I am going through a difficult time. I had a hip replacement a year and a half ago. So, that's okay. But it had gotten to the point where I couldn't even lift up my leg over the lifeline. And that set me back some. And then I've been having some issues with my left. It's getting better. But it is making me realize, okay, I'm experiencing some limitations and some restrictions. But you know what? I'm not old. I'm not that old. I can do it. And so, I'm going through the physical therapy and all of that, and it's getting better. It's getting better. But I would like my legacy to be that I was tough. My friends call me a badass. Because I like to start really, really close to

people. And I don't want to say, "Oh, yeah, she was a badass." But yeah, I mean, that's a part of it. But I would like people to say, "Hey, you know, what, she did what she wanted to do. And she did it well. And she did it graciously." I would like people to be able to say that. That, you know, I... Sailing kind of has a rough, you know, like sometimes has a rough reputation. But I would like people to think that, okay, I was gracious even when I wasn't doing badly. I was tough...But I was tough. And I was not one to be pushed around. [laughs] I'm not sure what else to say.

JENNIFER SHEA: I think it's great. So, is there anything we haven't talked about that you would like to add to your... To your story?

EUNICE LIN: [01:07:18] I have ... I have told you a lot of stories and probably some I shouldn't have.

JENNIFER SHEA: Oh, no, that's not true.

EUNICE LIN: [01:07:30] I can't think of anything. I can't think of anything.

JENNIFER SHEA: Good, good. It's been wonderful.

EUNICE LIN: [01:07:36] Do you have any other questions?

JENNIFER SHEA: No, I think you actually gave a wonderful presentation about your experience and the positives and

how you've met some of the challenges. So, it's been
great. Thank you. Thank you very much.

EUNICE LIN: [01:07:56] Thank you.

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