01.00.00  PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW:  You look beautiful?

01.00.26  LING YOUNG:  (LAUGHS) like I said, they give me a face lift for free (LAUGHS). That’s the only thing I can laugh about, you know what I mean? What else can you do? But you know, little bit at a time. I hope any time soon, though. I can somehow I can’t take the surgery any more. It drives me nuts. Before, I didn't care. If he said, let’s go to surgery, and so he starts drawing pictures, he’s writing things down, I say, ok. When? Now, I’ve gotten to a point, I guess, I guess I’m kind of done.

01.00.58  I really don't want to do it. The reason I’m doing it this time because I can’t turn my head. Now I’m a lot better. So maybe, hopefully one or two time, max. I told him I said, maximum’s two. I don't want to do anymore. But of course, with him he want to do everything perfect. I said, I’m not going for no beauty pageant. Just get me, I can move my head, that’s good enough for me. So we’ll see.

JW:  What’s the head movement issue?

01.01.26  LING YOUNG:  It’s a lot more, see, I can move this a lot more. Before I just like this way. I couldn’t turn. And it’s very frustrating. If you want to talk to me on my left side, after two minutes, I said, can you come around the other way? 'Cos it’s very, it’s tight and it’s very tiring. So. And I said, and then if you see, if I go out to eat, you can see that I always sit at a
place I could see what’s going on. ‘Cos I can’t turn around and talk to the guy in the back. But it’s a lot better. ‘Cos he really, actually release a lot of scar.

01.01.56 And remember, my face was (?) up to here. So technically now, if you don't, if you see from this side, you really don't know what’s going on. So it’s good. He did a lot of you know, cleaning up. So we shall see.

JW: You look great?

01.02.10 LING YOUNG: Yeah, I’m, well, like I say, he gave me, he, he said, you know, give you like a free face lift. (LAUGHS) But once (?) better time.

JW: What about your shirt?

01.02.21 LING YOUNG: My shirt? It’s kind of colorful (LAUGHS). ‘Cos I remember my daughter went to the Emeral Show, for, for the food tasting, and they were gonna on TV and her friend wore a (?) Ralph Lauren? They, they can’t take it. It has to be, you can’t have a logo on the shirt. I didn't know that. (LAUGHS) So she, she didn't know. But he, but she got to taste the food. And she loved that show, ‘cos she got to taste the food and she loves to eat, that’s why. So.

JW: You wore that shirt a long time ago?

01.02.56 LING YOUNG: Oh, yeah. It was like perfect at that time, and then of course, I couldn’t wear it. And then a couple of days ago, actually a couple of months ago, I took it out, I said oh, let me try it. I, I squeezed in, I said that’s not bad (LAUGHS). Like (?) care of all my clothes (LAUGHS). Which I did, ‘cos when I gained so much weight, I did. I said, I’m never gonna get back to where I am. So I gave a lot away, my clothes, and then I said, and this is the one I kind of liked. So I leave it around, maybe someone else will wear it. And it end up I wearing it. Which is good. But. Yeah, things have changed, you know, you get back to your normal size. Actually I weigh less than what I used to weigh.
Yeah, surprising, yeah. But. But I feel pretty good. 'Cos you don't have the heaviness in you. You don't have to worry about you sit down you can’t get up. I’m walking a lot better, ok? I only use my cane if I go for long distance. But I, I don't still sit, I still can’t stand too long. So I mean, I would go to a wedding and everybody standing up and Don says, why do you stand up?

I said no, I can’t. he said why can’t you? I said, well. I’m itching. 'Cos the blood’s still (?) flows down. So I still cannot stand up. But, but there (?) are days I could stand up like 10, 20 minutes, but there are days I couldn’t stand for two minutes. So still, you know, still getting there.

JW: Just compare?

LING YOUNG: Wheelchair, yeah.

JW: What were the stages?

So the doctor put me in a wheelchair. He said, well, Ling, you gonna be bed bound. I said that’s wonderful. So I was in a wheelchair for a year and a half. After I got out the wheelchair, I still cannot stand up, 'cos once I stand up, it just flows to a point is, it’s so itchy you cannot control it. So, so therefore, instead of the wheelchair, I got a cane which has a seat on it. And every time I walk, for a little bit, I’ll sit down. Just to calm my, calm my nerve.
That lasted from 2002 all the way, all (?) actually from 2003 all the way until now. I still uses my cane.

JW: How often do you use the cane?

LING YOUNG: Depends, like I said. If I, like today I didn't bother ’cos it’s just getting out the car and coming in here. I didn't bother to bring it. But if I have to go for a walk, yes. If let’s say go, go out, I’m gonna walk through a mall, I would, I would take my cane. 'Cos I want to be able to say I don’t feel good, I’ll sit down.

But it’s often enough that I almost take it with me all, all over the place. Unless I just get out the car and go in, then I don't bother with it. But I still use it, 'cos I needed it. I have to have it. So.

JW: What about the surgery this year?

LING YOUNG: I shaved my head (LAUGHS) because I want to be nice and cool. And my doctor said, I don't understand why you have to shave your, I figure because if I don't shave it, it’ll be hot. And if you don’t want me to wash my hair in ten days, it’s not gonna work. I like to wash my hair every day. I cannot see myself ten days not washing my hair. He (?) kind of got mad (?) got mad at me. He said, but it doesn’t look right.

I said I don't care what it looks, ’cos I need to be comfortable. 'Cos the last surgery I had, I didn't cut it. And it was very uncomfortable. It was hot, it was like it just not good. And also I shaved (?) shaved to a very thin layer, because I have the net on, and it pulls my root out. That was hell for ten days. Seemed like I had a headache. And something is like pulling my hair up every two (?) I almost like pulling all my roots out. I was in pain.

And every two second I have to lift it up just to get some air. So I said, this time, I’m not listening. I’m gonna shave all my hair. So I did that, of course, went into surgery, I had an infection. Open me up, close me back, stuck in the hospital for a day. Went home. So wait
another month, that’s when I had the second time around. But that time, wasn’t too bad, my hair’s still short. So I didn't have to redo it again. We (?) went well, because he didn't have to use skin graph, that’s the reason why it’s Ok.

01.08.04 I cannot have skin graph anymore. ’Cos it won’t work. So he opened it up, I think he pulled it, clean up some of the scar, and sew back. That was it. It wasn’t bad. I think that was a pretty decent one, except for the bandage. I hate the bandage, and I usually take it off. And then when I did that, my whole bandage came off, I wet it.

01.08.30 I went back, I realized I had a blood clot. So it’s meant to be, which is good. I went to see him on like a couple of days later. He drained it. If I, if I didn't go, I would not know.

JW: What do you mean?

01.08.42 LING YOUNG: I have a blood clot in the back which I didn't know.

JW: Is that dangerous?

01.08.47 LING YOUNG: Yeah. It could be, yeah, but I didn't know about it. It didn't bother me, it didn't have any, any affect. I just walked in, he said oh, you have a blood clot. I said, I do? So he did something. And he said you don’t complain do you?

01.09.00 I said no, I said why? He said that’s very painful. I said well (LAUGHS) I do take pain very well. (LAUGHS) He said, I just don't understand. I said, I said by now you don't know me? I said, if I’m complaining about (?) pain, you better listen. But he just put a ten needle through it. He said you don't feel that? I said not really (LAUGHS). So I’m so used to it. It didn’t bother me. So. That was it. Took off the stitches and healed very well.

01.09.32 This time I didn't have any infection. Normally I have an infection like for a month or two, (a wound?) opening. This time it lasted maybe a month. But it wasn’t a big infection, it was just
like it wasn’t closed up right. And that was it. So I was happy about it. It didn't cause me too much discomfort.

JW: The skin graphs don't take?

LING YOUNG: It can’t. Doesn’t work.

JW: What about that?

01.09.59 LING YOUNG: What happened is because the way my skin heals, if you put a skin graph on, it doesn’t hold. It comes off. So a lot of times they have to redo the whole thing again. Just when I did my arm, they did a real major operation on it. They took this whole thing out, replaces the skin from my, from my stomach. I think it lasted like two days, the whole thing came off. So when after it comes off, I can’t but it healed a little bit already. So it just let it healed up, healed back up.

01.10.31 So technically, there wasn’t any skin graph, it just healed by itself. I mean, very light, light layers of skin. Matter of fact, I talked to my other burn surgeon from Cornell, that we, he agrees that I cannot have any more skin graph. It won’t work. And (?) if it does work, it would not heal right. So that’s, that’s the reason why when Dr. Chou does it, he just open up and pulls it.

01.10.59 'Cos technically after awhile, your skins are loose. So you’re able to pull the skin. So it did a good job. Can’t complain. What can I say?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: This is a remarkable process with so many surgeries, and now you feel like you can’t do it. What changed?
LING YOUNG: I guess it’s enough is enough. Ok? Like after ten surgeries, I lost this hand. Actually it’s getting worse. 'Cos it’s gonna be getting to a point it’s gonna be like flattened out like this. I’m dropping things and that’s when I realized my, my hand’s functions are very limited now. You really can’t hold anything to cut because that slips out of your hand.

You can’t open a jar. I’m (?) I definitely can’t open a jar with this hand, but I was just using this hand to assist. But I cannot hold it tight enough for me to assist this. And plus, my, my pinky right here is just like trigger finger. Sooner or later I’m gonna lose this finger, so. But just a matter of time. So, like I went through this other surgery to release my joint. They had, actually have a plastic joints all over here.

That didn't work. I went through 6 months of intense physical therapy, hand therapies. It didn't work. So finally after 6 month, I said this is it. I’m not doing (?) any more.

JW: Did they remove the plastic joints?

No, they didn't. They put it in, they put it in here, here and over here. And it was doing Ok, but because I have so much scar tissue it just went right back in. I mean, I, when I did the surgery, I was saying I will try it. If it worked, fine, if it doesn’t work, I’m not doing it again.

And it didn't work. It’s nobody’s really fault, nobody’s fault. It just I have so much scar tissue. So. I mean, it’s in pain, but if you don't really crack it, it’s not too bad. It’s just get frustrated that you can’t grab anything. Or you grab it, it just (?) it just fall and just crack everything you have in your hand. So, but sometime I don't remember that. You know, you get so used to it, you just grab it.

Next thing you know, the whole thing just falls (LAUGHS) and it’s oh, well. It happens. But then with my face, it’s so many times already. And I’m getting a little edgy. Before I’m ok with it. I’m ok with the surgery. It’s the after, afterward. 'Cos you have to wear this mask for
10 days. It’s very uncomfortable. And it gets hot. And I don't like it. Because it’s dirty. So I normally change my bandage.

01.13.59 I don't listen to the doctor too much. Every day I get my, I get my medical supply and I just change it. Which he doesn’t know about it, but. I’m not doing anything wrong. I just don't like to have that thing on me, like couple of days a week. So I change it on a daily basis. I do my own wound care. And sometime I, Donald would say you don't know what you’re doing. I said, listen, I know more than the doctor know. Just like I have surgery, I got back to him like 5 days later.

01.14.30 I'll make sure he change my bandage. I make up some kind of excuse so he could change it. And 'cos if not, it’ll be like 10 days later. It doesn’t work on me. If I leave it 10 day I would have an infection. But somehow, doctor doesn’t believe it. And before this year, they, they treated me. They should know that’s what happened to me. But they don’t want to hear it. So guess what? So I do my, my own things.

01.14.58 I take it off, go there, make sure he takes it off. Air it out a little bit, and put it back on. But.

JW: You created your own system?

01.15.07 LING YOUNG: Oh, yeah. Because I know (?) what works for me and what doesn’t work for me. But doctor only believes in what they believe in. But, but all this surgery I have, they should know that this does not work for Ling Young. But. They still don’t listen.

01.15.28 They, they always right. So ok, so I do my own things. And that works out perfect. And I also sanitize it 'cos there’s a special machine you sanitize it, which I found it actually takes away the infections. So automatically does that, once a, once my stitches out, make sure it’s always clean, 'cos I get infection very easy. That’s the reason why that at the June surgery, I went in. I’m like why? I mean, I haven’t had a, a real infection like in 2 years.
A couple of days before my surgery it has that, I’m like ok. I went to him and he said, you know, we’ll do it. I almost killed him because he could have just ignored the surgery. He probably think (~JW~)

JW:  I’m not sure I understand?

And the only way to deal with it, is you have to drain it. And then you’re Ok. Then the pain goes away. The only difference this time is it didn't turn black. So maybe that’s why he think he could go in and do it. Well, guess what? We went in, it was not good enough. Because you can’t have surgery when you, when you have an infection. It was a, it was the same spot where I’m gonna have surgery. So. Close me back up, drained it, closed me back up, but I wasted my whole day. ’Cos I had to go through anesthesia and I got to go through everything.

So I wasn’t too happy about that. But what’s done is done, what do you do? I’d rather him not do it and cause me more problem. So that’s why I went back in a month later to do the other one. So I’m, I think my next one is scheduled for February. But I don't think he’s gonna finish in one day. He wants to do it two step at least.

JW:  What will he do in February?

That’s what he’s gonna do. He have to give yourself six months to let it heal a little bit, and for the skin to grow back a little bit more, I think. He can’t do it right afterward. So we’ll talk. We’re gonna, we’re gonna talk to (?) you know, we’re gonna talk to see if he could just finish it up. But I doubt it. I would say at least two more. Let’s say maximum two more. I want to give him the, give him the, the ultimatum. I don't want to do it more than twice. So let’s see what he says. Yeah, that’s enough.
01.18.00 I mean, even though I do it now, it doesn’t mean it’s gonna work later. 'Cos that skin still grows back. But at least maybe I’ll have a couple of years of freedom. If it goes back, I go oh, well. I’ll be 60. So that’ll be ok (LAUGHS). If I can’t turn it’s all right (LAUGHS). It’s one I’ll be like what (?) I can’t turn? All right. 'Cos I, it’s very uncomfortable if you can’t turn around and see what’s going on.

01.18.27 So I sit the other way (LAUGHS). That’s what I do. When I go to a restaurant or anything, I got to sit in a place I (?) could look. I don't want to turn around and talk to the waiters I want something. 'Cos you couldn’t. So (LAUGHS) so that’s what we do.

JW: Is that why you sat at that corner this morning?

01.18.46 LING YOUNG: Yeah. 'Cos I could see. Just like my friend, one of the from 9-11? He would not sit in (?) with the, with the back to the door. Because to him, he wanted to be able to see, and if anything happen, he could just go out.

01.19.03 He don't want to be like in the dark if something happen in back of him, he doesn’t know what’s going on, he doesn’t know how to get out of the place. And that’s him. So (?) me, for my, for my purposes, I got to see what’s going on. I don't want to turn around. I can’t turn to talk to you. That’s a difference between me and him. He says he’s in survivor mode, I got to be able to do it. So it’s slightly different.

JW: He’s in survival mode and you are?

01.19.28 LING YOUNG: I really don't know what I’m doing. I got to turn around and know, know what you’re talking about. So. It’s just for comfort.

JW: When you’re 60?
LING YOUNG: When I’m 60, I really don't care if I could turn or (LAUGHS). I mean, if, for a couple of years, I want to be able to talk to somebody in the back and know what I’m talking about. Sixty? Listen, I’m old enough, you turn around and come over here (LAUGHS). In a couple of years (LAUGHS). (?) enjoy myself (?) no, no. It’s gonna happen tomorrow. With me, I’m, I have infection almost every other day. I have hives every day.

01.20.07 And sooner or later, those Benydrlys not gonna work. So I was like how much can you take? And you're immune system’s gonna, is gonna go down. So I take Benidryl most like I don't know how many days a (?) how many times a day. Like over here, I’m scratching because it’s itchy. And it’s inside, it’s not outside. So you want to like rip it off. But.

01.20.31 But that’s gonna stay the rest of my life, the itch. Can’t get rid of it. That’s part of burns. So (?) what we’re looking forward to, arthritis, glaucoma, oh, you name it. It’s part of the side effect. So we’ll take one day at a time. Can’t think tomorrow, can’t think next week. So. I don't know.

JW: What’s gonna happen to your left hand in the future?

01.21.03 LING YOUNG: It’s gonna get worse. Because as you can see, this is how much I can do now. Sooner or later, this gonna stiff up. ‘Cos this is all stiff up, you can see, all right? Sooner or later this is gonna be completely stiff, to a point that this is where it’s gonna be. And you can’t do too much with a hand like this. So. I don't know. It’s gonna curl up. The, the scar tissue’s gonna shrink a lot more.

01.21.30 So we’re, I don't know, I don't know what to expect of this hand. So I don't, I don't think too much of it, 'cos whatever happens, happens. I mean, one day I could be holding a bottle and next thing you know, next day I couldn’t do it anymore. So it all depends. And matter of fact, a couple of weeks ago, I gets up, my two hands are swelled up. And got to be, got me scared a little bit, 'cos it swelled up and it’s numb. I said oh, god, that’s all I need. And it lasts about a couple of weeks.
01.22.01  So I talked to a doctor (~JW~)

JW:    Both hands?

01.22.04  LING YOUNG: Both hands, yeah, wasn’t just one. I woke up, this whole thing completely
swelled up and it’s like numb, no feeling. I said oh, that’s not good. But then my friend who
also, also burned, do hers every day, every day. Every day she gets up, at least for an hour or
maybe half an hour she couldn’t move her (?) hand. It’s all swelled up, she can’t move it. So
I guess I’m just getting there.

01.22.30  ‘Cos they were burned like through the hand, except they healed quite well. They were lucky.
So. Got me scared a little bit, with both hands and not just one hand. At least one hand, I said
oh, if anything happen, you got one. When you lose two, it’s gonna be hard. So but the
doctor says it’s ok, so what are you gonna do? So we try to listen to them.

01.22.59  And then of course, you get up, you trying to move it around so it’s this way. I think it has to
do with blood circulation. But I didn't know why it’s happening. So.

JW: In five years, you could be very (?)

01.23.17  LING YOUNG: Yeah. Even one year, you never can tell. I mean, now, like I said, I’m my
joints are more tighter than usual. So, another a couple of year, my scar (?) a lot more. But
the scar tissue just expand, I don't know. I guess I’ll worry about it when the time comes.

01.23.38  Can’t worry too much. Got too many things to think about (LAUGHS). Can’t think.

JW:    How do you deal with it mentally?

LING YOUNG: (?) not good.

JW: What about that?
LING YOUNG: Well, first of all, we’ve been talking about it since last year. This year it’s gonna be on a Tuesday.  Ok?

JW:  This year?

LING YOUNG: It’s on a Tuesday.

JW:  September 11th?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, it’s on a Tuesday. And we’ve been talking about it and we’ve been avoiding it. None of us watch TV. We don't read newspaper. 'Cos now if you turn on, it’s almost everything is talking about it. That’s (reason?) and plus on top of our group that we go every Wednesday. That’s gone. So that doesn’t help. 'Cos at least every Wednesday we get together, we just sit down and we chat.

And we just you know, general talk, nothing about 9-11 or whatever, so once in a while it comes up, but we don't talk about 9-11. But we get together, it’s like a big family. And plus 'cos it happened to all of us, we understand each other. It’s almost as saying no matter how great your spouse is, if they haven’t been there, they don't know what you’re feeling. Especially mentally. So this year’s on a Tuesdays and everybody’s getting nightmares.

Weird things happens. Things come up in your mind out of nowhere. You’d be sitting around, all sudden this, your friend just popped up in your head.

JW:  What is a specific example?

LING YOUNG: I could be just sitting down watching TV, for argument’s sake. And all the sudden, one of my friend who passed away just pops out of your head. And that chokes you up a little bit.  Ok, my thing of avoiding (?) thing now is just, I sit in front of the TV, watching my TV. My, my soap opera.
01.25.30 Has nothing to do with any program or any TV show. That keep me busy, especially this last week, that’s all I’ve been doing. ‘Cos I can’t see myself watching anything else, like movies or news, anything like that. I even tell Donald if I’m coming up you watching the news, change the channel. ‘Cos things happen, things comes up that you don't know about. Matter of fact, reason I watch one of the Chinese soap opera and watching, then all the sudden they had the World Trade Center on.

01.26.02 I said ok, I’m like this. That's ok, and then it looks so fake, and actually there was a building, that’s the time when they hit my building. And I said now, let me just go back. I actually went back and looked at it again. (~JW~)

JW: You looked at?

01.26.17 LING YOUNG: When the building got hit. 'Cos they were watching the news. This, just, this movie was about, they were just sitting home watching the TV. (~JW~) And that TV, (?) at that time, it showed that the twin tower got, getting hit, and that particular scene was the plane going right in through my building.

01.26.39 I’m kind of like shocked and everything 'cos you don't expect to see that. It bothers me a little bit, then I, I went past like two minutes or so and I said you know what? Let me just go back and look at it again. 'Cos I couldn’t believe it happens. I went back and look at it again, I said ok, I think that’s enough, (?) go forward. And I try not to think about it.

01.26.59 ‘Cos I want to continue watching the movie. But that was a boring movie, too, though. That was the sad partt. It was good, it wasn’t too bad. It was boring. And that was a couple of week ago, which is, that’s why it’s not good. But at that moment, I looked at it, I still can’t say (to my?) I say to myself, it didn't happen. ‘Cos it’s so fake. It, and on TV it looks, it doesn’t look like it’s real. It just went in (?) and went like this. That was (?) incident. And we start having like weird dream about what’s going on.
01.27.34  Like my girlfriend had a dream (~JW~)

JW:   Had you ever seen the plane?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.27.42  LING YOUNG: I might, I might have seen it once or twice during certain things, but no. Never did. Even like with the floor when I went through, that’s where the plane was. I didn't see anything. I didn't even know it was a plane, to be honest with you at that time. And I don't think we were thinking, all we know that explosion, and we just went flying and then that was it.

01.28.05  Have no clue it was a plane. 'Cos the first (?) building got hit, we thought it was a helicopter accident. 'Cos we didn't see it from our, our, our corner. We saw everything flying, but we did not see what it was. So if I, if we knew it was a plane, believe me we would have ran. But we didn't know. It was too fast anyway. You didn't have time to think.

01.28.29  So on my floor, supposedly, went through 78 to 86, I think, and I work on 86. I was on the 78 when it went through. Everything was all lopsided. And I’m surprised that the floor didn't collapse. That was the surprising part. Did I see anything? No. 'Cos I know Mary, she was bounced to inside air conditioning duct.

01.28.57  She (?) crawl out of it, so I don't know what the heck happened. She either went down or went, went up or went down. So no, we did not know it was a plane at all. Of course, until a while afterward. Even though I was in the hospital, I didn't know it was a plane. I was all drugged up (LAUGHS) no clue what I was doing. All I know is I woke up I look like a mummy. I have no clue.

JW:   When you saw it, you backed it up and looked at it again?
LING YOUNG: I looked at it twice, only because I never saw it before. It bothered me, but it didn't look real. 'Cos you know, when you're watching a TV and then the guys’ watching the TV’s like a little 12-inch, you know, 'cos you know, they were actually sitting there watching the TV, and they’re watching the TV itself, it was a very small image of it. But it just like (?) right in. You know, your heart goes a little, your heart goes a little bit, but then I said ok, that’s enough.

And I just continue. And I don't think about it that day. But we do have reason like I say we really itchy. (~JW~)

LING YOUNG: Other things, and then sometimes you talk about it, and then you start remembering your friends. A matter of fact, like this week I went to, to the local for the physical. One of the girl’s boyfriend was my partner. So that didn't help. Ok? She wasn’t in that day, which is good. Unless she doesn’t work there any more. And then people start asking you, too, 'cos they, they start see, looking at you says what happened? And you just say 9-11 and then you try to leave it that way. Ok? But then people still want to ask questions. I don't mind answering questions, but I don’t want to go into too detail.

But people have forgotten, believe it or not. They (?) some people say, they ask you the questions, say oh. Ok. You know, that was the end of the story. People did kind of like don’t remember any more, like everybody’s life goes on. But unfortunately we're still stuck with it. Like I said, all my friends are now having nightmares. Matter of fact, like Grace had a night mare, it’s weird, that she says she was on a cruise. And the cruise ship just parked somewhere out in the ocean, and they were at a beach.
She saw a plane coming right in, very, very close, almost like next to her. Then all the sudden it (?) took a, went up, took a nosedive, and, and the plane, the nose right near the water and she woke up. And I said Ok. So we try to interpret this (LAUGHS) stupid dream. I said Ok, Grace. It was, she’s getting nervous, and so I’m saying OK, Grace. That’s a good sign because the plane didn't go into the water (LAUGHS). I mean, what else can I say?

And but with her now it’s like she’s like well, what is the word? She’s (?) just not all there. Husband’s worse. He’s on, I don't know how many pills. So I call him and I say, said, Eddie, how you feel? All right. You ok? Yeah, a little edgy. That’s the reason why I tell Danielle I said, that day, don't expect, people might be very edgy. People will be very kind of like nasty. 'Cos they angry.

Some of them are very angry. Matter of fact, one of the guy who’s coming, he, he wasn’t hurt, but he was there ’93, in ’93 and 2001. He’s only about 40. He’s not all there, ok? And he’s trying. But it’s just not working. And he feel frustrated, 'cos he has no job. He can’t go back to a job. He can’t function mentally.

And he has three young kids. So he’s very frustrated.

JW: He was married before?

LING YOUNG: No, no, they stayed together, but it’s not a relationship. He’s, he’s there for the kids. But it’s not the same. So and they, they thought it’s a better way they moved to Pennsylvania. Which is a good move. Except that he did not get the right counseling when he was here. And by the time he got the right council, which is my (?) psychologist, he moved down.

So he’s been like a bouncing ball back and forth. So there was really no concrete help that he’s getting. He goes to see a psychologist, but not one that he could talk to in a way that opens up completely. (COUGHS) He found one, which is mine, but he left. It was the only
time we saw him, like almost like 3 year we try to get him to see somebody. (COUGHS) excuse me. And it didn't help, until he found this one, and then he left.

01.34.02 And he went through, he only went to a mental, mental hospital. Was there a couple of days, and called me, says Ling. I thought it was crazy. They’re worse (LAUGHS). So I say, you see? They not that, you’re not that bad (LAUGHS). You could be ten times as worse. But we keep, we keep really good contact, you know, contact with each other. That’s the only way to help, help us go through.

JW: Why did the group break up?

01.34.28 LING YOUNG: Well, the facilitator has to get, (?) get a better job. So she couldn’t afford the time. And she also think that we good without her. She doesn’t realize that it’s not the same. She tried it the first time. Everybody got so emotion and start crying. So she quit, she didn't do it (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.35.11 END OF TAPE #LY57
LING YOUNG: Ok, you’re gonna meet a husband and wife. (~JW~) And we both got burned. He, they both were actually in the first building, and when the elevator exploded, they were blown outside through the revolving door. Into the street. He was completely burned in back. He has some kind of problem with the arm. And they have to shave this, so one of his arm is, one is arm is shorter by one inch.

The wife wasn’t burned as bad as him, but except that they heal quite well. So if they cover up, you really don't see too much, but they not cover up, you see the scar just like me, all over the place. That’s the couple. The other one, Donna, she was burned, most in her hands and she had like a broken, I don't know, fingers, whatever. Then you got Bob. I call him Bob the Fireman, but he, I think he works for the MT department, the first aid.

He was one of them that trapped a couple of hours, I understand, remember? There was a group of firemen or something like that was trapped for a couple of hours? He was one of them. I didn't know about that. And because of that his whole back is shot. And he’s frustrated, 'cos he can’t do anything. He’s constantly going for back surgery. And he just can’t pick up a thing, or he cannot even wash the floor of the house. So he’s very frustrated. He’s a male chauvinist. So it drives him nuts that his wife have to do all the work.

Then goes me, and then Andy is the one that he’s 93. He was trapped there 4 hours. In the dark. That’s, that’s where he met his wife. Got married, had kids and that was the end of that story.

JW: He met his wife at 93?

LING YOUNG: Yeah.

JW: At the incident?

LING YOUNG: Yep.
JW: Did she come to save him?

02.01.52 LING YOUNG: No, they was trapped in the room.

JW: They were trapped together?

LING YOUNG: Four hours, in the dark.

JW: That’s where they met?

02.01.59 LING YOUNG: No, they met, they came out, they got married (LAUGHS) they have kids, that’s the end of the story. (LAUGHS). Yeah. Ninety-three.

JW: They were united by this experience?

02.02.12 LING YOUNG: Well, they’re kind of united by the experience, but that was it, though. After that it’s life goes on. And everything seems Ok, but (?) when 2001 came, he just completely totally lost it. And, and he hasn’t been the same. Actually beginning, he was so nervous, that we used to sit there and watch him, and he shakes.

02.02.32 Like he’s in la-la land. And every Wednesday to him is yeah, every Wednesday it was a great day for him. Because he could come and just talk to us, 'cos we understand. The wife doesn’t really understand. That they haven’t been there. That’s the thing. And he talks, and but of course, by the time he realize he was getting better, he move. Actually we went, I, I went to see him quite, quite a few times. It was only in Pennsylvania, it’s not bad of a drive. 'Cos I know he needed, needed all of us. And not (?) like Bob, he can’t drive down 2 ½, 2 ½ hours. He can’t sit still for that long, 'cos of his back.

02.03.09 So I went to see him a couple of times. Grace and Eddie, we went and gave him a surprise visit. And every time we go, he feels good. 'Cos he’s surrounding by us. But once we’re
gone, back to normal. And he doesn’t make that much friend, ’cos he, he, he can’t (?)
concentrate enough to carry a whole conversation. With other people, that is.

02.03.34 With us, he could chat all day. Yeah, that’s about it. Yeah. (~JW~) The group’s gotten a lot smaller. We start out with 12 or maybe even 20 people. As it goes by, people just leave. So we still the original 6 or 7. And they coming with their families. So we’ll see.

02.03.59 We’re gonna try to make a good day out of it. And one thing good about it is Tuesday is not supposed to be sunny, which helps. We don't want to be exactly the same way. So I checked the weather, it was, it’s gonna be thunderstorms. That’s good. And my kids’ gonna be home, so. Especially this year. They wasn’t gonna be able to take off, I guess, I guess the boss understand which is good.

JW: Why is Tuesday important?

LING YOUNG: For my kids to be home?

JW: Why it matters it’s on a Tuesday?

02.04.42 LING YOUNG: Because for us, like I said, since last year we’re talking about it, because it happens on a Tuesday, it’s exactly what happened in 2001. In our head, it’s like reliving the whole thing again on the same day. Because it’s a Tuesday. Now if it’s a Monday, it’s not exactly the same thing.

02.05.02 And because it’s a Tuesday, it’s almost like ok, this was (?) this could be 2001. It’s on a Tuesday. What’s gonna happen? Is it gonna happen again, or it’s just something that remind us this is what happened that particular Tuesday. That’s, I think that’s what we’re trying to get at. And we try not to, but it just keep on coming back to our head, well, 9-11’s on a Tuesday, and it’s a beautiful day.
So therefore, in a way, when I saw it’s not gonna be a beautiful day and I said, well, that’s slightly different than what happened 2001. So kind of give us a little, I don't know what it is. I guess it’s just a reminder that, that, that’s the day that affect all of us in one way or the other. That our whole life just went upside down. ’Cos everybody’s life was pretty set on what they want to do.

I mean, I had all plans. I had all kinds of plans. Guess what? All (LAUGHS) the plans just went out the window. So we were talking about let’s say we’re going somewhere, 2009, Grace said, please Ling, I can’t even think about next week. Don't (LAUGHS) talk to me about 2009. I said, if you want to plan something like a trip or something like that, she says, she says no, don't talk about it. ’Cos I can’t even, I can’t think that far. Two, three months, maybe. I said, but Grace, we got to do it. She said no, she said I can’t.

She said I don't know if I’m gonna be here next, next month or not. Or next year. I said, Grace, why you thinking that way? I said you really don't talk like that too much. She said I don't know. I guess once in awhile you would get a little, you know, upset. I said, she said, I don't know. So I’m trying to say, Grace. It doesn’t matter. I mean, we have to plan like a year and a half just to get, get nice seats. She said I can’t, Ling. I just can’t deal with that. So everybody’s a little on edge about a lot of things. We should talking about other things that we could talk about, but now lately it’s like you talk and you can see the, the anger in there.

Which you’re gonna see a lot on Tuesday. Unless we just happen to be mellow. And even if we’re too very mellow, we’re just gonna be very hyped up. So we don't know (LAUGHS) we have no idea how it’s gonna be Tuesday. It could be just like, and, (?) any ordinary day. It could be just crazy or just (?). Or maybe just calm and just like nothing had happened.

We just hoping it’s gonna be a nice day that we just relax and don't do anything. We’ll see.

JW: Do you have a fear something will happen?
LING YOUNG: We try not to think about it. In back of our head, yes. That’s why this year, I kind of want them to be home. I mean, every year they’re home anyway. But because everybody have new jobs, so they might not be around. To be home. I don't want to push it. I didn't want t insist.

JW: What’s that?

LING YOUNG: Means like whatever, what they would do to (?) react something, exact what happened in 2001, because it’s a Tuesday, they want to do something quote-unquote copy it. I don't know. Things go through your head. A matter of fact, like I was talking about when I go through a tunnel, it’s not that I’m scared, but I’m always sitting there. If I’m awake, I would say ok. This (?) kind of tunnel collapse, what should I do?

Should I stay here, wait, let them float me out, or should I get off the car and hold on to the railing and run? That thing always cross my mind. It’s typical. Once I get out the tunnel, if you’re looking for the New York and New Jersey sign, I say, Ok. All right, now we’re halfway. Ok? And once I see the light and your heart just went ok, I’m done. Then all the sudden you see (?) bridges. All the bridges collapsing? Ok, that didn't help. Now added one thing to my list.

LING YOUNG: Ok, now we’ll have to worry about the bridge. So I’m going, crossing the Pulaski Skyway. I’m looking, I’m looking. Ok. Making sure (LAUGHS) making sure that my car doesn’t go over. It’s, things just come up to your head. You just can’t help it. You don't want to think about it, but things happen.

JW: Did you ever think of that before?

LING YOUNG: No, not the bridge. The tunnel, yes.
JW: Did you think of this before 9-11?

02.09.27 LING YOUNG: No. That didn't hit me, no, never did. But now, every time you hear something, it’s Ok, what happen this happen? What should I do? Of course, you think about (?) time comes, nothing’s gonna happen. You probably don't do half the things you, you think you want to do. Just like 9-11, that day, I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't know I was hurt. And I just did what people tells me to do. And if I walked out, I would have never made it. If I walked down from 40 down, down to the first floor, I’d never made it. So it’s like you plan, you plan.

02.09.59 But you can’t help thinking what if the tunnel collapse, or what if this happen? Oh (?) I know when the tunnel collapse, you’re not coming out. But you think, you know? I grab onto the railing, is that strong enough? You know, the craziest thing come out of your head.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: I sometimes have those thoughts about planes?

02.10.29 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I have taken plane afterward. We try not to think of it. The best thing is we pop our pill, we go to sleep (LAUGHS). When we get up, I said, ok, we all there? (LAUGHS). But the plane ride’s not that long. And we normally don't take the pill beforehand. We take the pill like an hour before it starts. See, I make sure of that, so this way I know it’s gonna conk out. See, Eddie and Grace different. They just pop the pill, they knocked out. I said what kind of pill you taking?

02.10.58 But I don't want to take their pills. Their pills (?) more stronger than mine. I take sleeping pill. They take all kinds of anti-depression pill. I don't know what, it’s Zoloft and some other thing. And they really conked out. ’Cos see, Eddie don't sleep. So that pill, I guess once you get in the air, you just conked out. And he’s pretty good so far with, with the pill. And that’s the only way we travel. One time we did (~JW~)
JW:  Who?

02.11.24  LING YOUNG: Eddie and Grace. That’s my travel partner. And somehow, because of the ride was so long, she start getting sick. I mean, and she’s the strong one among all of us. She’s getting sick. She start throwing up. I said what’s going on? (?) I don't know. And she was almost cancelled the trip. She said she couldn’t take, take the, she was so upset. You just (?) getting upset, throwing up, she feel nauseous. I said what happened Grace? She said I don't know. She was nervous. That’s all it is.

02.11.57  'Cos we don't know, and neither one of them, they still haven’t gone to New York. They refuse to go to New York. And we trying to, 'cos I have to go to New York 'cos I started for, going to New York in the beginning. There are three people that never went back to New York. Ok? They want, they one of them. And we actually trying to, 'cos I told her, I went on the subway. I almost dropped dead when I went through the subway, but I did. I was like sweating. I was like this.

02.12.28  And I’m like Ok, what’s going on? But I did it. Came out was like (LAUGHS) thank god it’s over. Do I want to do it again in the near future? No (LAUGHS). It was not a good experience. We’re thinking about maybe taking a ferry to New York so she don't have to go through the tunnel and (?) say that. We want to try to get her back to New York. Eddie, forget it. Eddie’s no-go. He’s not doing it. Grace, we trying.

02.12.58  And (a year ago?) Donna have never been to New York, either. So it’s like me, I said maybe one day we just decide to do it, and Donald just drive us. But when the, I said when you’re ready, you’re ready. If you’re not ready, I don't want to force you guys to do it. But Grace almost tempted to go. But she’s chicken out the last minute. 'Cos she was very near New York City. She was so tempted to go through. But she backed out. She couldn’t do it yet. I guess also because it’s so near now.

02.13.29  Some of it, after all this. So everybody’s on a edge, that we can’t explain to you how edgy we are. Like I said, I don't watch TV. I don't make sure I don't hear too much of it.
JW: You seem great?

02.13.46 LING YOUNG: Yeah, but our head is like going in circles. I don't show too much of it. I try not to. And I don't try to make them feel like I’m just as bad as they are.

02.14.01 So I try to be a little stronger than them, but not really. I’m trying (LAUGHS). I’m trying. They think I am. I’m trying (LAUGHS). 'Cos I’ve been in New York, I’ve been all over the place. So I’m so much better than them, according to them. 'Cos I said I have no choice, I got to go to New York. Otherwise, how I’m gonna do it? So I go there at least once a week now, 'cos of my grandmother. So I got to go and I got to do what I got to do. I mean, they go to Brooklyn, but not New York City.

02.14.30 'Cos they have no choice, they go to Brooklyn to visit the grandmother, or they have to go to Staten Island for workmen’s comp. but New York City, Manhattan, is a no-no.

JW: I occasionally get on a plane and have anxiety, wondering if these people are all meant to not live?

02.15.12 LING YOUNG: Well, actually you go, you go in and you start looking around, and say anybody look suspicious? This is something you look forward to, we look for, too. It’s the same thing like, you could be sitting home and something happen. All right? Like, like I say, I went to the wedding yesterday. This lady was perfect condition and everything. She got on a bus, and, and she was just paying and then the, the bus driver took a short stop, she fell, she crack her whole arm, she crack her hip.

02.15.37 She got like, a metal from here to here. And I look at her like damn. Things happen. And you say to yourself, well, if it’s gonna happen, it’s gonna happen. I, I can’t sit here worry about it. I mean, I talk to my psychologist about it. I said that’s my only approach. I said, I can’t sit here and worry about what’s gonna happen tomorrow. Yes, you do worry. You get scared. But then you say, eh, if it happens, happens.
02.16.00 But of course, when you, when you end up (?) ok, what’s gonna happen if this happen? So things start going through your head, just like I said when I’m going through a tunnel. Like I find all kinds of escape-way. But I guess when that thing goes, you’re not, there’s no way you’re gonna escape through underneath (?) under water of the tunnel. But you still think about it. Things happen (~JW~) what do you do? You run.

JW: I don't think I'd ever escape from a plane?

02.16.29 LING YOUNG: I just hope I die. That’s the only thing, ok? If that go down, please let me go. I don't want to be like in the middle hanging nowhere. That’s the only thing we want. But you don't get what you want sometimes. What was it? Just like the, actually we’re talking about people happen in 9-11. Like the beginning, the guy who’s going back to Dominican Republic or something like that? He died in a plane in Far Rockaway. He was going home.

02.17.00 One guy survived 9-11. On his way home, see that’s, I remember now 'cos we’re talking about the other day. He was on his way home to Dominican Republic. He die in that Far Rockaway plane crash. Then we talking about the, the one in London subway? He survived 9-11 and went to London to work. Guess what? He died in a subway. Then Eddie and Grace work in Blue Cross and Blue Shield, they have a co-worker.

02.17.27 They all survived the 9-11. But there was a love triangle, he went back and shoot the, shoot, shoot whoever it is. And killed himself. I have one guy from my work hang himself. He couldn’t take the pressure. That’s the thing. And another friend who didn't take, take help. One day it’s gonna hit them. My son said one day it’s gonna hit him. Junior? Yeah, he was there. He was in Building 7. He saw a lot of things, (~JW~) oh, yeah. (~JW~) No, Junior. (~JW~) He saw a lot of things. But he’s very quiet, doesn’t discuss it.

02.18.00 I said one day I hope there’s (nothing that?) just trigger off and just hit him. That’s the only thing. Like I don't remember a lot of things. Which is good. But they said it could come back. And haunt me. I hope it never will. I mean, I remember half the stuff, but other half, I have
no recollection. What so, I just completely blacked it out. Like I (?) even when I was in the ambulance. Mary tells me that I was telling the guy where to go. I said, Mary. How can I tell the guy where, I don't even know where I’m going.

02.18.34 With someone, somebody’s put words in my mouth. I tell them to don’t take this way, go the other way. It’s traffic. And I said I did? I don't remember that. She said, yeah. I said, Mary I don't know where I was going. How could I tell the driver where to go? She said I don’t know, but you seemed like you know what you’re talking about. I don't remember half the things they tell me that I did.

JW: What do you think about memory and feeling?

02.19.00 LING YOUNG: Oh, our memory is shot (LAUGHS). I be talking to you, I mean, I’m good now. I could be talking something, I would say, wait a minute. And if you interrupt me around one second, I don't know what I’m talking about. I could call Grace and she answer me in a different way. And I say, Grace? She said, yeah. I said, I don't know what (?) I call you for. I said, I’ll call you back if I remember. I still don't remember (LAUGHS). We make the phone call, you know what she’s gonna ask? Get on the phone, and I feel like if you say you don't answer me in a certain way, and you interrupted me, I don't know why I call you.

02.19.35 Our memory’s really bad. Our short term memory is worse than long-term, I think. Or visa-versa, I don't know which is which. If you ask me to remember things for you, don’t bother, 'cos you could write it down, I don't know what you’re talking about. That’s our main thing, our memory’s really shot.

02.19.58 We don't remember too much. I mean, you could go on a trip, but we did and they said damn, what did we do? And you have to really sit here and think and if you’re doing it together, and one would say one piece and the other one say one piece, and we could get them altogether, and then we remember what we did. If not, we’ll be sitting here looking at each other, we have no clue what we did.
JW: Why do you think that is?

02.20.22 LING YOUNG: I don't know. We just don't remember. We just literally don't remember (we did?). It could be two minutes later. We say, did we do that? And we’d ask each other, 'cos when our group, we could say anything we want. And one says something, I said, and we were saying like you said that? Just like this guy, Bob had, just had surgery. And we were getting together at Donna’s house, and he couldn’t come. He had hand surgery. And we asked each other, said, Eddie asked me, you remember? I said not that I know of, I said did you know? She said no, it’s the first time I’ve heard about it. He must have told us ten times. And we felt bad 'cos we didn't call him how he’s doing, what’s going on.

02.21.03 And we felt bad when he found out, and we found out that he’s not coming for lunch, because he can’t drive. I said, really? And then we find out he had elbow surgery. I said that’s pretty scary, that’s not nice. But we don't remember.

JW: Is that part of the healing process?

02.21.21 LING YOUNG: I don't know. We just know that our memory is so bad that we don't know what’s going on. We (~JW~)

JW: (COACHES RESPONSE)

02.21.38 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) like I said, you could tell me things (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.21.46 LING YOUNG: But two minutes later, I don't remember what you’re telling me. Or I could say something to you and you say you said that. I said I don't remember saying that. So we don't have no recollection what we did, or we going to do or whatever.
I would, how should I say it? I try to write things down. But my problem is even though you write in front of your face, you tend not to look at it anyway. When I go somewhere, I make sure I put a whole list of what I have to do and have to check it off, which I never had to do that. Ok. I just do it when I need to do. Now I must have a list, and I have to check it off. Even pay my bills. Now I have a list of bills that put down the day when I paid it.

So like typical bill, I would have a list of like my, my gas and electric and things like that. I would have a date then I would have an amount that I paid; so therefore, on the month of September, if I put an amount and a date, that means I paid that bill already. If I didn't, something is wrong. I didn't, I never had to do that before. The bill comes, you pay. But now the bill comes, sometimes you just lay it around for two days, you forgot about it. Next thing you know, you might get a late notice.

It happened to me once or twice. 'Cos I don't remember. Of course, you call up and you say, I have my bill, I don't remember. You get away with it, but. I don’t want to be in that position. Even people say you mom, you said that or, Ling you said that. I said, but I didn't. Yes, you did. I, but I can’t swear to it 'cos I don't remember I said or not. So I don’t know if they’re lying to me (LAUGHS) or they, or they just trying to pull my leg. Because I would say ok, if you said I did, I did. But I might not have.

What they taking advantage of me, I don't know. (LAUGHS). Because Ling doesn’t remember anything just do it. (LAUGHS).

JW:   How important is it for your family to be with you on the date?

LING YOUNG: Oh, very. Actually, like I said, I know Melissa was taking off, Richard was taking off, taking off. And Janine just got a new job, not too long ago. Like everybody’s job is almost pretty new. Except Junior, but Junior’s been very busy.

He said I might not be able to take off. I didn't want to put pressure on them. But I wasn’t too happy. To me, especially this year, I don't want them in New York City. I don't want to be
home thinking about what’s gonna happen in New York City, if something happen they can’t come home. And hat’s what is bothering me. And I didn't find out until Friday that Junior and Judy’s taking off. It’s not that I want, I don’t know. It’s not that I’m afraid something is gonna happen. I don't want my mind to think that it could happen.

02.24.31 If it could happen, where it’s gonna put me? Ok, so I did kind of requested, like I kind of asked them, but I don't want to be pushy. I don't want to be saying that you got to. But they did. I guess (?) luckily that maybe their boss understand. Like my daughter-in-law Judy, normally she can’t take off. I mean, the boss say no, no, no. Matter of fact, they bought a house, she can’t even go closing. 'Cos the boss say you can’t take off that couple of hours. To me, that’s nonsense.

02.24.59 I mean, it’s not like you’re taking a day off to go to a doctor, you could change your appointment. A closing’a a closing. And (he says?) no. So he has to have the power of attorney. To close. So. Richard definitely taking off. Richard doesn’t care. He tells his boss, I’m taking off that day, because of 9-11. They never don't do anything to him. Actually he just started a job out two weeks ago. Janine’s gonna work from home, Melissa could work from home. So which is good. Turned out OK.

JW:   How important in general are they to you?

02.25.29 LING YOUNG: Oh, very. 'Cos to me, if, if I’m home and one of them is in New York that day, it probably would drive me nuts. Thinking that something might happen. And I don't think I could handle any, anything like that. So now, since they all home, I feel safe. I’m comfortable. I don't have to worry about what’s going on, 'cos my whole family is home. And the only one that really working in New York is my niece. I don't know if she’s gonna be home that day. I don't know.

02.25.59 But to me, I don't think I could handle a loss, 'cos I mean, well. I lost my parents two in one year. That wasn’t easy. Seeing them suffer wasn’t nice, it wasn’t good, ok? But losing in one shot, that’s not easy. You know, within 8 months, they were gone. And one was in April and
one’s in December. Matter of fact, my mother, she went in the hospital the same day I, I was
in the hospital.

02.26.31 And they didn't tell me. And it was very funny because normally I stay a night, stay
overnight. But that day I didn't. And I went into surgery, was like 4 or 5 hours, I don’t
remember how much, what it was. I got up. Was quick, too. And normally it takes me like I
don't know how many hours before I get, regain consciousness. I woke up, I was feeling
great. And, and I wasn’t painful. It was pain.

02.27.03 Then I said, he said oh, you are going home. I said oh, great. I’m going home. In the
meantime, they didn't tell me anything about my mother, 'cos they, they kept it quiet. And he
said are you in pain? I said, yeah. He said, well, I’m gonna give you more Percoset, if you’re
gonna stay a couple of hours. I said no, no. I’m Ok. Forget about the pain (LAUGHS) pain
pill, I’m gonna go home. It’s just something that pushed me to get out of there. I don't know
what it was. 'Cos I didn't want to stay a couple more hours. When I got out of the hospital,
waiting for the car and then that’s when they told me.

02.27.32 So I went from NYU right to Staten Island University. She lasted a couple more days, but
she was really suffering. And it wasn’t easy. This time, I make it my business to have
everybody over, 'cos my father die, it’s nobody there. See, we believe that if you are going,
you want your family around. So this time I make it my business. And I saw my mother. I
know wasn’t doing good. I don't know how long she gonna last. A matter of fact, her
birthday was a couple of days later.

02.28.03 It was like 10 o’clock at night, and, and she was not doing good. So I called every single one.
I said I don't care what you guys doing, I don't care what’s going on. I want everybody there.
So everyone showed up. Everyone got to say goodbye to her. Ok? It was like very late. Like I
said, I didn't care. I said, you make it your business, I don't care where you are. So
everybody showed up. I guess I’m the one to kind of get thing together. If not, no one does it.
So.
02.28.31 Grandkid, you name it. Everything is (?) everybody within my immediate family came. And before that, I make sure that I had a, like a Thanksgiving. I had her brother and sister came over. We drove them all over to new, New Jersey. So she kind of spend the Thanksgiving last (days?) with them. But she didn’t know what’s going on. She was like you know, dozing off and on. And my brother took care of her like two months, (we’re in and out?).

02.29.00 She was like completely like can’t do anything anymore. And my brother like 24 hours taking care of her. He was like drenched. So we did that at the hospital. And I think two days later, she just went like completely like turning black and say then I’m like oh, my god. You know, this is bad. And, and I know she was going, 'cos all the sudden she start having like can’t breathe. So I tell my brother, say goodbye to her. And my brother didn't want to accept the fact. And my brother was her favorite.

02.29.31 So we all say goodbye to her in a way, that I promise her I take care of my brother and sister. And my brother refuse to say it, you know, she would not go. Until I finally I begged my brother, I said please, say something. And my sister kept on yelling at me, said, according to the fortune teller, she’s not gonna go. I said you don't understand, look at her. She’s turning black. She’s not circulating. It’s not good. No, you don't understand. Why you (?) saying that she’s dead before she’s dead?

02.30.01 I said because that’s how it’s gonna go. I was really calm. I, I said I didn't want to believe what you had to believe what you have to believe. So finally they went, they finally said it, it was like 12 o’clock at night already, one o’clock at night, and they were like so dead. So one brother and (?) my sister went home, and my other brother still don’t want to say goodbye. I said just say something. Say it’s Ok. Ok? So he finally, he finally said, yeah, don't worry about it. Everything’s ok, I’ll take you out to dinner, dim sum tomorrow blahblahblah.

02.30.34 The minute he says that, do you know she was calm? I (?) if you don't see it you don't believe it. I seen it on my father-in-law, that’s why. That’s why I insisted he say it. 'Cos she’s waiting for him to say ok. And after he said it, her breathing went, calmed down. And
she waited for us to doze off, at about 4, 4:30. And she just went. But I feel good because I know everybody was there to say goodbye to her.

02.31.00 'Cos my mother was very upset that no one was with my father that day. And she went very peacefully at least. I mean, she was in pain for, for a while, but at the last moment, she went very peacefully. And then that was it.

JW: Was there something that pushed you out of surgery to go see her?

02.31.25 LING YOUNG: I think so. It was, it was just so unusual that I went in, I came out. And I, my recovery with time was so short, I was awake, I was even walking out of my bed. And my pain wasn’t bad. And (?) that was a pretty bad major surgery at that time, too. It was, it was a lot of cuts right here. And they asked me, do you want, you, you want to leave? I said, yeah, I want to leave. And normally they don't ask me, that either you stay or you don't. That’s a doctor’s order. And then she said you want to take pain medication?

02.31.58 I said, I say yes. And she said, well, then you have to stay a couple more hours. No, I don’t want it. I said I don’t need the pain medication. I said I can handle it. And then when I came out, that’s when they told me.

JW: Who told you?

02.32.09 LING YOUNG: My kid. (~JW~) Richard already in Staten Island already. And he was there to see what’s going on. She went in 3:30 in the morning. I was leaving my house 3:30 in the morning. Actually I got up at 3:30 to go to the hospital. I was supposed to be like 6 or 6:30, I don't remember. We just something pushed me out. And (?) I said, well (?) I went to another place.

02.32.30 But it never happened before. Either you say there one night, like I normally do overnight. 'Cos I do tend to get infection. 'Cos I do go home that day, they would take their time and they do whatever needed to do. This time, they rushed me out of there. I
don’t know why. If they asked me for pain medication, I say no, which I normally say oh, what the heck. But then I learned something, ‘cos at that time you don’t stay there for that reason. You want to take pain medication, go home and get it. ‘Cos by the time they get it to you it’s an hour and a half.

02.33.00 By the time it takes an effect’s another hour and a half. Then they keep you another 3 hours. It wasn’t worth the 5 hours there. So it worked out Ok, ‘cos I ended up be able to taking care of everything, ‘cos you have to do all kinds of arrangement, and do newspaper. And all these other thing. And plus my brother and sister doesn’t read Chinese, so they couldn’t do it. So I have to do the work. So I guess it’s meant to be. And she got to see everybody. That’s the most, that to me is the most, more important than anything else.

02.33.31 And before that, she had the dinner with her brother and sister, which is very rare to get all four of them together. So. I guess I did my share, make me feel comfortable. I guess I did what I supposed to do. And then (that’s it?). It was hard. This year, because you don’t have (?) you don’t have a father and a mother to celebrate. So that was a little tough.

JW:  To celebrate?

02.33.56 LING YOUNG: Father’s Day, Mother’s Day. I say (?) the first year. ‘Cos my father die in December. No, April (?). That was the first Father’s Day. And then my mother dying in December. So, so this year we didn't have Mother’s Day. So you feel, you feel weird. It’s not the same. You know how it feel, it’s not the same. It’s kind of hard. But you get used to it now. Oh, you do think of her, you know, we (?) we kept her cell phone for a long time. I was funny. I used to call and leave her messages (LAUGHS).

02.34.29 It’s weird. You leave messages. You tell (~JW~) you tell her what’s going on (LAUGHS).

JW:  What about that?
LING YOUNG: I leave something for you to, to do, you know, like my brother kept the number for awhile. ’Cos I used to call once in awhile to see, even I was away I call every day. So I call her and say everything’s ok, you know, this is that. It’s just like talking to her like she was a, still alive. Then after awhile, my brother said, I think we’re gonna cut the phone. I said all right, cut the phone. But you call once in a blue moon, and (?) this is doing that, and this one’s doing that.

And just like something you, you know, I don't know. It’s weird. But I figured out she, she’ll hear it, you know what I'm saying? Somewhere along the line she’ll hear it. And.

JW: Do you believe that?

LING YOUNG: Yeah. I do. Sometime. Depends on my days. We got, we got to go somewhere. That’s how I see it. I guess you just don't die and just disappear. You go somewhere. Just like the Deutche building. They, they call that a haunted building. The two firemen died. They said they not supposed to touch it and they touched it, and they went in, that was it.

They call, because that, to me, that thing’s still a lot of body parts in there. Must be tons of them. If everywhere, a couple of blocks down you see body parts. Across the street, there’s body parts. I don't know what they’re gonna do now, but it was like, you know. We’ll see. But I do believe in that kind of thing once in awhile. So no more. I haven’t called her in awhile. I think (?) I think he, he took the phone off the hook already.

But it’s (?) nice once in awhile, you see, pick up the phone (LAUGHS) and you have nothing better to do, you just call (LAUGHS). Or you get a little upset, and you call. Makes you feel like, you know? I don’t know, just feels good sometime. But that’s over.

JW: Do you hear her voice?

LING YOUNG: No. (~JW~) You just hear the phone. (STOPS)
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Ling Young  09.09.07
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

03.00.00  PICTURE UP

JW: As you were saying, you still call your mother?

03.00.07  LING YOUNG: I still call. As a matter of fact, my phone, I didn't change the you know, how you push in the contact? I didn't change it to mother to my sister’s name, 'cos my sister now is living there. I just left it. So every time you call, you see your mother. I said, oh, well, I'm calling my mother. But it’s a little in here. It’s still kind of fresh for the time being, so.

03.00.32  We had Christmas, but we didn't celebrate-celebrate Christmas. We, we couldn’t put a tree up because you know, that was a tradition, we don't put a Christmas tree up. And Richard would call me up and he’d say you (?) think Dad would be very mad if put a tree up? I said he doesn’t know anything. It’s ok. If you want (?) to feel like putting Christmas tree go ahead. See, those things doesn’t bother me. I don't go that much with tradition, that you can’t do certain things. If they make you happy, go do what you need to do.

03.01.00  It was hard also had Chinese new year. 'Cos her birthday was actually two days away. So we were hoping that she would at least pass her birthday. It was like a day and a half she, she couldn’t do it. Just went. And she was in pain, so it wasn’t worth it. I mean, she was like
living like a, almost like a, she wasn’t living any more. She gets up in the morning, she’s in pain. She, she can’t eat. She constantly in the bathroom.

And then 24 hours a day my brother has to clean her up. It wasn’t, it wasn’t a life. So to me, that was, that was not good for her. Just like my father, go through dialysis, comes back, he’s sick for the whole day. He feels a little bit better the next day and then (?) they say he goes in again. So he was a very healthy man. It just went downhill and like within a month or so. He lasted a year and a half with the, with dialysis. It was not fun. It was very painful. So it’s not good to see them in pain. Of course, you don't want to see them go.

But in meantime, you look at their quality of life. It, it’s not there. See, my grandmother’s different. She’s in la-la land. But she can eat. She still can complain, and she’s still like very strong. But, but she’s not in pain. That’s the one thing good about it. I mean, she had like back pain. She had osteoporosis, but she’s not a agony pain. So it’s good. I mean, hope she lives to 100. Except nursing home’s not the most best place in, on Earth.

They really don’t clean you. They clean you once or twice a day. Other than you and your diaper, baby. And that’s sad. But what can you do? No one can baby sit her. I mean, she could have a home health aid coming 24 hours. But my aunt didn't want it.

JW: Do you see her a lot?

LING YOUNG: Yeah. I try to see her at least once a week. My cousin goes there ever day to feed her. And she had no idea who we are. She remember one or two, she remember my uncle who’s (?) no good (LAUGHS). But other than that, once in awhile she will mention her kids’ name.

Wherever she, or (?) remember where is she. I said, well, she’s on vacation. Yeah, oh, yeah? I say, yeah, she’s on vacation. Or like me, she’s, she actually she, I’m very close to her, and she know exactly who I am. But after that happened, after her, she went to the hospital, no idea who I am.
And my cousin, she knows she comes in with food every day. She knows that she used to go live upstairs. But she doesn’t know it’s her granddaughter either. So it’s kind of sad. But you still got to do what you need to do, and just because you don’t remember, you don’t go show up. My other cousin don’t bother to show up. I don’t think anybody shows up. It’s only me and her. And maybe my aunt goes there once in awhile and that’s it. It’s kind of sad.

JW: Is it hard for you?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, looking at her. I mean, she, she makes you laugh, though. I mean, she really makes you laugh. I mean, she don't want to (?) covers her mouth. And she’s (?) and she gives you that dirty look. It’s like a little kid. She gives that dirty look like don't you dare come near to me. I’m not eating. Didn't you hear? I said I don't want to eat. And you have to try to play with them, and lie to her a little bit, one more spoon, one more spoon. But the, the one more spoon, next thing you know the whole thing is gone. It’s like playing a little game. I don’t want to do it. But thank god my cousin’s very, very patient. She goes there very single night. Just to make sure she eats.

And she has her good days. She’s good. She sit down, she shut up and she eats. She has her bad days, she starts screaming and carry on. She throws you out. She push you away. Not easy. But she’s one of a kind (LAUGHS). Yeah, you got to give her credit. And she’s 95. I think she’s older but according to the papers, she’s 95. And she looking pretty good. Feisty, very good. So.

JW: Your family is very?

LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) And I’m the only one really holding it up a little bit. If I don't do it, no one does it. I mean, her birthday, I decided, I, I call everybody. Call my uncle, my two uncles. And I had my kids, my brothers, my sister. They all, we went over there. In the little room, you know, we had a cake. And she don't remember anything.
Because we tell her that we’re gonna have a lot of people coming to celebrate your birthday. So we went there that day, I guess she (?) wasn’t in the remembering mood.

03.05.34 Completely forgot what we did. (?) later asked my cousin, didn’t you say you all coming (?) coming over? She say, yeah, we did. We came already for your birthday. She says oh. And then we also Chinese, we give a red envelope. Like for the good luck. At nursing home you don't give too much. So we give her like a dollar, two dollars. She opens it up and it’s ten dollars, a hundred dollars, she looked at it, she looked at it, she study it, she says no it’s not, it’s a dollar. (LAUGHS)

03.05.59 She know her money, ok? She’s a (?). She said, that’s ok, better than nothing (LAUGHS). As she puts it away. She, 'cos she wants to give us money. She keep on saying I want to give you guys some money, I don't have any money, I said don't worry about it, don't give it to us. Well, she say oh, she want a couple of dollars to spend. You don't spend money in nursing home. But to her, she like to have her money, so that’s when we decided I’ll give her a red envelope. So she puts it in here, so now she’s loaded. (LAUGHS) Probably like $10.

03.06.28 But it’s funny. She said, no, it’s not, it’s not $10. It’s a dollar. She knows it’s (?) yes it is. It’s a dollar (LAUGHS). So she knows her money at least. At least she knows it’s a dollar bill. But other than that, it’s pretty good.

JW: Do you feel like you had closure with your mom?

03.06.55 LING YOUNG: Yeah, it was, my mother is a very stubborn individual. And it’s weird, I don't know I ever told you, I’m always wrong. No matter what I do, I’m always in trouble. I could be sitting home doing nothing, I’m in trouble. ’Cos I’m the oldest. Supposedly I’m the eldest. And I have to take care of everything. Well, I can’t handle everything. First of all, you can’t tell your brother what to do. You can’t tell your brother’s wife what to do. But that’s the old-fashioned way, that if you’re the oldest, you (?) could tell them what to do. Doesn’t work here.
Then I found out from somebody saying that the reason she cannot really stand me too much 'cos when I was born, supposedly I didn't bring good luck. Oh, gee, thanks, you know? After fifty years, you tell me these things? 'Cos what (?) my mother drive me nuts all the time? That was the main thing, they said to me. That I bought, I took away all the shine, all the luck from her. I don't know. So she’s always like drive me nuts.

JW: Who told you that?

LING YOUNG: One of my, one of my (?) relatives, I don't know. Somebody did. I said no wonder. They all (?) they, matter of fact, people tease me. Say Ling, what have you got yourself into now? I said I have no clue. I’m home. But if anything happen to my brother on Staten Island, I get blamed. I said, what it got to do with me? 'Cos my name’s Ling. They always blame me. She always, and even my father. He was, he, he went in for surgery. He was constipated. So I had them do the depository, whatever you want to call that?

And I did it (?) probably was painful. First time it didn't work, second time it worked. Oh, my god. He was screaming and carrying on, that how could I do such thing? As a daughter, how could I be so mean and, and revengeful that you want to kill me? I’m your father. How could you do this to me? And he was carry on like I was gonna kill him. Then he start telling everybody I want to kill him. I found that out 'cos my cousin told me. Ok? Which is typical of my father.

If you tell (?) the story that I (?) Ling wants to kill me. I don't understand why she want to do that. I’m her father. How could she be so mean? I said, whatever you say. So I don't, then I was afraid to go to him because I don’t want to upset him. It bothers me a lot. I didn't want to go, I can’t go, 'cos I used to go in every week, once or twice just to see how his wound is doing. I couldn’t do that, 'cos I don't want to start, start up all kinds of excitement in his life.

But (?) a day before he die, I couldn’t handle it any more. So and my cousin came over, and I use him as excuse. I said, you know what? I’m gonna use him as an excuse. And I go there, maybe he won’t start up with me. I went that day, actually they came back from the
cemetery. That’s the day he told my brother exactly where the grave is, which is weird. Yeah. This is the one you go, this is, they go every year. But he never really stress it. That day, he stress exactly where’s everything.

03.10.01 And he look, and he went there, he looks great. You thought, if you didn't know he was sick, you didn't know he was sick. You know how they say the, there’s a saying if you’re die, a couple of days before you look like you just, what’s the word for it? Like you’re a completely different person. Ok? He was like nothing happened, he looks great. He was like, he had colors. He ate. I gave him food, he ate. He didn't say anything to me, but I say, you know, let’s cut the thing short because this is not good, you know?

03.10.32 This is going too well. So I left. And that night he, he, he threw up and then he went to the hospital. And normally they tell me about it. And that time they didn't tell me about it. And he passed away that night. But quietly, though. Which is not bad. So both my parents kind of suffer a lot, but they didn't go with the tube and everything like that, 'cos they were gonna put the tube in my mother. I said no, you’re not. And we had a hard time getting the (?) living will?

03.11.01 We have a hard time doing it. A matter of fact, the hospital made us all, we all wrote a letter saying that why this is what my mother wants. 'Cos they won’t ever put tubes, I said no you’re not. So we got all that thing done, I mean, it was hell. We did it in, and then they didn't like it. It wasn’t good enough. Ok, fine. So we had this whole thing done again. And we had a friend who come into the hospital about, almost 10:30, 11 o’clock at that night to notarize that thing.

03.11.31 It wasn’t even necessary, 'cos the next (?) in the middle of the night she passed away. But then we learned. You better get that paper done right there on the spot. 'Cos to me, putting a tube in her is a way, another day or two. And she don't know what’s going on anymore. It’s not worth it. If you know this is gonna help, yes. But not in her condition. She was completely terminal. And well, she puked the whole thing out. That’s all, all garbage already.
JW: You have a fear of death?

LING YOUNG: Yes, and no. We think about it. I don't know. I can't answer that, I don't know. I mean, I say we do think about it. We like (?) to go nice and easy, of course. Who doesn't right? That's a good question. We think about it a lot, but I don't think we ever have an answer, to be honest with you. I guess (?)

JW: When you say we, do you mean you?

LING YOUNG: I don't know. I think once in a while when you have, when you’re watching TV or you or, actually when you’re not watching anything, you just doing certain things, things pop up and say gee, if I die, what's gonna happen? I said, well, if I die, if I have insurance, my kids will be rich (LAUGHS). That’s about it. In a way I was glad I didn't die that year. Only because I have so many loose end, that I would leave such a mess.

That they would have a long way to figure out what’s going on. So since then, of course, I tied up everything, so if anything happen, they know what’s going on. Yeah, as you gets older, you say sometime I say to myself, well, if I live five years, that’ll be 60, another five years, 65. Do I want to, do I go beyond 75? I don't think so.

03.13.31 So I don’t think I would say that to me, my own personal thing, I don't think I’ll live that long. Just in your head. And I don't think I want to live to a point that like my grandmother I don't know what’s going on. Or my mother’s in pain. To me, that’s not worth it. I don't want to die now, but it could happen, ok? 'Cos I still have so many things I want to do. So.

JW: What things do you want to do?

LING YOUNG: Like to travel. Which I always like to. But because of now, I can’t do too much, but sooner or later I hope I could do it. And yeah, I like, I like to do it. So I hope I have a chance, but the way we are, like I said, I could be doing great today, and tomorrow my hand won’t move. I’m not gonna be too much, and my leg, if I cannot walk around, yeah,
it’s nice to travel, but I don't want to be in a wheelchair traveling. So I, if I could get whatever I can do what is this last couple of year, it would be great.

If I can’t do anything like that in the future, I say, well, I have memories. So. You know, I’m. hoping I could do it. Fearing, yeah? Just hope I do it easy. Go easy. But you know, (?) it’s not always what you want. Whatever they tell you to do, this is what’s gonna happen. And. But I do think about other things, like if there’s an accident near me, if my kid happened to be around the area, your heart goes down.

Then you (?) pick up the phone and say, where are you? 'Cos that tends to be more often. Before, I don’t do that. But now I do. If something happen, I call right away. Just like the, actually I didn’t know about the explosion, the steam pipe explosion. Actually, that day my support group is at my house. I didn’t know about it. And my daughter called, Melissa called me, and but I didn't watch the TV, I didn't know how bad it was. I figured it was just an explosion. And I did not tell my support group 'cos I know they’re gonna be like all wound up. I looked at it, everybody looked at it, it was not good. 'Cos that reminded us complete of 9-11, with all the steam, people running. I thought actually it was 9-11, when they showed the picture. That’s how bad it was. It was so much of what happened that day. That took us awhile to get, get back to normal. Took us a good month or two (~I~) yeah.

JW: What did you think of specifically?

LING YOUNG: It make us think of exactly what JW:

JW: (COACHES RESPONSE)

LING YOUNG: Yeah, exactly what happened that day. (~I~) Then start thinking about why did it happen. Is it really just a pipe? Or is it what? Matter of fact, Judy, my daughter-in-law, happened to, she just left the place like 2, 3 minutes before. So you see, like you’re saying to
yourself, ok, things are happening and then you just happened to miss it this time. What’s gonna happen next time?

03.16.34 And then we started getting edgy for awhile, ‘cos every time we talk about it, you get a little, that’s an anxiety attack right there. Thank god it didn't last too long, about a month or so. Less than 2 months. And that would be like 5, 6 meeting we were in. And, and then we, while we’re talking about that, we (?) also talk about 9-11 also. And a lot of things just brings it back. That’s the thing.

03.17.01 And I understand it was a, was an accident, I think. Yeah. It helped, but in our head, do we really believe in accident? It was like. You always try to think the other way. Even though it is, even though they prove it. ‘Cos a lot of time they said, this happen, it’s not, it’s not a terrorist thing. But you think a little bit. ‘Cos we don't 100% believe what the media tells you.

03.17.29 So. I don't know. But it’s over for the time being.

JW: What were you just thinking of?

03.17.43 LING YOUNG: I don't know (LAUGHS). Just like (?) I don't know. Something just went through and must went out (LAUGHS). It happens. I know I’m thinking, but I’m like ok, I forgot (LAUGHS). It might come back. But that’s us.

03.17.59 You talk and say ok, what happened? I don’t know (LAUGHS). It happens so much with our group it’s not even funny. (LAUGHS) But we used to it. It’s ok, forget it, next time. But. You know, tend to remember, forget what you, what you thinking.

JW: How’s Donald?

03.18.16 LING YOUNG: Doing good. He’s cleaning, doing a lot of work, because you know, he’s home now, if you know. So he did a lot of work in the back. You’d be surprised how many things falls apart on you. Oh, my god. Everything start falling apart. (~I~)
JW:  Is he retired?

03.18.32  LING YOUNG: Yeah. Yeah. The house is 18 years, shouldn’t be that bad, but. Quite a lot of things to be done. We just actually power washed the deck. That took like 2 weeks. Had a big crowd, I had my, funny. After 9-11, they all want to see me, my, my high school friends. And we got together, after 35 years? Oh, my god, yeah. After 35 years we got together, say, (?) no, no one really changed that much. We had dinner.

03.19.04  And they decide want to come over and barbecue. They didn't give me of a choice. They asked Donald, Donald says ask (?) my wife. They ask me, ask my husband. Say you two are, are baloney. We just coming, so they made a date, they came over. So we, it was a good time, and then last week Donald had his friend from work and his school friend. Oh, my god, we had 90-some odd people. Was a lot of people. I would never do it again, it’s too many people. You don't know who came. You say I don’t know you don't know me,'cos there’s two separate group.

03.19.34  So we had that. But he’d been very busy doing the yard. And then he’s helping Junior in his house, 'cos my son just bought a house. Of course, driving me crazy, that’s another issue. (LAUGHS)

JW:  Junior?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, Junior, Donald Junior.

JW:  Junior’s driving you crazy?

LING YOUNG: No, Donald (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I mean, he’s (?) a baby. What are you gonna do? He’s the only child. He’s just, he, he wants certain things done, he wants to go certain place, I got to go, and sometimes I’m like why would you want to do it again? It’s the same time. But I want to do it. He’s very, because he doesn’t have brother and sister, so he’s very trying to be very close with his own cousins, whatever. So I would go all the way to let’s say Seattle to have dinner with this lady. I said why do that? That’s him. He drives me nuts. If we try to go to different places to meet people, and I’m like, and a matter of fact. he, he wants me to go to Maine to meet his professor. I’m like oh, god.

'Cos he professor is one, (of those?) people is oh, you got to come up, if you don't come up, I got to come see. Ok, that’s it. That’s like a definite. So I have to go to Maine to see, to see this guy. I have no energy for this nonsense. But sometimes you got to do what you got to do, 'cos if not, he say you doing for your family, why can’t you do for me? So if sometimes, oh, do I really want to go to Maine just to have dinner? But that’s Donald.

You should know by, by now, right? (LAUGHS). Nothing new.

JW: Do you think he feels he doesn’t have family?

LING YOUNG: No, no, his parent die, his mother died like 13 years ago. His father died 10 years ago. JW: And they were a lot older when they have him.

JW: He doesn’t have siblings or extended family?

LING YOUNG: He is reaching out. Actually, he’s trying to reach so, out too much, though. You know? Yeah, you could reach out, but not to this extent. He’s reaching out like all the way to god knows how many generations down. And they loved it. Yeah, sure, they loved it. In the meantime, I got stuck with it. And I try to explain to him. I said I can’t help it if you don't have no brother and sister. It’s not my fault that you don't have anybody. But doesn’t mean you got to take your cousin replace what you have. So I guess it’s a little jealously right there. That how come I could, that’s how my, my brother and my sister around.
03.21.57 But I can’t help but they are my brother and sister. They blood. Meantime, your cousin is blood, but not immediate blood. It’s a little, there was a, a difference there. But he can’t see it. I guess he doesn’t know how to see it. And he never grew up with a bunch of people that teaches him (all that?). His cousin really doesn’t, they don't really hang out together. Matter of fact, he hanging out mostly with old (mens?). Yeah, his father’s friends. Actually once a year we have dinner like that. He invite all his father’s friend. It’s like 90, 85, you add them together, it’s over a thousand years over there.

03.22.32 Oh, yeah, every year we have that. I’ll do that, only because the way he is. Like he go to the cemetery, he had like 40, 50, 60 graves to go, ’cos he promised those old men he has no family. So we go there it’s like a whole day trip. We leave like 6, 7 o’clock in the morning, we didn't get finished until like 2, 3 o’clock in the afternoon. We had like 3, 4 cemetery to go. He just go there, he pop the flower. Bow his head, next. But he has so many ’cos they’re all old mens.

03.22.59 And have no family here. So he promised them to he’s gonna go to the grave. So every year we do that, twice a year. Matter of fact, one coming in September.

JW: He promised?

LING YOUNG: The old man.

JW: His father?

LING YOUNG: Friends.

03.23.13 LING YOUNG: Or even his friend, which is like 70, 80, 90 years old. 'Cos when he was growing up, his father wasn’t around to help him out. So he hang out with these people like
could be his father or grandfather. They take him around, too. So but all those people what doesn’t have family here, he’s, he does that. So he goes there to the grave, he plop the flower, he does whatever.

JW: You go with him?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, well, if I got to go to my mother and my father and now there’s only my grandmother, I got to go in one trip. So it’s like oh. So I think now we have to do two trip, because my parents in one trip. And then I guess do the others another trip. And ‘cos one is in, two of them is in Queens and Brooklyn. They’re my mother-in-law’s in upstate, so it’s like a long haul.

And try to get everybody together is not easy. Matter of fact, we have one coming in September, I think. I don’t know what day is it. It’s like, see, and we all go. It’s not like certain family, only certain people go. There’s no such thing, unless it’s something happened that you can’t go, that you, you could get away not going to cemetery. He’s not gonna let you get away you can’t go to the cemetery. You got to go. And it’s been like that since they were babies, so they know, come to cemetery. Even Richard’s like that. Richard’s like him. Oh, god.

Cemetery time is very important. And he remember all my in-laws’ anniversary. And he would call up and saying, do you know what day is it? I’m like yeah, I know (LAUGHS) ‘cos you try to remember. Every time he calls you, I said, yeah, I know, I know what day is it (LAUGHS). 'Cos my mother-in-law’s, I know she’s just passed not too long ago. The reason why he remember the day he, she died, is the day he, first day he went to work. And he step on shit (LAUGHS).

He (smashed?) up in this big clump of dog thing. It was like (LAUGHS). And that’s they day she die. So it kind of, see he kind of remember it. But he remember all those day, I don’t know, he’s mentally remember, I don’t know what it was. So yeah, we have a lot of graves to go in cemetery time. But he believes in that, so which is good in a way. He goes to clean up
the little thing. I guess clean up the grass. His grandfather’s there, too. Since 1946 he passed away. So we have enough.

03.25.29 And as you can see, everybody’s dying, too, so it’s like getting more to go. We haven’t go to the one, the fire marshal, Ron Bucca. We go there, too. That’s also upstate. We just go there, put out flower. He’s kind ok like, Ron Bucca is the one that technically he was on the terrorist team. He’s the one that actually show everybody going up the stairway A. Is that the, A, the way we came down? I think. He’s the one to know about the stairway. If he didn't know about the stairway, we wouldn’t be here.

03.26.02 That’s the difference.

JW: When did he die?

LING YOUNG: He died in 9-11. They (~I~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.26.16 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) Ron Bucca is actually is, Jim is his boss. And I think I told you that Ron said let’s go up this stair, and he’s like who are you telling me what to do? I’m your boss. But he said, oh, by the way he said it let’s go. And that was the stairway that (?) all the firemen went up.

03.26.33 He knew about that, that’s why. He was, after (?) ’93, they form a team. He’s one of the member. So technically, in a way, even though he didn't actually save me, but he is the one to actually show everybody going up there because of him, Jim found me. So, so we went to a lot of his memorial. And so since we’re going up North, and his cemetery is a kind of like on the way going up, we always drop by and, and bring some flowers.

03.27.05 So then that’s why he’s like so many. And my cousin actually buried, too, a woman, a, a young girl that also died in 9-11. And my, Donald’s friend, niece. So when we go, we have a
whole truck of flowers. (LAUGHS) That’s what we do. Sometime (you?) can’t get the flower. That’s the sad part.

JW: When you go up north?

03.27.30 LING YOUNG: That’s my mother-in-law and my father-in-law, my, Ron Bucca, and some of my cousins up there.

JW: One place?

03.27.36 LING YOUNG: No, no, no. Different, different area. So that’s why I’m saying you go to so many different area, I mean, one cemetery will be 20 different area. They don’t bury in the same place. I mean, like my grandparent will be buried in certain area, my father’s another corner. And my aunt is another end. It’s a (?) in the whole cemetery, but it’s like from one end to another, and if you don’t go early in the morning, ‘cos the Chinese have a certain date.

03.28.02 You can’t move. So that’s why we leave like 6:30, 7 o’clock in the morning, we get there just when they open. That’s Brooklyn. ‘Cos if you don’t get there early, you get there like 10 o’clock, forget it. You can’t get through. That’s the difference. It’s different. We have our days. You guys have Christmas and Easter, or whatever. Some certain kind of, no, we have our April and September.

03.28.33 April’s the day that people go and clean the grave. We have a special thing for that. September, I forgot that the, what’s the, what’s the reason for September? Twice a year you go. Yeah, that’s the tradition. And I think (?) Richard will be carrying that. He’s very much into that. So, you know, we all go. That’s like a family thing.

03.28.59 And actually most Chinese goes there and they bring food. And they like have a picnic table there. After that they eat. Sometimes they bring a whole pig. Depends how big the family. Some (?) families are real big. Like the whole association. They have bring pigs and cookies and pastries, and they just lay down then eat. That’s the thing.
JW: An interesting association with remembrance?

03.29.26 LING YOUNG: Yeah. You go there, you bring your incense, and like I said, it’s funny about food. It’s weird. I normally, my, Donald’s parents, he brings a chicken and some pork. And wine, things like that. And you leave it there, and you do your things, and you leave. I never did it for my grandmother 'cos I didn't believe, ok? You know how to dream. She told me I didn't give her anything. I, I never dream about my grandmother, never did. I came home from the cemetery the next day, that night I dreamed about it. She says how could you come and not bring me chicken?

03.30.00 I said ok (LAUGHS). Since then, I’ve been bringing chicken. And I’ve been telling Donald, I say, I think we’ll have to buy two, 'cos you go from one cemetery you go another with the same chicken, they gonna start fighting for it (LAUGHS). I think we better buy two. One for them and one for the other. You can’t split the chickens on the way (LAUGHS). And you also burn money, you know, the fake money. And some people bring, burn like a lot of those paper dolls, like you made a car.

03.30.34 Oh, (?) expensive, too, but they bring them. You burn them (?) get them. It’s (?) like a Chinese tradition. Very, very common now. Many years ago they (?) didn't have that, but now they have it. So you know, everybody has their own way of doing things. (LAUGHS)

JW: Do you have a point of view about the memorialization of Ground Zero?

03.31.07 LING YOUNG: I don't go to it. 'Cos I don't want to remember it. Actually I don't know what’s going on. Like I say I have not read anything about it. All I heard about it was they’re moving it to another place. That’s all I know about it. Other than that, I don't even go to the memorial in my area, only because I don't want too much of the, of the memory of it. 'Cos I don't know what’s gonna happen there. So actually I have not, I don't think I have been anywhere I haven’t been anywhere.
03.31.36 They actually called me for the first couple of years. After that, they never call me anymore. 'Cos I don't come out here. That’s one thing I don't do is I don't come out to New York that day. I still hasn’t passed that stage that I could come out that day. That’s one day I don’t come out. In my head, I can’t see myself in here that day. Not yet, that is. Down the road, I don't know. But now, no, the answer’s no.

03.32.01 So I don't know (~I~)

JW: What do you think about a memorial there in a few years?

03.32.09 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I would like them to have it there. If you ask me, do I want a memorial there, yes, I do. 'Cos to me, this is where the people die, ok? Building a building, I don’t want to get involved. I really don't know too much about it. But definitely they should have one. But I didn’t like the way they, I don't know which one they chose.

03.32.29 I didn't like the one that they have like you see a big hole and the water’s coming, I didn't like that one. That gives me the creepy feeling that you look down, something like you falling in. But I don't know which one they chose. I have no idea which one they chose. Unless you could tell me, I don't know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS RE: Memorial with water, beneath PATH train)

03.34.05 LING YOUNG: 'Cos Grace was thinking about taking the PATH train, but her daughter took the PATH train, she said the PATH train goes around in a circle in the World Trade, you actually see what’s going up. I said no, no, Grace. If you can’t go to New York, that’s not the first place to start. First of all, you’re in (?) the subway in the way, and (?) the subway. If you can’t handle New York City, I said I don't think I could handle the thing going on (?) and you can see everything around it. I don't think I could handle that, either. I’m not ready to handle that.
I said if I can’t handle for me going to New York all the time, I wouldn’t suggest you to do it yet. So we decided we’re gonna do the ferry. But I don’t know when. One day (?) we will wake up and just say let’s do it. And I’m willing to do it with them. So. Let’s keep my fingers crossed. I wanted them to really get out of their thing. So we’ll see.

JW: What about Donald and what he’s doing these days?

LING YOUNG: Gets up in the morning, he goes outside, thank god, he stays outside for awhile. He does his thing. I get up. Like I still doesn’t sleep the way I want to sleep. So I get up. I start coffee which is like wow, out of nowhere, get my tea. Do a little paperwork, which is nothing, and then I don't know how my day go by. Well, I have a lot of doctors’ appointment, too. So by the time you get home, by time you get to settle down, look at the internet a little bit, and you, the day’s over.

And I sit down and watch TV. I mean, my, my TV, not the kind of TV on show. I, if you ask me what’s on, what’s on TV, I wouldn’t know. And I purposeful didn't channel, like History Channel’s so when I turn it on. Actually I shouldn’t be (?) History channel anymore, 'cos this week is not good. So maybe Discovery channel, whatever. So when I turn the TV on, that channel’s in front of me. Not channel 2 or channel 4 news. I don't want to be involved in that this year, just in case.

I don’t want to put myself in a position that I have to be nervous about it. And that’s how, how we do things now. This all of us. This couple, at least these two months or so.

JW: What about Donald’s being retired?

LING YOUNG: Yes. It’s 24 hours is not fun, ok? (LAUGHS) Is not fun. And it’s finally thank god he’s, he’s busy with his yard, ok, and he’s busy with my son. So that helps a little bit. And he hasn’t really gone fishing, either. That’s the bad part. 'Cos if he goes, if he’s out of my hair. I think he trying to do so much thing at one time, he only have one, he’s only one
person. He doesn’t realize that. Plus he’s getting a little older. I mean, he’s not old. But you know, he, you not the same anymore.

03.36.58 There’s certain things you can’t do, but he likes to do everything himself. Then he complain he’s tired. You see, you can’t have everything. I said, if you can’t do it, hire somebody to do it. But no, he, ’cos he very particular. Just like the, the deck power wash. You can hire somebody. But my deck would be, could be funny because it’s cedar. If you don't do it right, this, you can make a hole in there if you power washed that thing. So he was on his knees, and next thing you know he’s half-dead. Thank god he love, he love to watch like the Discovery channel. 'Cos he, he could be on TV like 2, 3 hours, which is good.

03.37.31 We try to stay away from each other (LAUGHS). Try not to be too much together (LAUGHS). 'Cos otherwise, you, you kill yourself. Retiring is not the fun thing. Even like a lot of his friend, they were gonna retire, the wife said no, no you go to work. And matter of fact, they were looking for people, who were retired to go back to work and everybody’s receiving letters. I said Donald, how come you don't receive any letters? 'Cos they don't want me. I said, please call them, maybe they want you (LAUGHS).

03.37.59 Well, they know he’s retired because of me. That’s one main reason, because Marge is semi-retired. And I still do get my dizzy spell. So you don't know when it’s gonna go (?). And I’m not around. So I always have somebody around me. Just because I don't want to fall and the next thing I drop dead because I don't know what happened. I said I don't want to die that way. If I came back here, in 9-11, I don't want to die because I just fall. So. That’s why he’s retired in a way.

03.38.31 But having home 24 hour is not fun (LAUGHS). As long as you don't air this, this is good (LAUGHS). It is not fun. And he, he’s crazy. He drives me nuts. He has this adamant thing like he wants to go have dinner in Toronto. I said Donald, for what? They just saw, you just saw most of them in, at Junior’s wedding, what the hell for? Says I want to go. You don't want to go anywhere, I want to go. I said, oh, he wants to go Niagara Falls, but I seen Niagara Fall five times already. It’s Ok.
03.38.58 Nothing exciting. People love (?) that place. To me, it's a fall. How many time you gonna see a stupid fall? (LAUGHS). I seen many, many time. I even was there when I was working.

JW: Trying to get the romance back?

03.39.13 LING YOUNG: Oh, no. He just like to do what he wants to do, he’s just driving me crazy. What romance? That’s over (LAUGHS). We too old for that (LAUGHS). I mean, we try, (?) I do try to do things together, in a, in a better way. 'Cos the kids are out. Melissa’s out, you know?

03.39.32 And the kids are grown, so what else you gonna do, you get stuck with this old man, so you might as well try to live with that thing (LAUGHS). But he, he’s good, he’s good in bed sometimes. It (?) depends on his hormone, I guess? Woman has, has menopause. I think he, he does, too. So. But. As (?) long as he’s with his family he’s very happy, that’s the thing. But then I say you don't have that.

03.40.01 That's the bad part. I mean, he is, he's like a different person. But they not around, it’s nothing I can do about it. That’s why he’s like reaching out, to all those people. Like I say, he found his professor after 35 years? Oh. The guy, they’re meeting up with each other. Oh, yeah, he has another professor, no not a professor, a high school teacher from high school. Oh, they close. I see him at least once or twice a year. I mean, I’m like Ok, and after awhile, I’m tired.

03.40.32 'Cos they, the guy just talks and talks, and you don't know how to shut him up. So I’m like ok, I’m sitting with this 80-some odd year old man, which I don't mind. But after awhile I’m say, I’m tired. But you’re stuck with him. There’s a whole dinner for like 3 hours. So. Actually I’m gonna see him next month. (LAUGHS) So it wasn’t fun.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
04.00.33 LING YOUNG: This is the worst part. (~JW~) I do get all over the place, but when this goes up, it might have to do with circulation. It’d gotten, it gets so thick that it, it won’t go down until like a long time. And I do have pills, besides Benidryl, but it’s not really working that much any more ‘cos I’ve been taking it forever, six years? After awhile, the pill doesn’t work. So I take other pill which is stronger, but still doesn’t, and I also have itch cream, which is medicated.

04.01.02 Prescription itch cream. But that has steroid, so you don't want to use it all the time, like in the sun you don't want to use it. So, but it’s ok. It hurts, though. That’s the weird part. So that’s, that’s why I think the, the vessel might be, I don't have to do with it’s clogged or whatever. Maybe that’s the reason why my hands are swelled up.

JW: Are you taking a lot of medication these days?

04.01.27 LING YOUNG: I’m still taking it, but not as much as I used to, ok? I cut down on (Nuroten?), because when I talk, I go (?) I don't know what I’m saying. So my psychologist said how much (nuroten?) you taking? I was taking like 1600 milligram. So slowly I went down. That also was for my nerve pain. I don't have as much nerve pain as I used to, so I try
to cut that down. I cut down my sleeping pill a little bit. I don't take my anxiety pill unless I need it. I don't take it on a daily basis.

04.01.59 Like lately I would have to take it. See, normally people take one milligram and they’re knocked out. I have to take two and it doesn’t do anything for me, that’s how tolerant I am with the, with their medicine. I figure they will call me, but they take like half a milligram and they’re like conked out. I say you’re kidding? I said I take two and I’m like one third his size. So I guess it depends on a body. See, I’m still taking, I call that a happy pill, I still take that. But it helps. It really like calms you down.

04.02.27 I don't take Zoloft or none of those. That I try but it’s like it knocks me off, so I couldn’t do it. And they say you’d need two weeks to, to have it regulated. I said I don't care. It’s horrible. You were like, you have no life. You’re like in la-la land all the time. I said I’m not taking that. So. I’m still with the same kind of pill, doesn’t really change so much on my pill, 'cos I’m not taking it all the time. I’m not like some of them like every day they take like 3, 4 kind of anti-depression pill. I can’t do that.

04.02.58 I go make it my business not to do it. And that’s why.

JW: Why is that?

04.03.03 LING YOUNG: 'Cos you get very addicted to it and you can’t live without it, and all they gonna do is just change your prescription and change the dosage. I can’t do it (~JW~)

JW: Do you ever think you were addicted at all?

04.03.14 LING YOUNG: I never was. Some pill I was, ok? You can’t live without it, like a sleeping pill, you couldn’t life without it. The other pill I’m not addicted to it only because I don’t take it all the time. I’m not like them every single day. In the morning you take this, in the afternoon take that. And I was very lucky.
04.03.31 I dealt with a pain management doctor. See, they deal with a psychiatrist, which they all
know how to do is prescribe A, B, C, D bill. I didn't have that problem. I go to my pain
management, he takes my, he oversee all my pain medication at the same time, oversees what
the (?) psychology recommend for my anxiety. And then he would look at it, this is, this will
be better for you. But this is better for, for this particular purpose.

04.04.01 Not like a psychiatrist oh, this is good because according to the study, whatever, this is good
for anxiety. This is good for whatever. I didn't have that problem, so I don't have the kind of
pill that they take. And I’ve been trying to tell them, too, I said why don't you just go to a
pain management, let them regulate all your medicine? 'Cos they have in side affect on
different ones. If you take one, you might not be good for the other one. That’s why I like, I
like my, my doctor.

04.04.27 He said now, this is no good. Don't take this one, because this is, this not gonna have any
affect on this one. So that helps.

JW: You and I discussed how Donald doesn’t understand what you are going through?

04.04.45 LING YOUNG: He still doesn’t understand (LAUGHS). He still doesn’t understand.
Sometime I get so frustrated I say you know what? I really want one day to tie his hand, to
see how he feels that you can’t use your hand.

04.05.00 'Cos he sees me, 'cos I’m walking, I’m doing things, he see me like nothing happened. Like
I’m just the normal Ling to, before 2001. I keep on saying to him, I’m not the same. He
would say to me, you said such and such, I said I did? Yes, you did. I said, you can’t hold me
to it 'cos I don't remember what I said. And plus, if I say something, sometime I might not
even know what I said. So he’s holding me to things I, I said I was gonna do.

04.05.28 You can’t do that. So I try not to even promise him anything because God forbid you say I’m
gonna go to dinner today, for argument’s sake. If something happen. I mean, things could
happen completely out of control. He doesn’t see it, he doesn’t see past that line. I guess he
never, he never know how to work, 'cos he never really dealt with any problem. He was easy. I did all the dirty work. He went to work, he came home. I did, I don't know, from, from everything around the, around the house including the kids, everything I took over.

04.06.02 So now all the sudden I can’t do it, and he’s trying to take over, that was like an impossible job. Like all the sudden, oh, my god I have to think. Well, you know what? Tough, things happen. So the minute he sees me doing things, he’s like I’m back to normal. So he’s treating me like nothing had happened to me. In the meantime, I can’t take, take care of anything. I can’t pick up a pot. I mean, if I drop something, he gets mad, he said why didn't you ask me to do it? I said because I ask you to do it, you drive me nuts.

04.06.26 So I try to do it. Mentally he doesn’t know about my mental stage. I think he’s clueless. A matter of fact, even my girlfriend, Mary (~JW~)

JW: What is your mental state, and do you talk about it to him?

04.06.43 LING YOUNG: We talk about it, I keep on trying to tell him, I’m not the same, ok? You can’t treat me the same way what I used to be. Whatever my, I’m thinking sometime, it’s not what I’m thinking. Like (~JW~)

JW: How would you describe it?

04.07.01 LING YOUNG: It’s almost the same, if I’m in (?) a depressed mood, or if I am thinking about something that, about what happened that day or I'm not in a, in a good position to even talk to you, whatever, you can’t just look at me like I’m crazy. Because why are you doing it? Well, because this is happening and I just happen to think about what happened that day. You can’t just say don't think about it. It doesn’t work that way. I don't want to think about it, it happens.

04.07.30 And with him it’s like it’s not that it’s over, don't think about it. But he, I don't think he know how it affected us. I don't think he knows how it, it puts me into a complete different person.
He just think that I am what I am before this happens. But I’m not, I keep on saying I’m not, I’m not the same person. I, I can’t do certain thing. I can’t do, you would tell me something I don't remember what happened. If you insist that I say something, sometime now I say if you insist I said, I said it, 'cos I really don't remember.

04.08.01 I have no clue what I said. So I try not to promise thing, 'cos if god forbid you promise it, if god forbid if something happen, you get, you can’t out of your control you can’t do it, he still holds me to it. Well, things happen. If I can’t do certain thing, I can’t. If, if let’s say if I want to go out to dinner (?) and it’s a tornado going outside. Well, you say you’re going to dinner, we’re going out. Well, hello? There’s a tornado outside. You know the kind of extreme. I guess he still never learn how to accept the fact this happen.

04.08.32 To him, it’s like ok, it happens. He talks about it like you know, my mother, my, my wife is burned in 9-11, like ok, Donald, keep your mouth shut, I don't like to. I don't introduce myself that way unless they ask me. I don't go volunteer my information. I don't go (?) oh, yeah, you know what happened to me? Look. I don't do that. They happen, they staring at me, they uncomfortable, then I open my mouth. I said that’s just burn. They don't continue to ask me another question, I don't say it’s 9-11.

04.08.59 To me it’s like, I don't want to go into detail.

JW: Why is that?

04.09.04 LING YOUNG: I don't want to go into detail unless they ask me. I don't feel, I don't know. I don't think I see the need to say wow, you know, what happened to her blahblahblah. I don't do that.

JW: Any strange guilt?

04.09.18 LING YOUNG: No, but I guess I, how many time you gonna say it? Just like I went to the doctor the other day, in the doctor’s room and I said, talk to the nurse, you know what
happen, 9-11. The nurse said, oh, ok, and that was it. People don't give a (?) people don't really care any more.

04.09.33 They, every once in awhile you’ll see a nurse and then they start crying, and I say, ok, please. I mean, I went to the emergency room (?) one time, it wasn't too long ago, so what happened? Yeah, I got burned. Oh, said, what happened? I said 9-11. And she start crying. And I’m ok. Ok, it’s ok, I’m ok (LAUGHS), you know what I mean? So I don’t want to go too much unless they really ask. Or they would say, would you mind tell me what happened, and I said all right, I’ll tell them, not the whole story, but, major detail, but I don't volunteer information. I don't like Donald volunteering information.

04.10.03 That bothers me. I don't know why, but it bothers me. So I said to him, if they don't ask, shut your mouth. Don't say anything. But they ask, I said when they ask you a question, yes, but they don't ask you, just don't say anything. Unless they say what happened I say, oh, yeah, I got burned, and I left it that way. They, continue to ask me, where you get burned, and I said ok, 9-11. And they say, oh, ok, and that was it.

04.10.27 The same way at the wedding. A couple of people ask me, and I went a little bit. Some people said what happened, and I said ok, and then I went into a little detail. But I didn't go like elaborating it the whole story, where I was, what happened, this happened, that happened. I didn't go in that much detail.

JW: Why do you think Donald does?

LING YOUNG: I don't know.

JW: What would you guess?

04.10.48 LING YOUNG: I guess he loves to talk (LAUGHS). He loves to tell everybody what happened. But to me sometime it’s, it’s not necessary. Just like we had the, the filming of the dinner?
04.11.00 Since it’s all my family, which is what happened all the time. When I go to, go see my grandma, I had my family go out to dinner. He feel important enough to have his uncle, and I said oh, god. My daughter got real mad at him. Said, why do you ask him? Well, he’s the (?) Young side of the family. I said, but that’s not about you. But it make him feel good, go there. And he introduces, oh, this is the oldest couple (and my youngest?) and Danielle kind of look at, ok. All right. Make him feel good. But it’s not necessary.

04.11.29 He likes to, I guess he like to be included in everything. But unfortunately, when you talk about my side of the family, we go to dinner, whatever, you don't have a brother and sister, I’m not gonna invite your cousin just to, just to pick up space, because here goes your side of the family and goes my side of the family. It doesn’t work that way. That’s why my, that’s why the wedding’s like tremendous. And my daughter said, when I get married, I’m not going through what Junior or Richard’s going. This is nonsense. ‘Cos so many people. And, and we didn't invite a lot of people.

04.12.01 It’s (~JW~) scary. (~LAUGHS) Scary wedding. (~JW~) I have no clue who was there (~LAUGHS). (~JW~) No, I know who showed up, because I had the list. But did I see them? No. You can’t mingle with that many people.

JW: You seem to have come a ways with his understanding?

04.12.24 LING YOUNG: You know what? It’s done. He’s not gonna understand. I’m not wasting my breath. That’s how I see it. And we, it bothers me because we get, he gets upset, like if he has to do certain things for me, and he’s tired and he gets frustrated and I get frustrated ‘cos I’m not getting my things done. It’s just like a major like conflicts. Now it’s like I’m, course, of course, now I’m better. I could do so much thing myself. But don't forget, I have like a home (health aid?) ten, ten hours a day, five days a week. That was (~JW~) it.

JW: Please repeat the answer?
04.12.52  LING YOUNG: I have a home health aid five days a week, ten hours a day. So she did major work, and matter of fact, she’s still with me, except she’s semi-retire. And he comes home, he does certain things, but my husband never cook before, never did anything before. Like I say, he goes to work comes home. He does the (?) outside work, or whatever major construction work. But anything other than that, he doesn’t do. So all sudden like the role has changed. He, he’s doing both. ’Cos he kind of stressed out. But it’s not that I want to, I have no choice. I couldn’t move before. So he’s like overwhelmed with all these thing, all this task is driving him crazy.

04.13.29  Try to teach him how to cook. You could teach him the same thing ten time, and tomorrow he would ask you the same question, what am I doing? Then you get mad. It’s like what are you doing that’s so, so, so difficult? It’s just one simple thing. But to him it’s like a big task, 'cos, he, he know what he’s doing, but he wants somebody like sit, stand there like do this and do that and do this. I can’t do that. If I could do it I might as well do it myself. So now it’s like when he’s, especially when he’s tired, he’s like hey. Just don't bother me, ok? You do your thing, and (LAUGHS) I do mine.

04.14.02  And I think it works out a little bit better (~JW~) bless you. Because I don't take thing, well, he’s not as stressful, that’s one thing good, ok? (~JW~) Well, he doesn’t go to work. He used to get up at 4:30 in the morning. He doesn’t get home, he gets home early, but he’s half-dead. He comes home, he still got other things to do. So now he’s like (?) he gets up, goes out. Reads his newspaper. He’s, he’s doing pretty good. He’s enjoying his life.

04.14.29  And therefore, now he’s looking all over the place to go out to dinner with people. Oh, I got to go with Cousin one, cousin two, and I’m just like oh, my god. Can’t be bothered. And after awhile, you get so sick of (?) eating out. (~JW~) So. He’s, he’s a lot better in, in stress level-wise, but he still stresses out, out for stupid things. But that’s him. It’s his character. And does he understand? No, not really. Once in awhile he does understand, but then two second later, he’s back to normal.
04.15.00 Somehow like we all say unless you were there, I don't care how you know you feel, but you really doesn’t know exactly how we feel. Because you’re not there that day. And no matter how sympathetic, how understanding or how (?) even you’re a psychology, you know what, how everything goes. But it’s still, you’re not that particular person. See, between our own group, I know what happened to you, you know happen to me. That’s why we could connect so much differently.

04.15.32 A matter of fact, even pill-wise, we know how each pill affect certain one. Ok? Like one, Eddie change pill, and right off the bat, we know what happen to him. Now if Donald probably don't know what happened to him. Like in the morning, we, we go, we go out together, in the morning, he’s quiet. And Donald would make joke, I said, shut up. 'Cos he’s not all there yet. Got to let the pill worked up.

04.16.00 See, I understand it, so we just kept quiet. So I have to remind him, don't bother him right now. That's a different. So, no. He’s still in la-la land. I’m ok now. Just, just what I was before. Nothing changes. 'Cos now I can walk and talk. So. I’m just the Ling before 9-11. So that’s kind of hard to accept. 'Cos I’m not the same. I can’t do half the things. I can’t do certain things.

04.16.31 I cannot go out, enjoy myself the way I wanted to. He just like, he said how come you don’t go outside in the backyard? I said, because it’s too hot. I can’t take the heat. But it’s nice. I said, well, it’s nice to you. But for us, under the shade it’s ok. If I’m not under the shade. One time we went out, you actually like feeling the skin is sizzle. That's how, how it feels like, like you could hear the spark, the sizzles. 'Cos once it goes in, it burns.

04.17.00 So you get tons of suntan lotion. It helps. But if let's say you forgot to put it in, you go out, you literally could hear it sizzle. That’s how bad it is. That’s how it feels like (?). It’s ok, it’s time to go back in (LAUGHS). I say I don't like, I don't like the heat. I couldn’t. We like way, and we don’t sweat, also. That’s the thing. I mean, we sweat all over here 'cos we had no, we’re not burned, over here, we don’t sweat. All the sweat they are now gone. You just feel the heat.
JW: It’s hard because he can’t feel the way you feel?

LING YOUNG: No. No way. He never will. That’s why, and nobody, sometimes my kids tells him and he try. It’s still not the same. 'Cos he never know how to, he was never equipped to, to know how (?) certain people feel, that you shouldn’t do this 'cos it might hurt somebody’s feeling. He never knew how to do that.

He was brought up the only child. He got everything he wanted. I met him young. I took care of everything from, from a little bit of nothing to everything big. He never did deal with any problem, no financial problem, none, nothing. So he went to work and like I said he came home. He never had to deal with anything. He didn't even have to deal with child rearing. So what is there (LAUGHS) to feel? Then all the sudden he, he had to do everything. So that’s why he doesn’t know how to, if there’s a problem he doesn’t know how to deal with it.

So I’m a problem he didn't know how to deal with it. So that was pretty bad for the first couple of years. 'Cos he tried to do two things, but in the meantime, he doesn’t know how to do it. And I get frustrated 'cos I can’t get things done. Even my son, Junior, when he’s trying to cook, I got very frustrated with him. It’s like he cook, come home, like he, almost like I have to do it. No, don't do things that you have to do it, do it 'cos you want to do it. He would plop the food under my face, and I said this no good. Eat it that way. Well, I don't want to eat it that way. You know, like he, he gets frustrated, too.

So then he moved out, which is good in a way. I guess he couldn’t, he couldn’t handle the pressure, either. Junior’s like that, he couldn’t handle the pressure. So.

JW: Does Donald try?

LING YOUNG: He’s not gonna try. He set in his way.

JW: Did he try?
LING YOUNG: Junior?

JW:   Donald?

04.19.24 LING YOUNG: He probably try, but it probably last about a day or two. The best thing if I don't talk to him is the best, then he try to do everything. (LAUGHS) that was my best. That’s my weapon. Do not talk to him (LAUGHS). Ignore him completely. Like he doesn’t exist. (LAUGHS) 'Cos sometime you get to a point I don't want to be bother. Just say leave me alone. Then he would do everything in the house (?) without questioning. Everything you want him to do is done. (LAUGHS) My, my daughter used to love to sit. That’s great, you’re not (?) Say, yep (LAUGHS).

04.19.57 That’s the best way. 'Cos with him, he, other, he drive you nuts. So don't talk to him, ignore him and then you want things done? It’s gonna be done. That’s, that’s him. So. Now I said, ok, and I think, I don't take thing as serious as I used to. Used to bother me. Now nothing bothers me too much. Things happen? Hey, happens. My, my, that’s the way it is.

JW:   How has your marriage done through all this?

04.20.24 LING YOUNG: Not much change. Same old thing, crazy him, crazy me. (LAUGHS) I know I can’t get rid of him, so what difference it make? (LAUGHS) Can’t get rid of him. But we do tease. I said, I said listen, I die, all my money goes my kids, ok? When you die, I don't care what happen. I said I be damn if (?) your new wife’s gonna take my money that I’m gonna, I earn real hard. I just tease. Other than that, but, yeah, we’re stuck (LAUGHS).

JW:   You love him though?

04.20.56 LING YOUNG: Oh, yeah. He’s just a pain in my butt, (LAUGHS) he’s a typical man, right? Some, I don't even say you but (LAUGHS) typical man.
JW: (?)  

04.21.07 LING YOUNG: But the whole thing is he’s, he’s brought up differently. I try to explain to my kid, that’s how he was brought up. You can’t help it. His father was never around. His mother worked 7 days a week. That’s why he was brought up by most his, his, the friends that’s a lot older. I mean, his father’s age and maybe an older than his father’s age. So that’s why when every year, he take them out.

04.21.30 To him, he, that’s important to him. Making sure that, you know, ’cos you never know, next year, the whole, whole group you might missing another one or two. I mean, they (?) were 90-year old, 80-some odd years old. But every year we go out, rain or shine, comes the new year, get everybody together, 14, 15 people go out to dinner. A matter of fact, he wants to bring them over for barbecue. I said oh, my god. Then you need somebody to take them over. They can’t just come here. So actually I didn't tell my kid yet.

04.22.00 I figured I will maybe one weekend they’re gonna have to all go out to (?) Chinatown, pick up some old people. I didn't tell them yet. Probably got to do it soon, just get this over with, so Donald doesn’t drive me nuts. So that was that group. That’s why we had so many barbecue lately. He wants to get all these people here. Everyone wants to come over, but I’m not in the mood. You know what I’m saying? I don't want this crowd. Used to be I don't care. I mean, before this happen. We had people over, over almost every weekend.

04.22.28 That’s why we’re, we have so many friends. And but after 9-11, I’m not in the mood. I could be saying to you, I want to do it this weekend, but all the sudden I don't feel right. But I don't want to see people. So if I don't want to see people, I’m like I’m not comfortable.

JW: Why?

04.22.44 LING YOUNG: It's just, we just go through stages. It just go through stages. I’m like I don't want to be bothered with it. But then he would say well, you do it for your friends, you don’t
want to do it for me. It’s not that. Like, like this barbecue we had recently? He wants to do it, and I said, you know what?

04.23.00 I feel like uncomfortable. My barbecue was August 11th, that was way before September 11. As time goes, gets by, I’m feeling edgy. Now you having all these people my house. Even though I don’t do too much, I still got to prepare. I don’t want to do it. You don't want to do it for me. (?) I said oh, god. So Marge and I was talking, I say, if we don't get this barbecue going, I’ll never hear the end of it. And I was feeling Ok that day. So invite. So right off the bat he calls people, so he said how many people you have?

04.23.30 He said about 30-some odd people. I said, have the two group together. 'Cos he has a school friend and he has the work, work friend. Thirty-something people I could handle. So he start inviting, next thing you know I got 90 people in my house. And I said oh, my god. And I don't know who came that day. I literally did not know who came that day. And I said Donald, we’re not gonna have a barbecue that big. First of all, you have two sets of friends, they don't know each other. It’s not good. You can’t even get to spend time with one friend. That’s no good. So that’s, we’re gonna have to separate.

04.24.00 They would, they were already setting to come next year already. They already planning already. We’re coming next year. I said ok. So. That was that group. And 'cos I was Ok that week. I wasn’t ready for, for September barbecue, 'cos like a week, two weeks before the 9-11. I’m not, I’m like this. 'Cos I’m like shaky. Anxious. Like once in a while I do shakes. So. I’ve been taking a lot of my happy pills.

04.24.29 And I don’t think I’m ready for a crowd. Ok? But then one day I said there’s a, Marge I think we better do it. Get this thing over with. And I was feeling Ok that week, and that’s why he called almost at the last minute, so figured no one came. (LAUGHS) we had a big crowd. So then we have another one that these people want to see me. One thing doesn’t (?) Donald doesn’t understand is if I see you, in a occasional, casual, oh, Jim, we get together, we gonna go out to dinner, blahblahblah.
04.25.00 Doesn’t mean that is a must, or it’s said like it’s no, it’s life and death there because we say we’re gonna go out, that we better stop everything and let’s go out to dinner. Doesn’t work that way. It’s a casual conversation, but he takes it bible. Well, you promised we’re gonna go out to dinner with Jim and we got to go. Yeah, but it’s a casual conversation, you know how you see each other, it’s oh, yeah, we get together, we go to dinner. I had that said that with my cousin about ten years ago? We still haven’t gotten together. But no, no, no. Because if you said it, it’s got to do it, like he’s, his professor says oh, well, Donald you got to come and see me. If you don't come see me, I’m gonna come see you.

04.25.35 Guess what? We’re going to Maine. I said ok (LAUGHS). This is the kind of thing (LAUGHS) he puts me through. It’s like I want to choke him. I don't have time to do all this thing. But you don’t want to do it because you don’t want to do. I said, because it’s going to Maine, it’s a 8, 9 hour ride to have dinner. You know, it’s not that easy, ok? It’s not around the corner, let’s go out to dinner tomorrow. So that’s him.

04.25.59 So with him, you got to be careful what you gonna say you’re gonna do. He’s gonna hold you to it. Matter of fact, he was arguing with me yesterday he want to go to Vancouver. I seen Vancouver, three times, two times, so what are you gonna do? Well, I didn't get to see certain thing. Well, you know what? When you go to a state, you don't get to see everything anyway. But you want to go, you promised me we’d go there and you didn't go because of your friend. I said I don't go to Vancouver just to go to stupid one part you didn't see? Oh, yeah. He would drive you crazy until he (?) gets there. I have no time to do this. I want to do something else. I said Donald, if I want to go away, I want to go to places I haven’t been. Why do you want to go to Seattle and Vancouver, I went there like two, three times.

04.26.40 Just like Niagara Fall, four, five time, what I want to go there for? But no, no, no, he’s beautiful there. I said yea, like what, the fall? (LAUGHS) People like certain things. I know people go there 50 times, but I’m not. You see it once, twice. I had, I had it.

JW: What about China?
LING YOUNG: Oh, I’d love to do it. I’m actually thinking about doing it. But that’s a big trip. That’s a long trip. And I want to go with my friend, and it’s a long flight. So we like this. Matter of fact, we just booked on, and we’re cancelling it. We all ready and then we said no, we can’t do it.

JW: You booked a trip?

LING YOUNG: We booked it yesterday in a hurry, and then I’m cancelling it.

JW: To China?

LING YOUNG: No, actually no. To, we book a cruise to Vietnam, but we’re cancelling it. It’s too long. And the flight is 20-some odd hours. And actually I have to call up later ‘cos I think she lied to me. She told me, oh, if you cancel no big deal, it’s $19.95. Oh, who care (?), I can afford it. And then I look at it, it’s $75 cancellation. Oh, wait a minute. I didn't know it was $75 cancellation fee. It’s not the money, it’s the principle. So I have to call her up later. 'Cos she didn't tell me the $75. I would have never booked it. I would just tell her to hold it in courtesy and then I wouldn’t have to pay a dime. So but nah, we look at the flight, the flight was $4,000.

I said you crazy? I said what kind of flight is this? And it was too long a flight. I don't think Eddie could handle it. So we’re cancelling that one. It was nice.

JW: Would you go to China with Donald?

LING YOUNG: Donald, yeah, we’ve been together, but his problem with him to go to China, he wants to go to his village. I don’t mind going. Matter of fact, we went one year, we had dinner party. I don’t know who came. I swear to god I don't know who came, ‘cos I don't know anybody there. But it was cheap. I think like 300 people like $1500.
04.28.29 That’s what it cost. So we invite my, my mother’s family, village, 'cos we, we grew up in, I was born in, in the village where the farm is? I would be like my mother’s side, my father’s side, his mother, his father. Yeah, four villages. About 300 people came. And do I know anybody? No. Do I know who they are? Maybe. How they related? I don't know. And then when you get there, you tell them we got a dinner for, I think it was Richard’s wedding.

04.29.00 They all came. And I have no idea who they are. And after whole 9 yard, we found out Donald’s mother’s family was never there. So I had to give them money just to have another party. It’s big. We (?) don't do anything small (LAUGHS). (~JW~) That’s the problem. Even when they go to Singapore, his, his mother’s side is right there. We had over 100 people. It’s like oy. He know who it is. I have no clue who they are.

04.29.27 He have memory. I have no clue. So we’ve been there twice. (~JW~)

JW: Prior to 9-11?

04.29.37 LING YOUNG: No, yeah, prior, well, one’s prior, one. Before one afterward, actually. That’s the, that’s the one I went back because they want me to go back to China, because I’m alive. Technically, they said my ancestor helped me. Said they want me to go back and pay respect. And that’s what I went.

JW: Close to 9-11?

LING YOUNG: After (~ovlp~) yeah, I didn't like it.

JW: To Singapore?

04.30.00 LING YOUNG: Yeah, and, and (?) I didn't like it. Because he wanted me to go back and say I should go back to thank my ancestors, I went back. And I didn't like it, what a waste of trip (waste?) of money. I’m not crazy about that kind of trip. I just went because I have to. But it
was not a good ride. It was a long ride. That’s how I knew about the long rides. That’s why I wouldn’t push Grace to go. It’s too long a ride. Yeah.

JW: What about Cabo?

04.30.33 LING YOUNG: Cabo, I went because my brother insist. I said it’s hot, he said don't worry about it, it’s not bad. I said all right, I went. But over there, you don't do anything. It’s the ride was a four-hours is not bad, ok? You get there, you get picked up, you just stay, stay at a resort. You don't go anywhere. What did we do? Nothing. Hang out. He just loved it 'cos he goes out to the marina every single day, two, three times a day. And we went fishing.

04.31.00 All of us, 15 of us. We caught one big marlin, 145 pound. He’s happy, thank god. We had it mounted (LAUGHS). It’s coming. So he’s happy, thank god he’s happy. I’m glad it’s only 145 pounds. Imagine 400, (?) pound? I would have no place to put that thing. Yeah, we enjoyed it, ok? And it was a group of people, that’s why. It was hectic when you try to cook, so my brother did all the cooking.

04.31.29 But we had fun. My daughter went, her, her girlfriend went. My brother. (~JW~)

JW: You have a time share there?

04.31.36 LING YOUNG: My brother does. (~JW~) Yeah. Actually, all my whole family, no I shouldn’t say my whole family. My two (?) my two kids didn't go and my sister didn't go. Other than that my, my, my brother’s whole family, they all went. It was a good time. Can’t complain. So we’ll see. But. That’s about it, I don't do too much.

JW: You went on a cancer walk?

04.32.03 LING YOUNG: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. (~JW~) that was a, that’s a walk. It was three miles or three and a half mile? It was rough, only because I can’t walk too long as you know. So I walk, I stay in the side, sit around a little bit. But I finished it. Yeah, and I took a picture on
the finish line (LAUGHS). To show I did it. (LAUGHS) Donald insisted. Stand in front of the finish line, say you did it. I said ok.

04.32.29 It was, it took me about an hour and a half? Wasn’t bad. The, the weather was nice, thank god. That day. It’s Revlon Cancer Walk. Revlon Walk, actually my, my daughter was supposed to sponsor it, but he was smart, she gave it to somebody else to do it. So as she’d been doing it for 3 years already? See, last year, no one showed up. Her half her family, that is. So this year we decided we’ll all go. So we did it, it was, it was good.

04.33.00 It was interesting. That was the time I took the subway.

JW: What about that?

04.33.04 LING YOUNG: Well, it as a choice. And I wasn’t a, I had to go somewhere, I forgot where it was going, I must be going to a wedding too, or some place I must be. We were 105th Street or something like that, all the way on the end of Central Park? And traffic was tremendous. The traffic was bumper to bumper. You almost like takes you 20 minute to go one block. So I said ok, I was really to take a taxi back, but I said you know what? Taking a taxi. I will never get back. So no, take the subway. I said I don’t know about taking the subway.

04.33.32 So I was debating for almost an hour. Yes, no. Even on my way going out, I’m saying I don't know I don't know. But they said, we’re gonna be out with you. I said all right. So got, got there. And I haven’t been in the subway what, 6 years, almost? I said ok. So I got in, it was nice and big and everything, put the money in, all that. I said oh, my god. It was like steep. That remind me, I was in London many years ago, actually 2000, I think. I said ok. Now I’m start freaking out, I start sweating.

04.34.06 I was a, I don't know, they said are you ok, ok? Yeah, I guess I’m Ok, so I’m looking at it and looking at it. And I said, it doesn’t look too good (LAUGHS). 'Cos I’m looking at it, it’s like all the way down. It’s like 3, 4 stories, I don't know how many stories down. And also
looks steep. And London popped up in my head right away. And I said ok. So I’m over there standing for awhile and I said, they said you sure, you sure?

04.34.30 I said, now, I may not have a choice. I could go back up, take the taxi and never make it to where I’m going. I don’t remember where I was going somewhere. I have a time limit. I was rushing to go somewhere, but I forgot. Maybe a wedding. So finally I said forget, let’s go down. So I went down. It was jam-packed with people 'cos everybody’s going home. That didn't, that didn't do too well. Finally the train came. Of course, we didn't, we didn't get in. So I'm standing there looking at the train, going by I’m like ok. I have my pill, so it wasn’t too bad.

04.34.59 So all right. So got on, got on the train, it was crowded. Someone saw me with my hand, my cane and everything. And they try to get me a seat. You think anybody gets up? No, nobody gets up. So finally got up, but at that time, I’m (?) sweating so bad already. I’m really like hyperventilating. So but I don't want to show it 'cos my kids is like you know, they all like surrounding me, and I’m ok. So I sat down, lucky it was like 2, 3 stops, I don't know how much, how many stop.

04.35.28 Lucky it was fast. It was, I think it was an express I’m not too sure. I don't remember the ride. But through the whole ride wasn’t fun. I got out, I was (?) thank god. But I call everybody (LAUGHS). I said you know what I did? They said you did it. I said, yeah, I did it. I told my psychologist, my psychologist said well, at least you try. I said, yeah, it wasn’t bad. Do, I said do I want to do it again (?). I (?) don't think so, so (LAUGHS). Not for awhile. And that has not crossed my mind that I want to do it again. That’s why when Grace say she gonna take the PATH, I said no, Grace. I don't think so.

04.36.01 But I can’t handle the subway ride, you’re not gonna handle the, the, the PATH train. I said, especially when they’re gonna go through that, I said no, no, no, no. Scrap that. You’re not ready for that. 'Cos if I’m not 100% ready for a subway, you’re not ready for that. So that’s it, that was my experience. Lucky was a very nice subway station. If you talking about 42nd street, I probably never go in. I got out of 42nd street, it was like (?). Like all these people.
And one thing good about me which I learned, I do go to crowd places. But I swear to you, I don’t see everybody. I only see what’s surrounding me. You could have a thousand people around me, I don’t see you. That’s something I learned. I isolate everything surrounding me, and according to him, that’s very common. I don’t see. I mean, I know you’re there. Like you, you might see like this whole thousand people. But technically in my mind, I only see what’s surrounding me.

What’s around me, I don't really know or care. So that doesn’t bother me. 'Cos I don’t know what’s going on around me.

JW: What do you think that’s a result of?

LING YOUNG: I don't know. Maybe I tend to, we discussed it. I discussed it with him. I tend to maybe tune it out. 'Cos (?) if I don't tune it out, we’re not gonna be good. Then I would be overwhelmed with all these people. Like even the cancer walk, was tons of people. Do I see everybody around me? Not really.

I walk. I see what’s surrounding me. But I don’t really see the big thing that’s a big crowd. 'Cos otherwise, I won’t be comfortable. So I think maybe I learned to ignore what’s surrounding me. That’s what he’s trying to tell me. I try to ignore what’s the word for it? Not avoid, but I’m focusing what’s around me only. So these four I don't see what’s behind me or in front of me. (~JW~)

Yeah, we block it out. Which I’m very good at doing. Actually I start doing that when I was working. I blocked this woman out, she talked so much it drives me nuts. She sits in the front of me. She turns around like you and talks to me, and you can’t talk to me all day long, ’cos I can’t listen. So it, yeah, yeah, yeah, do my work. I work, I gather up, get picked my head up about five minute. I say yeah, ok, to go back. Do I know what she talk about? I have no clue. Maybe I learned it from there.
JW: You maybe learned it from Donald?

04.38.27 LING YOUNG: Yeah that’s another thing (LAUGHS). Tune him out. With Donald, you can’t tune out (LAUGHS). You could try but it doesn’t work. (LAUGHS) But I tune, I tune a lot of thing out, which is good. That’s why it doesn’t bother me as much as it bother other people. People sees it, I don't, I literally do not see the people. I mean, you could have a thousand people sit in front of me. I would, I see like 20.

JW: Did you do that before 9-11?

04.38.54 LING YOUNG: Not, not that way, no. (~JW~) I’m just teasing about the (?) the girls sitting in front of me, I just tune her out 'cos she’s talking so much. But other than, no. I always with crowd. I (?) go on vacation with crowd and (~JW~)

JW: It reminds me of you sitting in front of the elevator.

04.39.11 LING YOUNG: Yep. You, you know how big the, the floor is? On, on the 78 sky lobby. That was pretty, (?) that’s big. You talk about maybe, I don't know how many big elevator. Each elevator is as big as this. There wasn’t anybody alive. It was a very, very limited people alive. I mean, there were like (?), like flatland. The way I remember it.

04.39.35 And like I said, I think I was alive because I was so short, and everybody surrounding me got all the blunt. I mean, they actually saved me, whoever’s around me saved me. So almost like now, you have open to people around me, I don't see anything. I see you, I see everybody else, but I don't see beyond what my capacity of my, my vision is. I don't go look around say oh, gee, that’s about a thousand people. Maybe that’s another reason.

04.40.00 I don't go looking for it. So I don't look for it, I don't see them.

JW: It’s like a protection?
LING YOUNG: Probably. They said how could you not see it, well, I don't. I literally don't see them. They said, it’s right in front of you. I said yeah, I know. Subconsciously I probably know they’re there. But mentally, I don't need to know. I just need to know who I’m, who I’m dealing with surrounding me. And also, like I’m not as scared as most other group, my group member, that god forbid something in the back they, they’d jump.

I don't do that as often, but, but if you have something happen to me like we were out to dinner one day. I was sitting there in that, and this whole thing fell. Oh, my god. I almost flip, 'cos it’s just like (?) like this big explosion. Lucky I didn't have my dishes, they would have been flying out. 'Cos it, it’s a, it’s a automatic reaction. You think something happen, you just jumps. If there’s a lot of noise, yeah, once in a while we jump.

But lucky in my house, I don’t listen to too many of those things. There’s only two of us now, it’s not much to, to make noise. You know? (LAUGHS).

JW: Is the empty nest hard?

LING YOUNG: Actually, I got used to it. Believe it or not. It’s great because they come (?) they come in (?) they, visit my house sometimes once a week. We go out to lunch or whatever. And they come in there, a couple of hours, they leave. But it’s not bad. In the beginning it’s hard. Especially when Melissa moved out it’s like you keep on trying to call her you know, like where is she, like she’s not around.

But then you get used to it. I don't mind it, 'cos I do have company once in awhile. They come over and they stay over night, they have room to stay, which is good. We do have a lot of friends, so they do come. Once in awhile my cousin comes. Like I’ll have a barbecue, she’ll come with my sister and her’ll come over, they do all the work, 'cos they know I can’t do the work. And they work like slave. My brother work like slave. Yeah.

And we’ll go out to lunch once in awhile, 'cos I’m (?) very cheap. And for $12 you eat like a, like a pig. So once in awhile we call this one to go out to lunch or call that, just to kill time.
'Cos now, what the hell we gonna do with ourselves? That's the thing. So we kill time, going out to lunch. Or do certain things. I’m not a shopper so I don't really go shopping unless I have to. I’m not a window shopper, either. I never was, though. I (?) I mean, before at least I liked to shop a little bit. I do look at certain things. But now (?) I don’t have the patience for that. If I want to buy, I’ll go in and buy it.

04.42.31 I don't, I’m not this kind, just go walking around see what is good. No. I can’t handle, that’s too tiring. Couldn’t do that (LAUGHS). My body won’t allow me to do it, anyways, so I don't do that. I do like to go shopping my kids. I enjoy shopping with them, but that doesn’t happen too often. Once in awhile. And then, you know, that’s it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.42.59 END OF TAPE # LY60

TAPE # LY 61
Ling Young  09.09.07
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

05.00.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.03.23 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) that place actually gave me a lot of insight. Also make you look at yourself, that you, you're nothing compared to some of the burn victim. And the day I went, remember the, there was a, a club fire in Rhode Island? There were quite a few victims there. And it’s very interesting, it’s very inspiring for somebody like us to go there and say gee. Look at this guy. He could hardly have, he doesn’t have anything, and
he’s doing a lot of work. Like one of the guy actually was, actually, he was building furniture what, what it’s like a hook in his hand?

05.04.02 He didn't have a hand. And he was building furniture. Matter of fact, I just met a, a burn victim when he was young, he got burned from candle. That’s so dangerous. I looked at him and I knew right away he was burned. But I didn't, (?) approach. We actually went to a barbecue, Donald’s friends, and looked at him, a young kid, 20-some odd years old. I said oh, you got burned? He said yeah, I got burned, too, and I told him. And I saw his hand, the way it is. They fuse his hand this way. So we’re trying to see, say, I said maybe you could go and get it done, so he was explaining to me why he didn't get it done, because if they cut it up, it’d be more scar tissue. And how he’d lose the functions.

05.04.37 Actually it was, he was treated by St. Barnabus, one of the old guy there. And, and I look at him, he lost a couple of fingers. This is all from a candle. Candle. Those liquid? Yeah, because don't forget when you’re young, all the tendons are very fragile. And once that thing is burned, it’s gone. That’s why I was lucky, only because I was not burned with a fire. I was just (?) hook up. If I was burned with fire all these tendons would be gone. Just like one of the other lady.

05.05.06 So. And in the burn conference, what happened, there was a lot of shock. The reason I wasn’t pushing this last two years, first of all it was very hot. Last year, they had it in South Carolina in August. I said I couldn’t handle the heat. I don't understand why they go those kind of month anyway? 'Cos we’re all burn patient, you know we can’t handle the heat (LAUGHS). So I’m like why would they have it in like August, or whatever, in South Carolina?

05.05.31 I said no way (LAUGHS). I was just surprised they have it that kind of month, especially burn patient. It just shock me. October I understand, in Vancouver. I totally understand in Vancouver in October. But I just can’t understand August in South Carolina. And they have workshop, like I said, they have workshop with makeup, which I don't take because by the time you’re done with it, your face is like cake.
05.05.56 They have different kind of seminar with like relationship, how to cope with it. It’s like a whole conference thing. Which is very good. But I should go back. I mean, they always send me things. I should go back. I haven’t, actually I haven’t been back in the burn clinic get together either. Because the reason I don’t go back there, number one, is very far. In Cornell (~JW~). And number two, it’s not the same patient. Every time you go, there’s different new patient.

05.06.30 I don’t want to drag myself into this new thing about what happened to me. So every time I go there, I’m gonna have to say what happened to me, and I got to go in, and I don't want, I don't want to go through that. So that’s why I haven’t been, actually I just got a letter. I didn't, I just put in the garbage.

JW: That is a little bit of an issue, not wanting to talk to people about what happened?

05.06.48 LING YOUNG: It’s not that I don’t want to or don't like to. If I don't have to, I won’t do it. If you ask, I will tell you. Ok, but I won’t volunteer my information. The reason like I said I don’t like to go back to Cornel is every time you go back it’s a new patient. And you try as the patient from the past, you try to explain to what could happen.

05.07.07 I do learn a lot of thing. I’m (?) from, from everything inside, I do learn a lot of thing. Like I learned that if you're itchy, you put Flex shampoo, conditioner. I said I can’t put conditioner over my body. That would be like ugh. You feel like you’re slimy. But that’s a, they said that’s the best thing on earth. If you’re itchy. I said I’m not Flex conditioner on my body. It’d be just like you have something like gooey on you. And you learn how to, like everybody has different way of containing the itch. Everybody have a different way if you have pain, what to do. You do learn from the old people. Yes, from the past burn patient. That’s what they want us to do. To tell them what to do. But I’m a very unique case. Everything happen to people doesn’t happen to everybody else. If it, if my thing doesn’t heal, it doesn’t happen to others.
05.07.59  So I can’t, I could share my experience but not enough for someone to learn that much from me. I mean, what they gonna learn? That my, my graph don't take? It doesn’t do anything.

JW:  Where do you get your strength?

05.08.13  LING YOUNG: I guess it’s, I don't know. I was always like this. That’s why I’m always the one in trouble (LAUGHS). If I do it right, I don't get a thank you. If I do it wrong, it’s my problem. (LAUGHS) so.

05.08.27  And especially after this, you know why I didn't die that day, there must be a reason why I’m here. Which is true. I took everything. I came back, I did everything. I put everything in order. If anything happened to me today, I wouldn’t have to worry too much. I guess with the, they always come to me, no matter who it is, they come to me. I have to make the decision. I had to do certain things. So I’m just gotten so used to what I since I’m grown up. Everybody’s problem is my problem. But now, my kids say Mom, it’s not your problem. I say, yeah, I understand.

05.08.59  So now (?) a little bit of time, they are kind of like take the thing away from me, which is good. So they would say don't bother Ling, 'cos she’s not, you know, she’s not feeling well. But before it doesn’t matter. It’s Ling’s problem. So strength (?) I don't think I would have, I don't have the strength, but it’s just like you got to do what you got to do.

JW:  You’re pretty strong?

05.09.23  LING YOUNG: I try. I don't show too much, but I try. Well (?) what are you gonna do? Just like my doctor said, I, why you not in pain? People would be screaming. I said would you like me to scream? That’s he said to me, he said oh, that’s ok. This is true, he stick the needle in me. And I’m like oh. He say you’re not screaming. I said no. (?) when I had the blood clot, he did this big needle in there. I didn’t know. I felt it. But it wasn’t like I was gonna go crazy. He said you don't feel pain, do you? I said yes, I do. He said, how come you don't cry? I said, I said if you’d like me to cry, I’ll scream now and I’ll cry.
05.10.00 He said, if I do, if I do scream or cry, what’s gonna do? You, you gonna take the pain away from me? No. I said ok, then that’s it. (LAUGHS) Why make life miserable? (LAUGHS) And then I’m in physical therapy, I’m (?) like I hate this. I’m in tears coming down ‘cos this is how painful it is. But I’m like, and I’m not like oh, my god, it’s killing me, I’m, it’s hurting. You annoy everybody else. You distracting everybody else. So I’m just like (?) 'cos that’s me, that’s the max you’re gonna hear from me.

05.10.28 And (?) my physical therapist is always funny, she said, I’m so sorry, Ling. I said for what? I’m so sorry to put you in pain. I says it’s not your fault. But they very, like they play very sympathetic. Said oh, my god, 'cos they went and they crank you, it hurts. It’s worse than surgery. ‘Cos they actually put, they’re actually putting pain on you. So that’s why after six month and they put me in pain, I said don't bother. I says, I said to them, it’s, is that going anywhere, she said I don't think so. I said ok, done deal. We’re done. So I stopped the physical therapy. It’s no use. Why, why put my pain for, for an hour every day, and it’s not going anywhere.

05.11.04 So that’s why I ask her. Is it any better, and she said no. I said ok, we’re done. That was the end of the story. That’s why I’m not doing it anymore. What it’ll be will be. You get mad once in awhile. You could, you have dream that your fingers are all over the place (LAUGHS) you know? You wake up, I said ok, it’s not there (LAUGHS). That’s only dream kind of remember because you were doing all kinds of things.

JW: What do you mean?

05.11.29 LING YOUNG: You, you, I don't remember any dream, but once in awhile you remember the dreams, oh, you’re doing so much with this hand. It’s ok, wake up. It’s not there. (LAUGHS) I said back to Square One. But. I guess if I’m not strong, I would cause a lot of problem (?) I mean, my kids would be not the same. So I don't say too much. ‘Cos if I say it, it’s not gonna change anything, it’s not gonna change. I don't tell my kid about my husband,
Because what good’s that gonna do? Just get them very mad and they might talk to him, next thing you know, might be a war.

05.12.00 So I don’t bother. I mean, he does listen to the kid. Especially my daughter, but I don't want to put pressure on her, either. She’s so stressed out with her work. They gave her a new position. They actually created a position for her. So now, and then her boss went on vacation for like a month and a half or something like that. So she’s stressed out completely. So we try not to, comes home, go out, just relax a little bit with her. Go shopping with her, it’s not that we buy anything. But she enjoys it.

05.12.31 It’s still, they still come home. That’s one thing good. She make it her business to come home once a week. Unless something happen, even for a couple of hours, she comes home. So she’s been good.

JW: Did your mom understand what happened?

05.12.48 LING YOUNG: She did and she didn't. Ok, like I said, the beginning when there was like all bandaged and all kinds of all, everything around, she was nice. After I’m ok, she’s back to normal, killing me. And like I said, if I laugh a certain way, I get yelled at.

05.13.07 ’Cos I’m an idiot. If I do a certain thing, I don’t know why you do it, I’m no good. It’s like I said, I never understood it. I was just wondering like I do everything possible to please her. But no matter what I do for my parent, they not happy. So then I found out, I said ah. See that? I was not a lucky child (LAUGHS). You laugh. It’s too late already. You think I’m gonna change my parent? No.

05.13.30 Actually I didn't find out until after they passed away. So I was talking to my girlfriend, and she said you’re kidding? I said no. You’re wondering why they (?) they nasty, because she don't understand why they nasty to me. I said, well, I guess tell me why, because that’s the reason, she said you’re kidding? I said no. That’s what they told me. And this actually make me feel better, actually. ’Cos she’s very superstitious. So maybe (?) of me, I, I bring all kind
of bad luck. Then I also because of me, my father was not doing what he’s supposed to do, or he was not as, as a good husband or as a father.

05.14.05 I don't know what the reason is. But I, I laughed at it, and it was over. And she’s gone. Even though she’s not gone, what can I do? She’s 70-some odd years old. Am I gonna tell her that something’s wrong because, 'cos you were stupid? You can’t do that. I mean, many years ago you can’t argue, I mean, you argue with your parent, but you can’t say certain thing to the parent, not like today’s kid tell you go to hell, or do something or whatever.

05.14.28 They don't like something, it’s my life, you know? There’s no such thing. You can’t go tell your parent, it’s my life, it’s my problem, none of your business? Can’t do that. So I used to take it, and I listen, I get upset. And they, we don't talk to each other for a couple of month because she would not talk to me. That’s my mother. And then of course, you have to shut up and make believe nothing happen. You go, go back. Back to Square One again after a little bit, don't talk to you again. So I got used to it, except one time, I was in pain. I mean, literally in pain.

05.15.01 My father called me and start screaming at me. I said what’s going on? She’s, he decided that my niece didn't have a Sweet 16 it’s my fault 'cos I told her not to have a party. I’m like what? And he said, yeah, you’re not goddam good and you this and this and that. And he was on and on. I said you know, I, and I said you know what? I’m in pain. I’m gonna hang up, and I hung up on him. It’s the first time I did it to my father. But you listen, you shut up and you listen.

05.15.29 But not, I did, I was in so agony I said, and I don't have to listen to things, I don't know what I did. I had nothing to do with it. A matter of fact, it was between the, my brother and my sister-in-law, they were having a fight about one wants it this way, the other one wants it (?) the other way. And he decided we’re not having it. So it’s not my fault. But I got blamed. He calls me, yelling at me, that I tell him not to have it. I said where do you get this idea? I wasn’t involved in the whole thing. But that’s my parent.
(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.16.23  LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) 'cos that’s the thing. All the blood vessels are in the top. But once, one tiny scratch, blood just shoots out. And my doctor doesn’t know, know why after 6 year I’m still very active. But I am. You put a pin, it goes out. Even my infection now, I’m kind of calm with infection. But it comes back, it’s underneath, they said it’s 7 layers of skin. This is underneath all the skin. So it decide to act up, it’s gonna act up. That’s why. See? Look at this? Just keep on coming out. (~JW~)

05.16.55  But you get used to it (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW:   How would you describe your well-being these days? Where have you come?

LING YOUNG: How far?

JW:   How far?

05.17.22  LING YOUNG: Well, how far, I, I came a long way, ok? A couple of years go I wasn’t, I wasn’t thinking about I’m gonna be able to walk. Actually I was not able to walk. Like 'cos every time I would get up, it would be like a, a streak of blood would come following you. I mean, literally like blood, blood. And (?) you wake up in the morning, you thought you went to a battle field, 'cos my whole bed sheet was completely bleeding, bloody. Then I (?) gain a lot of weight from steroids. To a point that I can’t even get up. I gain like 30 pounds. For small me, it’s pretty big. Then I went to a lot of surgery, which is like major surgery, I’m talking about like 10 hour surgery, 6 hour surgery.

05.18.01  Now we’re talking about now maybe 3 hours, 4 hours. Ok? I would say I came a long way because now I’m walking. I do need assistance once in awhile, but I’m out more often. I don't see as much doctor’s appointment anymore. I don’t have like a 5-days, 20 appointments
a week. And now it’s at leisure. Like I see my doctor once or twice a week, sometime I don’t even have an appointment, except one, once a week with my psychologist.

05.18.30 So I, I able to do a lot more thing on my own, ok? I try to be a lot more independent, because before I’m dependent on everybody do everything for me. And that’s not me. And I’m very frustrated with that. So now I feel pretty good because you know, I, I could do a lot of thing on my own. So I came a long way and it’s like even people say wow, you, looking at what you were before many years ago it’s a big different. My whole face was, my, half my face was (?) was, what’s the word?

05.19.02 Deformed. With like a big (?) I mean, like a curly ears, all crunched up. It’s a big cherry tomato hanging out. It’s like pretty, pretty funny-looking. So now you could see my ears, and now I’m getting some of my scar. I’m moving my head a little bit more, so. I’m quite happy with (?) what I came through.

JW: It also seems like you have an acceptance?

05.19.29 LING YOUNG: Yeah. It’s true. 'Cos coming through after so many years, either you live with it or you don't. just like certain people say when I went (?) to have back surgery, I said unless you want it, it’s a must, don't do it. The back surgery isn’t what, I have problem with my back, they tell me to take all kinds of pill. Oh, one doctor told me, the way he said it, you thought I’m gonna be dead next, tomorrow. Guess what? I never call him back, nothing happen. (?) I forgot what I was saying.

JW: (COACHES RESPONSE)

05.20.03 LING YOUNG: Oh, acceptance. I come to realize no matter what I do it’s gonna be the same. Ok? My hand. For, I know for a fact it’s gonna get worse, 'cos now arthritis coming through. 'Cos you get arthritis. Even I, I discuss it with my doctor, I said, you know, I don't have the function I used to do. So he just laugh. I said you’re not, he said, you’re not 18 any
more. I said I know I’m not 18. Ok, but I don't expect not to completely not move after all this operation.

05.20.29 Then I said, why waste my time? Ok. Whatever it is, it is. 'Cos if he could do more, he would suggest it. He tried it the plastic, it didn't work. So he know he can’t do anything anymore. So we left it that way. And I take one day at a time, 'cos I don't know what’s gonna happen to morrow. I might (?) talking to my friend, he, she said, well, I might not be here next year. I said why you talking this way, 'cos she never talks that way. She said you never know. I can’t think next year or the year and (?) 2009. I said, ok. But we don't. we do plan things in advance.

05.21.01 But not to a point is we’re gonna definitely gonna happen. That’s why every time we do something, buy insurance just in case something happen. 'Cos things happen. Like me, with my surgery. I went in, everything’s gonna be done. Perfect. I came out with an hour, less an hour. He couldn’t do it. So he just made a hole and packed me up. So it depends how you look at it. I am accepting what I am. Because it’s not gonna change. It will get better maybe by certain extent or certain things, like physically I won't get better. So. Do, do the best I can.

05.21.37 If not, I can’t go crazy. It’s not gonna change. My pain’s not gonna change. My appearance not gonna change. Even my mobility’s not gonna change. So accept it and that’s it, and try to live with it. Whatever you got. 'Cos there are people worse than you. That’s always say to myself, there are people worse than you. And so (when I go by?).

05.22.01 If you sit here and moan and grumble what I don't have, it’s not gonna change what I, what I’m gonna go through.

JW: If this was the last interview, what are the lessons?

LING YOUNG: The lesson? (~JW~)
JW: Is there something that’s come out of it for you?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.22.26 LING YOUNG: For me, yes. I don't dwell on thing like I used to, 'Cos before, I would, if you
if something bothers me, I could really not sleep for a week or two. I mean, literally. Now, I
could be very mad and I don't like what my kids are doing, whatever. It would last for
awhile, and I don’t take it with me. That’s the difference. I don't think about it. And maybe
'cos I don't think about it is I can’t really store too much in my head. And technically my (?)
mind’s kind of blank. Whatever comes that moment, it come.

05.22.29 But it won’t be anything that oh, my god, this is gonna happen, what should I do? Before I
would dwell on what I can do to, to better. To, to make it, make it work, now I can’t. you, it
actually won’t allow me to. My brain doesn’t function that way that it would make me think
about what’s the next step. What should I do? What shouldn’t I do? It doesn’t work that way
any more. Happens, happen. In my head whatever comes in my head that moment, that’s,
that’s what it comes up.

05.23.28 What did I learn? I learned not to take things too seriously and live through one day at a time,
and also you take life, you actually take life, you won’t take life for granted. 'Cos you could
be sitting at home, something happen to you. And I don't, I think a little bit more often than
before. I mean, you talk about it’s oh, yeah, if it happens, happens. But just this, you’re
saying it. But now I take it like yes, if it happen, it happen, period. That’s it. So. I don't
know. I guess I, I would say I’m a better person.

05.24.00 Everybody said that, too. They said they’re a better person. Like this guy, before this
happened, he was just living a life and making lots of money, comes home, but he was never
with the kid. Now he’s with the kid, he said, I said I don't like the person I used to be.
(~JW~) which you’ll hear a lot of them. You don’t like what you were before 9-11. You’re a
lot nastier. And you could if you want to, or I came here would be more involved with his
work, had nothing, no time for his family.
05.24.28 Now it’s different.

JW: How is it different for you?

05.24.34 LING YOUNG: How is it different for me? Like I said, I don't take thing as serious I used to be.

JW: When you say the person is different, what does that mean?

05.24.44 LING YOUNG: What happened is I used to take thing, things too seriously. And I go into deep end. Which is not good. It’s not that it’s gonna help me but you still take the, take the situation, and you analyze ten different way of doing it, or better it, (?) better. And you tend to get confused and you get frustrated. Now, you tell me something I don't like what is doing, I might think about doing this and this, this way.

05.25.05 But I don't dwell on it, and I also don't say, well, god forbid, doesn’t happen, this is what’s gonna happen. I don't care. Actually we don't care. If it happens, happens.

JW: Before you’d say you don't care, but now you really mean it?

05.25.19 LING YOUNG: I really don't care. Before it’s not that I don’t care. I do care. That’s the problem. And I want to figure out other ways to try to make it better, or try to please everybody. That’s, that’s what my kid used to say. You try to please everybody. You can’t please everybody.

05.25.31 I said I know you can’t. but you try. So even having dinner, you call one brother, I am busy. This one’s I’m, I’m not good on this day. You try to work around the whole schedule. By the time you’re done, oh, my god, it’s a big project. Now? My point I’ll call you guys with dinner. You come, great, you don't come, I don't want, I don't need to hear excuses. You
can’t make it, that’s it, done deal. But before my parents alive, I don't care what holiday, what you’re doing, if it comes to Mother’s Day or Father’s day, you gonna be there.

And my kid knows about it. My kid would never say I’m busy unless they out of town. But my other nephews and nieces, they too busy with their life. So I said to my kid, and they complain. I said listen, I don't care what they do, you do what you need to do. The right thing. But so they still doing it, they still go, go visit my grandmother. Even though, even though they know she don't know who they are.

But it’s the right thing to do. So. They go. And I, how should I say it? Like I said before, I would find all kinds of way to please everybody. Now, it’s you do it fine, you don't do it, it’s ok. No big deal. There’s a lot of time, you could have dinner another time. ’Cos I told (Danielle?) week, when I go to see my grandmother, I would have dinner out in, in Manhattan. And that’s what we do. That’s like a time to get together.

But now it seem like everybody’s having problem, everybody having stomach problem. I don't know what’s going on. Everybody’s having diarrhea. My, my son is having cramp. And they all blame on the food. I said it might be something else. Colon cancer runs in my family. That’s what runs in Donald’s family, too. It’s like a typical Chinese disease. Is has anything to do with the food they eat.

JW: Do you think anything good came from 9-11?

LING YOUNG: Like I say, I’m not as stubborn as I used to be (LAUGHS). I’m still stubborn, not just as stubborn. Like I said, I don’t’ take things for granted. Which I do sometime, 'cos when you’re a grown up, I don't dwell on things, which will cause you a lot of headache. Nightmares. And you know, sleepless nights. Of course, even though I don't sleep, but that doesn’t mean that because of what’s going on, I just don't sleep because my body don't tell me to sleep.
05.28.06 I ignore Donald a lot more (LAUGHS). That helps. (LAUGHS) And don't promise him anything that you don't think is gonna do. And sometimes you do in conversations, you say something, and that's a promise, I try to be really avoid that issue (LAUGHS). And with my kids, I used to give my opinion. Now I don't. I think the best opinion is not to open your mouth, because if you say it, it might causes other friction.

05.28.31 Like between the wife. If they don't like it, I keep my mouth shut. And I really, really bothers me. Before I would like, I would go crazy thinking about it. Now, I keep my mouth shut. And now it really bothers me, for awhile, I’ll call my son and tell him off. I would never tell my daughter-in-law off. That’s one thing I learned. You never tell your in-laws off. 'Cos that causes a lot of headache later. They could cause you problem. So that’s one thing I learned. So they were saying, you don't say anything? I say, nope.

05.29.02 That’s the best way of being with in-laws is just keep your mouth shut. 'Cos there’s no use. It just cause the problem between him, him and his wife. Said your mother said this, your mother said that. No. If anybody come and tell me that your mother said that, they dead wrong. My mother used to do that. And I said I would never be my mother. 'Cos they’re not gonna believe you anyway. Even though the person say, your daughter-in-law says something. If your son don't believe that she was saying anything like this, it’s not gonna help.

05.29.32 So (?) keep your mouth shut. (LAUGHS) it’s crazy, huh? (LAUGHS) You learn to keep your mouth shut. That’s the best, I think that’s the best solution, when it comes to in-law. It’s nice to be together and say hello, goodbye, you get together for lunch, dinner. And I always have, at least once a week or maybe every other week, they do come back for dinner. Or Richard’s there every weekend, so it depends.

05.30.02 But stay away. I said I’m not baby sitting either, stay away.

JW: Is there any version where this was a good thing?
LING YOUNG: Oh, no. I don't think it would be a good thing, because everything I planned, it just went out of the window.

The only thing good is, is like I’m not as stubborn as I used to be. That I don’t dwell on it or get sick over something. I think that’s would be the only good thing that happens, and then I tend to look things a lot more (?) than I used to be. I’m more rigid. But rigid to a point is I want everything works out, ok? Like now, I said, if it doesn’t work out, it doesn’t work out. I don't know if there’s anything good thing, that’s about, that’s about only things like reverse my, what I used to do.

I don't know If that’s gonna answer the question, but not you know.

JW: It’s a tough question.

LING YOUNG: Yeah, I don't know how to even answer that. (~JW~) Anything good? Not really, if you think about it. Your whole life change. Ok, except that you are here. So. I couldn’t think of anything (LAUGHS). Maybe one day.

JW: What about next year?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, maybe one day. (?) try to keep the question in mind, but I don't know how to answer that.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

LING YOUNG: Well, just like my mother’s death. It is a good thing. Ok, I look at it that way, too. And if you want to say it that way, yes. Ok, only because they suffering. What are their quality of life? She gets up in the morning, she like a zombie. She’s in pain. Then she take a nap because she had no choice. She goes to the bathroom ten, twenty times a day and you got to clean her up. To her it is very embarrassing. I mean, like I try to help, but I’m not, I’m not really good, good at doing it 'cos I don't have the strength. One time, I put her in the
bath, I almost drown her. 'Cos the bath was so big and the water was filled to the top, 'cos that’s how she like it. She lost a lot of weight, she went in, and she almost went right, went right in (?) the water.

05.32.58 I almost kill myself doing it. So I, I said I can’t do that anymore. Now, do you want to see her every day suffer? No, I don’t. So sometimes, it’s not how you want to wish her die, to die. But then you say isn’t that a better place for her? Just same thing like when they were pumping (?) morphine in her, I know, I know it’s not working. I don’t know how many doses of it, and she was in agony. And my brother don't believe in it. I said you don't understand. She’s not gonna get better. Let her go in peace. But they won’t do it. So she suffer a couple of hours, for almost like a day or two. With pain. 'Cos they figured out, once they put a, morphine in her, she doze off. They don’t want her to doze off. I said, but look at her.

05.33.38 She’s in severe pain. So when she passed away, it’s a relief for her. Actually a relief for us in a way. Being, being not saying in a nice way. Only because now, you could focus on you, on yourself a little bit. Not because you don’t want to baby sit your mother. But what, what is she getting better? No. She’s getting worse, worse by the day. And they were even thinking about having a liver transplant. I said at her stage?

05.34.01 At her medical situation? No. We were try look into a, a procedure in China, that actually shrinks your tumor without any operation. Oh, we were ready to fly her there, my brother’s looking into hotel. I mean, we did all the thing. Just because that’s some kind of hope there. But the last couple of days, forget it. But do you want to see your mother suffer? No, that’s the whole thing. It’s very painful.

05.34.29 I, I can’t imagine how, how anybody go through it. So that, yeah, that's a good thing in a way. And my father’s a good thing. I mean, they were 80. They like 50, 60, they were still so. I mean, they’re not old. But they’re not that young, either. I mean, my mother’s 75, my father’s 79. And today’s day it’s just average. But you don't want to see them suffer. With me, I would say I could be worse.
05.35.02  The way, the way I was that, that time, that moment, I could be like half (?) I would lose my limb or whatever. So. You know. I don't know. My hand’s tight.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.36.20  LING YOUNG: You know, when you’re talking, you just think that’s coming out (~JW~) that’s how it is.

JW:  Some questions just come up?

05.36.32  LING YOUNG: Talking about spiritual, we even have somebody coming in do a spiritual thing. It, it worked on everybody else, it didn’t work on me. I just fell asleep (LAUGHS). They had this like group, you sit around and then this lady does certain things. You smell certain thing. You close your eye, you start seeing things. Oh, then you see a mountain. Spiritual work, some people got right into it. I’m like ok. What’s going on, you know? Like did, it didn't, it didn't hit me at all. Maybe because I’m not concentrating. I don't really believe in it, maybe.

At the, at the, the ritual they doing. It didn't work on me. People swear that it work, they say they see their grandmother, or they see their friend in 9-11. And I said I, I’m just blank. We had a couple of session like that. But they work. It didn't work on me. It work on somebody. Which is, Bob does not believe at all. But she, he said he felt something. He felt like wind coming through him.

05.37.01  I said ok. Maybe 'cos I don't believe in it this way. I don't know. But.

JW:  I just ask questions - about forgiveness, for example?

05.37.56  LING YOUNG: You know what? I’m not as angry as most people. Ok? Yes, I know they did it. But they crazy. That’s how I see it. There’s no reason why they did certain thing I guess probably 'cos us as Americans, I, we think we in touch more the way I see it. And
guess what? We’re not. We’re just human beings. Forgiveness, I never dwell on it. That I hate them. However, if I encounter them, I get nervous, ok? You know what kind of people I’m talking about. Now. Would I go out my way to avoid them, no?

05.38.31 But (?) I don’t go out of my way to meet them, either. If it happens it happens. It’s, you see them, yeah. Ok. Like one time I saw (?) come in I’m like, I’m like this. I’m stiff. Do they scare me? Yes and no. That’s the thing. But I don’t have the anger in me, that’s the difference. I’m not like people that say I’m so mad because they, these people does it. No I haven’t think about that at all, actually.

05.38.58 And that never even come across my mind. It’s anybody to forgive, no. 'Cos I don't think I ever thought about that question at all. That do I need to forgive them. But no, that question never came in my head.

JW: The question comes from anger?

05.39.21 LING YOUNG: No, I don’t have that. I don't think I have that. I don't look at myself and get very mad at myself. Why did it happen to me? You would say why me? Why me? Yeah, I did occasionally, but it won’t be something I dwelled on. Why? Why this guy didn't anything happen and he’s doing perfect, and why me? Yeah, well, you know what? I say to myself, I could be worse. That how I get myself out of this thing. So I don't sit and feel pity and say why me, why me? Because me, it could be ten times worse. I could have lost my finger or half my whatever. That’s, I think that helps.

05.39.57 So I don't have the anger. But people have anger. When I talk about anger, whoa. I mean, Bob’s wife? You ain’t never heard him say, heard her say anything that's negative, or even nasty. When you talk about this, do not get her started. She’ll be banging on tables.

JW: You could have every right to be angry?

LING YOUNG: Yes. I know that.
JW: That’s a big thing?

LING YOUNG: It’s a big, that’s why we understand. That’s what I’m saying. We don't say anything, we just let her air it out. We don't say oh, stop it. We can’t do that because you’re not her.

05.40.30  You’re not in her position how angry she is. But when people get angry, we just look at it and just, we just sit down, we just listen and then we don't, we don't say anything. We don't say oh, don't do it. None of those things. We let it ride. (STOP)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.41.37  LING YOUNG: That’s me. You see what I’m saying? I’m so unusual in certain thing, healing process, and people ask me, I couldn’t answer because I’m very different. That’s normal thing doesn’t happen to me, so. Ok.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.44.48  END OF TAPE # LY61