

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training  
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

**JOANNE GRADY HUSKEY**

*Interviewed by: Charles Stuart Kennedy*

*Initial interview date: July 7, 2017*

*Copyright 2018 ADST*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Background	
Born in Englewood, New Jersey	1950
BA in Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison	1970-1972
Teaching Certificate, UC Berkeley	1973
MA in Education, Harvard School of Education	1977-1978
Nicaragua—Peace Corps	1975-1977
Boston, MA—WGBH, Contributions Editor	1978-1980
Washington, DC—Very Special Arts	1980-1988
Setting up international arts programs	
Husband enters the Foreign Service	1986
Beijing, China—Teacher of the Arts for disabled children	1988-1991
Madras/Chennai, India	1993-1996
Actress	
Co-founder the American International School	
Nairobi, Kenya	1996-1999
Actress	
Museum employee	
Head of the Women’s Association	
Washington, DC—FSI trainer	1999-2004
Courses on the realities of life in the Foreign Service	
Cross cultural training	
Taipei, Taiwan—Husband at American Institute in Taiwan	2004-2008

National Palace Museum  
School Board at the Taipei American School  
Asia Business Association

Washington, DC—Author of <u>The Unofficial Diplomat</u>	2008
Washington, DC—Meridian International Center International Leadership Visitors Program Coordinator	2008-2011
Washington, DC—CEO of iLive2Lead	2011-Present

## INTERVIEW

*Q: Today is the seventh of July, 2017, with and I'm with Joanne Grady Huskey .Let's start at the beginning, when and where were you born?*

HUSKEY: I was born in Englewood, New Jersey, in 1950.

*Q: All right, now let's talk about your father's side -- what was their name and where did your father's side come from?*

HUSKEY: I'm from a very big Irish family. My father is John Grady Jr. He was from Boston, grew up in Watertown, Massachusetts, actually. And all his relatives were from Cape Cod. The Grady family, actually, came from County Clare, Ireland, and they were glass cutters. They moved to Cape Cod, and worked at the Sandwich Glass Company, if you've ever heard of that, in Sandwich, Mass. They gathered around that area in the Cape. His mother's maiden name was Sweeney, also very Irish, and they lived in New Bedford.

*Q: When you were a child and you were in Englewood...*

HUSKEY: I was actually in Livingston, New Jersey. I mean I was born in Englewood, but we moved right away when I was two, to Livingston, New Jersey, which is in Essex County.

*Q: And what was your father doing?*

HUSKEY: He worked for M&M candies, which is a great job to have a father doing when you're a kid. He was a buyer of chocolate, actually. He bought cocoa beans. And so it was fun to go to his office, there would be bowls of chocolate, of M&Ms on every desk, you know!

*Q: Oh, how wonderful.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, and I'm one of five kids, I'm the oldest of five.

*Q: Oh.*

HUSKEY: So they had five kids in seven years, pretty rapidly.

*Q: So I assume the family was Catholic.*

HUSKEY: Very Catholic, very Irish, yeah. My mother's side is also Irish.

*Q: Did your father go to college?*

HUSKEY: Yes he went to Yale University and that was sort of a radical thing to do because his Dad, my grandfather, thought the only school that existed was Harvard. But my father went to Yale. And my uncle went to MIT.

*Q: On your mother's side?*

HUSKEY: My mother, yeah she also went to college..

*Q: What do you know about the Sweeneys?*

HUSKEY: No, that was my grandmother on my father's side. On my mother's side, my mother's name is Hannon, they're also from Ireland from Sligo and she grew up in Youngstown Ohio. She's one of a big family, three girls, who also each had lots of children. My grandfather was an insurance man in Youngstown, Ohio.

*Q: Huh, well let's talk about growing up in Livingston. What was it like, what was the town like when you grew up...*

HUSKEY: Livingston is a very idyllic town. Very suburban town, close to New York City, so a lot of people commute to the city for work. But it's, you know, it's a planned community set up for children with a community pool and the center has a big park and, it's a very family-oriented place. My father, after a while, became the mayor of the town. We were very involved in the town, in many ways, you know. We all went through the high school, Livingston High School.

*Q: Let's talk about schooling. How about elementary school.*

HUSKEY: Yeah. So we went to a Catholic school, called St. Philomena's School, and my mother was a teacher there, actually. And that was expected in our Catholic family -- that we would all go to Catholic school.

*Q: Well, how Catholic was your family?*

HUSKEY: Very Catholic. We went to church every week. We had to go to catechism. On the weekday nights we'd have to go to catechism and you know we were very Catholic.

*Q: Were you much of a reader?*

HUSKEY: As a kid?

*Q: As a kid.*

HUSKEY: Yes and no. I was much more of a performer, you know, I liked to do shows and plays. I was always organizing the whole neighborhood to act and be in these different shows. I would do these Broadway shows and reproduce them in the backyard, and then all the neighborhood would come and see them; and we'd raise money for some cause like the First Red Cross or something. I was very involved in that kind of thing. I knew every musical there was in New York. I knew all the words and I loved that a lot. I danced and sang and that kind of thing.

*Q: I'm a musical buff.*

HUSKEY: Are you?

*Q: I have a whole pile of CD records of all the musicals and I love playing them.*

HUSKEY: I still love them, I love them now, I love them. And I know every word to every show, you know, so that's fun.

*Q: Oh yeah.*

HUSKEY: I learned all the shows, when I was kid.

*Q: In school elementary school, what subjects did you like and what subjects didn't you like?*

HUSKEY: In elementary school? I liked history. I liked English. I hated Math; and I was always fighting with my dad about doing my math homework. I didn't particularly like religion. We had to take religion, you know, that's part of the Catholic school.

*Q: What was your favorite musical?*

HUSKEY: Oliver was one of my favorites and I produced Oliver in the summer one year and it was a big show. We had lots of kids in there. The whole neighborhood was in it because you need kids for that show, you know.

*Q: Consider yourself...*

HUSKEY: Yeah

*Q: ... one of us.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, it's a wonderful play. It's a really great play. In fact, well, this is really jumping, but I just had a 65th birthday party and I invited all my neighbors from when I grew up, and they came, and they sang "Consider Yourself", it was so great!

*Q: Oh yeah. How about your family, politically where did they fall?*

HUSKEY: Interesting, my father originally was a Democrat. My mother has, pretty much, always been a Democrat, I think. My father was pretty anti-Vietnam War when we were growing up and everything. I remember him being very adamant about some of those issues and he loved Kennedy. We all, you know, sort of grew up with Kennedy as our hero when we were young. We talked politics, tons. My, you know, my father really believed in public service, giving back to the community, and, you know, we always had these major political discussions at the dinner table, all the time.

*Q: Where did you get your news?*

HUSKEY: When we were young, when I was a kid, I guess mostly from my dad. You know, he invented this thing called "topic of the night." So every night, one person in the family had to bring a topic, and then we talked about that topic and often my father would bring printouts of whatever was happening in the latest news. We had *Newsweek*. We got *Newsweek* and *Time*, I guess every week, and I would look at those.

*Q: But there was a real effort in your family!*

HUSKEY: Oh yeah, to keep us educated, oh yeah! And involved and discuss the issues. That was a big part of our lives.

*Q: At an early age did you feel there might be limitations because you were a girl?*

HUSKEY: That's an interesting question, you know. At an early age I, maybe, didn't realize it, but I do now. You know, I feel like my father expected me and my sisters to be either teachers, or nurses, or something like that. Whereas, for the boys, that wasn't true. And, I mean in our family there was always this split between the boys, who wanted to talk about sports all the time, and the girls not wanting to talk about those sports, baseball and football, as much as they did. So, but I think I didn't feel like there was any control placed on me as a child, not at all. You know, there was a lot of support, we got a lot of support for just being whoever we wanted to be.

*Q: We're there any minorities in...*

HUSKEY: Livingston. No. It was a very, very, white town. When I was 16 and 17 years old, the YMCA in our town sent us to Newark to meet with African American kids our age in the city, and we would have these things called "sensitivity groups," where we'd sit around and discuss race issues. This really, really, had a big catalytic effect on me. I would come back to my parents, you know, at 16 and 17 and say, "Why do we live in this

white town? Why don't you know any black people? Why don't we have any friends who are black?" You know, so, yeah. I mean I wasn't aware of it as a kid that much, but, as I got older, I definitely was and challenged my parents about it.

*Q: How about Jews?*

HUSKEY: Yes. There are a high percentage of Jewish people in Livingston, and there are. Yeah.

*Q: Did you, was there good mixing between...*

HUSKEY: Yeah, pretty much. I mean we all were aware who were the Jewish kids, you know. And, in fact, in Livingston one side of town was where most of the Jewish kids lived, and one side of town was where most of the Christian kids lived, but at high school level we were all mixed together and all were friends. I'm still friends with a lot of my high school friends.

*Q: I take it you were able to get into New York fairly often.*

HUSKEY: Yes, we went to New York a lot. We took the bus, the Greyhound bus into New York. It came into, you know, Port Authority. You know, when I was young I did it with my mother, we would all go in and wander around. I went every year to the circus and I always went in, at least once a year, to see a play. But, then, when I was in high school I would go in you know on the bus by myself. New York wasn't that far, it's about 45 minutes away.

*Q: Were you able to see plays?*

HUSKEY: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, we saw a lot of plays. And opera, not as much. My father tried to expose us to opera. We were in the Opera in 1964 when there was a blackout in New York City, we were sitting in the Metropolitan Opera and it went black!

*Q: Oh yeah.*

HUSKEY: That was a wild night in New York.

*Q: That's when the birthrate went way up.*

HUSKEY: It was a very interesting time. People were really communal though, you know, they were taking care of each other and singing in the streets. There were candles everywhere and it was actually really neat thing to experience.

*Q: How about high school, where did you go to high school?*

HUSKEY: I went to Livingston High School for four years and graduated.

*Q: How did you find the teaching there?*

HUSKEY: The education is good, pretty good. I was smart, one of the smarter kids in school. I was a student council officer. We had what they called, "Y groups." They were like sororities. I was the head of one of those, Kappa Sigma Nu, you know. So we had all this sort of things going on. It was, you know, really a big high school; we had over 650 kids in our class.

*Q: In the class?*

HUSKEY: In the class. So there were about several thousand in the high school, you know, it was a big place.

*Q: I imagine when you were younger you'd have spelling bees in class.*

HUSKEY: Yes. Especially in the Catholic schools you get a lot of those spelling bees. You'd have to stand up and go over each word.

*Q: I used to hate those. Because I never could spell. Thank God for the computer and our WordPerfect programs. It takes care of my spelling problems.*

HUSKEY: Yeah. We had those.

*Q: Well, did you sort of specialize in anything in high school?*

HUSKEY: I guess the two things that I really specialized in were Student Council, you know I had a leadership role, and then I was in the plays too. I was in several plays.

*Q: What were they?*

HUSKEY: The Man Who Came to Dinner and Student Prince, you know, I can't remember all of them, but those two.

*Q: That's all right. What did you play in the Man Who Came to Dinner?*

HUSKEY: I was the mother. I started my acting career in high school. Ha!

*Q: I take it with this background your whole brothers-sister group were destined for college.*

HUSKEY: My brothers and sisters destined for what?

*Q: Destined for college.*

HUSKEY: Oh absolutely, yes. My father was totally into getting us into great colleges. He was always working at, you know, figuring the odds, and he took us, he took me to

visit probably 60 colleges. It was unbelievable. In fact, in my graduation, in my yearbook, it says “The girl that visited the most colleges.” My father was totally into that.

*Q: What schools were you particularly interested in?*

HUSKEY: Well, he wanted me to go to Smith. I think that was partly because he went to Yale, you know. In those days girls schools were high on his list, because, you know, many schools, the Ivys, were still not co-ed in those days.

*Q: It was still, yeah. My wife went to Smith.*

HUSKEY: Oh, she did. It’s a lovely school, but I didn’t get in. So, I went to Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, which is a Catholic school. It was only a couple hours away from home. It’s just really close, but very soon thereafter, I wasn’t happy with that kind of homogeneous world. It was the Vietnam War era and I was ready to see bigger things. So, I actually transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Completely different. My parents were shocked!

*Q: Whoa!*

HUSKEY: Yeah. Really.

*Q: Wisconsin, particularly at that time, was considered one of the more radical schools.*

HUSKEY: Well, it was even wilder then. Because the year that I transferred was 1970.

*Q: Oh.*

HUSKEY: I don’t know if you recall, but, the students were demonstrating and they blew up the Army Math Research building on campus in the middle of the night and killed someone. That was the summer, before I went there. So my family was like, you can’t go there it’s an armed camp. Why are you going? And my father, who was a New Englander was like, why would you go to Wisconsin? What are you going to do? Have a cow for a roommate? He talked to me. He didn’t think there was anything west of Pennsylvania, you know.

*Q: Oh, I know. I went to a New England prep school and New England college.*

HUSKEY: So you know that attitude. It’s very true.

*Q: You know, I was born Chicago.*

HUSKEY: Oh, I like Chicago, we used to go down from Madison and we’d go to Chicago to get warm! It’s so cold in Madison.

*Q: What did you take? What was the campus like?*

HUSKEY: Madison?

*Q: Yeah.*

HUSKEY: It's beautiful. Have you ever been there? It's a beautiful campus. It's a real student oriented place -- all kids. There are about 65,000 students there. At the time, I mean. There two lakes, and the campus is kind of in between the lakes. And, at the time, there was sort of a tension between, you know, being a radical and being involved in anti-war activities and going to school. School was really a secondary kind of thing for a lot of people. You know, going to classes. You know, just something you did, but it wasn't the major thing that people focused on at that time.

*Q: Where did you fall?*

HUSKEY: Well, I was sort of halfway between. Because I still wanted to graduate, so, I didn't go completely radical. I really went to school and did all that, and then I'd go and join the demonstrations after my classes and stuff like that. I was sort of, in some ways I felt a little schizophrenic.

*Q: What were you radical about?*

HUSKEY: Anti-Vietnam at the time. Yeah, that was the major thing in 1969, '70 '71. So we, you know, there was a lot. I was counseling men who wanted to get out of the draft. And, you know, we had lots of demonstrations and discussions. There was a place called the Green Lantern where people would, Socialists, would come, Communists, radicals, everybody would discuss issues, you know. It was really very vibrant time, very vibrant, wild and interesting.

*Q: While you were doing that, I was Consul General in Vietnam, in Saigon.*

HUSKEY: Oooh, no kidding! Well, you know, I lived in a group house after a while, and we had a big poster of Ho Chi Minh on the wall, you know, it was like that then.

*Q: When you weren't trying to get us out of the war in Vietnam, what were you studying?*

HUSKEY: I studied philosophy. I majored in philosophy, which was something my father really thought was a great idea, because when he was at Yale, he studied chemistry, and he was sorry that he never got some of the courses and things like philosophy. So I majored in philosophy, which at Madison, is a great department. Very, very active and, you know, it's a very stimulating department. And I loved it, I really liked philosophy. It was great.

*Q: Did you get into foreign affairs?*

HUSKEY: Those days, you know, only in the extent that I was going to Washington, demonstrating against the war, you know. I went to the '69 March on Washington. I went in '70. In 1970, again, we went to Washington and tried to shut the city down. We were, you know, blocking all the streets to keep people from coming into work. That day, I'll never forget that day, pretty wild interesting time, standing in front of the White House, you know, naming the people who had been killed in Vietnam and all of that. So I was political that way. I was, I mean, I was involved in international affairs in that way. But I hadn't traveled too much. I had been to Europe. That's about it.

*Q: You had been to Europe?*

HUSKEY: I had been to Europe, yeah. My father took my whole family around the world -- on a round-the-world trip -- when we were, when I was just starting school, before I started in Madison.

*Q: What did you get out of it?*

HUSKEY: The around the world trip? Aah, it was great. We had just so much fun, it was a wonderful family trip. We zoomed through things, you know, we went so fast, it was ridiculous. But, um, I guess I got, I really got a love of travel even right then I was ready to go again. I went the next summer by myself and hitchhiked around for two months.

*Q: Where did you go when you went by yourself?*

HUSKEY: I started in Amsterdam, and then I went south through Germany, and then into Switzerland, and then to Italy, to Greece, to the islands of Greece, then I flew back to London, and then, I hitched all the way to Ireland; and I went to see all my relatives in Ireland. I was the first American who ever had showed up there. So that was interesting. Yeah, it was a great trip. I had, you know, no money.

*Q: I take it you didn't get arrested when you were in Greece.*

HUSKEY: No. Did you?

*Q: No, I was Consul General in Athens.*

HUSKEY: Oh, you were?

*Q: In the '70s.*

HUSKEY: Oh my goodness, we got around. Yeah, I was, yeah, I was in Mykonos, just on Mykonos. Mykonos was where we stayed for quite a long time -- - beautiful place at that time.

*Q: Oh yes. Windmills.*

HUSKEY: Yeah. Nice job.

*Q: Did you run across embassies or consulates at all during your trips?*

HUSKEY: You know, no. I wasn't really aware of the US Embassy or any of that stuff. I was not into diplomatic service at that time. I was very aware of the Peace Corps, because I've loved Kennedy, and we all, our family always talked about Kennedy, and I wanted to go into the Peace Corps. So, even when I was a kid we talked. And I really loved the UN when I was a child. You know, I loved the idea of the UN. I loved the whole idea of World Peace. But, I didn't really interact with the US embassies at that age, no, no.

I need to tell you one thing that -- you know you said when did I get interested in international affairs -- - so I went to France. I lived in Paris when I was right out of college for about a year. I was studying there. Then much later, when I was in Boston, I ended up meeting a guy who was a boyfriend of mine and we moved to Nicaragua to set up a Harvard Business School in Nicaragua called INCAE. I moved to Nicaragua and that's when I started really being interested in international affairs.

*Q: Did you have good exposure? Did you come away with where, if you had a choice of working in a foreign country, where would this be?*

HUSKEY: What happened was that I moved to Nicaragua in the 70s. I went down to visit my friend and then decided to stay there. I joined the Peace Corps, while I was there. I was an in-country hire. I was there during the Revolution, when Somoza was overthrown! It was a very interesting time to be in Nicaragua, because as a Peace Corps volunteer, I was working with these nuns and priests who, actually, were Sandinistas undercover, but, I didn't know. Then the revolution happened and all of a sudden, all these people, that I knew, were actually Sandinistas, and they came out. I learned Spanish and learned about Latin culture. I was totally exposed to the whole world of international life. After that, ever since that time actually, I have really wanted to be involved in international things and have been.

*Q: Let's go back to the University of Wisconsin for a minute. How did you feel about say the Soviet Union at that time?*

HUSKEY: I was brought up with the anti-Soviet Union Cold War attitude. We had to hide under our desks, when we were in our Catholic school and all, but I wasn't particularly anti-Soviet or anti-Russia. It was a time where you were thinking that the government hadn't been telling you all the truth. There were times where we were really questioning. I was questioning a lot of things that our government had been telling us.

*Q: Did you get involved in a youth demonstrations that were going on?*

HUSKEY: Civil rights -- not so much. That was a little before I was in lower school then, you know. It was in the early sixties. My husband, he's from the South, and he was very

involved in civil rights, but, I was not, other than what I told you about the sensitivity groups in Newark.

*Q: What about a campus life? Were you in school during the years of the drug culture?*

HUSKEY: Yeah, oh yeah, I mean everybody was doing drugs. There were a lot of people smoking marijuana. There were people all around me that were doing more than that -- doing acid, but, I didn't except for marijuana. I moved into a commune and lived out on a farm outside of Madison. It was an experiment to see whether we could really live as a collective, where everybody did everything equally and all that. There were four men and four women and of course, we smoked dope. At first we had a lot of idealism and we thought we could do this whole communal thing. But then, after a while, there was always fighting about who was doing their jobs and their fair share of the work. Then, after a while, it was interesting -- everybody found their own little niche, their place to be private. So, even though we were supposed to be communal, eventually, everybody was hiding off in these little corners in the barn or house. People needed space, you know, overall it wasn't a great experience.

In some regards it was an interesting time, but, we were watching people trying on their leadership roles. The one thing I will say that came out of that for me, very strongly, and for a lot of other women, was that the men were controlling everything. At all of these big demonstration meetings and organizing meetings, and times where we were discussing the tactics for what you would do to stop the war, the men were leading everything. When women tried to get involved, they were not equally allowed to, and that caused the rise of the women's movement right there! A lot of people became radicalized by the end, so I became a feminist around that time. The guys really didn't want a woman leading. The men were all full of lots of political theory, but they were not very open to listening to women's ideas.

*Q: Were they strong Marxists?*

HUSKEY: Yes, absolutely, I knew some. I mean some of the people would call themselves "socialists." There was a guy I dated. I never knew what he did. He was always flying off to Czechoslovakia and stuff like that and it was a little odd, you know, so, there were people who were very far left and passing out all kinds of literature.

*Q: So, you graduated in 1972, and what were you thinking of doing? Were you thinking of going on to grad school?*

HUSKEY: I moved to San Francisco, California, and I went to UC Berkeley. I took a year program to get a teaching certification and I lived in the city of San Francisco. I loved San Francisco in 1973. I mean it was a fabulous place to be at that time! It was a little bit past the flower power era and Haight Ashbury and all of that, but it was still just a beautiful time to be in San Francisco and to be 22 or 23 years old, I loved it there. I really loved it. I was involved in so many things! I got very involved in performing in theater and acting.

*Q: Did you get into summer stock?*

HUSKEY: Yeah, I was in the improvisational company there and then I joined with a group of people who were doing circus performing. I told them, "I can teach dance so can I be part of this?" I ended up joining this group and then we actually became a circus. The circus traveled all over -- we would perform in the parks and then after a little while, we were in Oregon performing, we got a grant from the US government, believe it or not, from the Department of Labor, to do circus! Some lady asked us if we would take the circus to the Indian reservations in the northwest. The goal of it was to develop community spirit on these reservations, which were absolutely dead and horrible -- where the men were all drunk and it was dysfunctional in every way. We would come in and bring everyone together and tell the community that we wanted to put on a show with their help. We'd ask all to be part of it -- the men would build the sets, and the mothers would make the costumes, and the kids would perform with us. It was called "Make a Circus," and it was great! It was really a very interesting process. By the end of the week, when we had produced a big show and everybody was part of it, they were all so proud of what they had done. There was a certain sense of community and there was a happiness. There was definitely a great feeling at the end of a week, but, then we pulled out of town and go to the next reservation. But, it leaves a nugget of hope, like I remember watching one Indian man helping his son. He built a piece of equipment that we were going to use in the show, and his son was with him. He was so proud. I think that, perhaps, they didn't interact that much. I bet that really didn't happen that often. There was just this great sense of community between the two of them. That happened all throughout my time in the circus. I felt it was some of the most profoundly spiritual work I have ever done, touching lives in a very personal and deep way.

*Q: So let' go back to Berkeley.*

HUSKEY: The University of California-Berkeley had been going through a radical time. You know I had been in Madison, so it didn't feel so radical to me. Sproul Plaza in the center of the campus is a vibrant place with stuff happening all the time -- lectures and music and concerts and discussions. I loved it. I mean I loved that I could go to everything I could think of and meet people and listen and learn. I really found it very exciting -- some of the free speech things had pretty much past, yeah, I mean People's Park and all that was over, you know. There were remnants of that in Berkeley and in California at the time. It was just so forward-thinking. I felt like this was the future. This is the way people are going to be. The rest of the world just hadn't gotten there yet. It was a place where people were respectful of each other across sexes, where people cared about the environment, and there was acceptance of people who were disabled. There were all kinds of levels at which I thought this is just so enlightened, compared to what I was used to out east.

So then, my boyfriend from out East, from Harvard, asked me to join him on a road trip to Nicaragua. That was a wild and crazy thing to do, but I did it. I went.

*Q: What was your impression? Were you there when Somoza was in power? What was your impression of Nicaragua under Somoza?*

HUSKEY: Well, there had been an earthquake in 1972, and I went there around 1975. They were still really recuperating from that huge earthquake. The City downtown was completely destroyed. There was a growing parameter of buildings happening outside of the center. It was interesting, because I came with this friend of mine, who was helping to set up a Central American business school there called INCAE. The school was modeled after Harvard Business School. They first worked with the Somoza government. They were accepted by the Somoza government, and the elite wealthy people of Nicaragua, who at that time had run everything, went to the school. While I was there, however, the revolution happened. The Sandinistas did not know how to run a government. They didn't know anything about any of it -- how to run an economy or the administration itself. INCAE actually ended up taking in Sandinista guerilla soldiers and training them to run the government! It was really an interesting shift that happened there around 1976.

*Q: What were you doing?*

HUSKEY: I was working with the Peace Corps, as I told you. I did a lot of things there but one of the things was I took my clown act from California to the Peace Corps. I told them I was a clown, and they said, "great you're gonna go into poor Barrios as a clown and all people will come out and then you do some educating about getting vaccinated and cleaning their hands, and using clean drinking clean water. I incorporated all of these health messages into a show. I would come into a poor barrio, all dressed as a clown, and people would be like "La Payasa. La Payasa!" Everybody would run out of their houses. All these people would gather around me; then I'd do a little act. I would show them in mime that it was great to get a shot, because you wouldn't get sick. and how to wash their hands well, or how to boil water. I went to all these different barrios. It was a really something. The barrios were poor, really poor. But Latin American people are lovely, you know, they were loving people and kind. I would get all the kids involved again like we did in California. I would put face paint on them and then they got into the show with me. They called me Dona Joanna. Everybody would run after my truck when I arrived yelling my name.

*Q: That must have been a wonderful experience.*

HUSKEY: You know I still carry around in my wallet a picture of those little clowns -- those kids! The last year I was in Nicaragua, I got into Harvard. I decided to go back to graduate school and I was preparing to leave. All these kids came to my house and they surrounded our house in a big circle. They each had funny hats on and they sang all these songs to me as a "despedida" to send me off. My boyfriend at the time said, "If you never do anything else in your life, you really did something here!"

*Q: Well Harvard, what were you doing there?*

HUSKEY: I went to the Ed school -- Harvard School of Education, to get a master's degree. I was working in the laboratory that developed all the segments for Sesame Street. There's a children's television laboratory there. We used Piaget, you know child development theory and put it into the TV segments to teach kids how to read. in Sesame We came up with the ideas for Sesame Street segments, and it was a great little team. It was a very small group and we would spend a lot of time thinking about particular developmental issues and how to use them to educate kids in a relevant and user friendly way. Because I was used to theater and performing and all of that, it was easy to kind of make those adjustments. Once you get into that performing mode you can carry it into all sorts of things. I've used theater all my life. I mean everywhere in the Foreign Service I used it so often. It's very useful for your whole life. It really is. It started way back when I was a little girl performing in my backyard.

*Q: So when were you in Cambridge?*

HUSKEY: I was there 1977-80. I graduated in 78 and then I stayed on in Cambridge. I worked for WGBH TV until 1980.

*Q: How did you find Harvard?*

HUSKEY: I loved Harvard. We had a very interesting team in my department. I was dating a lot of guys in the Harvard Business School. I really enjoyed my time there. I performed a lot at the Loeb theatre. I joined a little group there and met another guy at Harvard, who'd been a clown, and we did mask theater program. He had been a Fulbright Scholar in Bali, and he had about 100 of these beautiful masks. So we used them to make a mask/mime theater program, and we toured around the colleges in the Northeast US performing this mask/mime show. I had a great experience in Boston.

I was used to Boston. My grandparents are from there, so you know, I grew up going there all my life. In Cambridge and Boston, it's all students. So it's great place to be a student, because there's so many colleges there -- 90 colleges -- or something like that. I took a few classes at Tufts Fletcher School and I really enjoyed that, too.

*Q: What was the next step in your career?*

HUSKEY: I graduated from Harvard and I was working in television at WGBH. Did you ever hear of the show called ZOOM?

*Q: What the Zoom Zoom Zoom ah Zoom?*

HUSKEY: Yeah! I worked for that show. I was involved there for a while and that was a really wonderful job. It was a kid's show, where the kids all over the country sent in ideas for poems and stories and games and activities. Then the kids in the studio actually do the things on stage, on the show, so that everybody -- millions of people watching, could see how to do it. I was a studio associate producer, actually called Contributions Editor. I

selected the segments, and then, worked with the kids to help them develop their acting techniques for camera.

*Q: That was a great show! It was a great fun. I would think fun for you, too!*

HUSKEY: I loved that job. It was interesting for me. I had been used to the immediate feedback of live theater, however, and when you're in television you don't get your immediate feedback. I mean it's out there, and it's much broader -- you reach millions of people, but, it only comes in letters to the station. I missed that *real* connection. I liked my job a lot, and I got another job offer in Texas, at another children's television show. In the end, I didn't take that job, but joined up with the circus again to perform. After a while, I was performing somewhere as a mime character and these people asked me if I could work with deaf kids in Boston. I knew nothing about deaf people, but I said I would try. I took the job and worked with deaf kids for two years, teaching dance and theatre and producing plays that we toured. It was really an interesting project.

*Q: Where did youth come from and how were the Deaf treated at that period?*

HUSKEY: Well, there were, you know, it's very political. There was a large emphasis on teaching them to lip read at the time, but the deaf community was becoming radicalized. They felt they had a right to their own language -- to American Sign Language. There was this huge split in the deaf community between those two camps. Most of the people that I was with were all ASL people. So I was basically in this completely deaf world for quite a while, learning all about that -- going to deaf bars and it's really interesting. It is a really very, very, active community. It's totally an ASL- American Sign Language world. A whole lot happened there. I mean I learned another language -- a whole new culture. I was immersed in it. The total immersion really works. I was totally immersed in the deaf community. I spoke ASL and even became an interpreter for a bit. I interpreted for Nancy Reagan at the White House on two occasions when she hosted deaf guests.

Eventually the program lost our money from the government. So, I went to Washington to find out where I could get some more money to keep the program alive. I went to the Kennedy Center, because they have a program there, that is still there, called Very Special Arts. It was run by Jean Kennedy Smith, JFK's sister. I went to them and I said, "You know we really want to keep this deaf program alive. Can you fund us and they said, they didn't have any money. We talked for a long time and we liked each other, so even though they didn't really have a job, they actually hired me! I ended up moving to Washington to work for them at the Kennedy Center. This expanded my whole routine, from just working with deaf kids to working with kids who had physical disabilities, blind kids, and kids with mental disabilities, and every kind of disability. I took a lot of my performing arts skills and moved into working in adaptive arts.

*Q: What kind of future did the deaf children have? What could they look forward to and what was the reason you were teaching them theater and dance and things like that?*

HUSKEY: It was to build to build their confidence so that they could actually go out and find a job. That was really the ultimate goal of that project, even though we used the theater to do it. It's hard when you don't speak the language and you can't understand people. It's hard. Most of them end up being very isolated, very isolated in their own communities. So the arts can not only help mainstream people, but they can be rehabilitative and educative, as well. It's a total win win.

*Q: Well then, you've certainly had an early fascinating life!*

HUSKEY: I did. I actually really had a very colorful life. I mean it sounds crazy when I'm telling it all to you, because so much happened in so short a period. I was 29 years old when I moved to Washington and started working for Very Special Arts.

*Q: The Kennedy Center program Jean Kennedy Smith started, and you know her sister started Special Olympics. So, she started Very Special Arts?*

HUSKEY: Yes, and originally they hired me because I had been a performer- a dancer. I was hired as a trainer and trained people -- special educators and artists -- in how to use dance and theater to teach people or educate and rehabilitate people. I developed a lot of programs for dance and wheelchairs, and then I developed dance with blind people, and we did a program with the Alvin Ailey company teaching the dancers how to work with blind people. Then the international work began.. I was with Mrs. Kennedy Smith and she learned that I spoke Spanish, because I had lived in Nicaragua. She said to me, "We're going to Peru. You're coming with me to meet some of people in this field." So we went to Lima, Peru, and we saw a lot of the special education programs. We met a lot of artists and we talked about the idea of what we were doing in the USA. It was on that trip that she said to me, "We're going to do an international program and you are going to run it!"

For the next eight years, she sent me all over the world to set up programs in the arts with people who had disabilities. It was an incredible incredible job. I was sent to over 45 countries.

*Q: Oh what particularly were you pushing? Adapting arts to make sure they were available to everybody?*

HUSKEY: Yes, for example, I taught a lot of teachers -- special education teachers. I would bring artists in and I would show them how to do theater, for example, with people who are deaf; or movement with people who had physical limitations; or drawing with people who were, perhaps, physically disabled. We taught them to draw with the brush in their mouth, or with your feet, or lots of ways. There are a lot of adaptive techniques. It would be a combination of special education people, artists, and the disabled community themselves.

*Q: So professional artists who didn't have any disabilities? Did you bring them into this program as teachers?*

HUSKEY: Yeah. I would train them on how to adapt their arts to work with people who had disabilities. I did a lot of that. I did a lot of training of artists, dancers, musicians, and actors on how to make their art form work for people who had different disabilities.

*Q: What countries were doing the most in this field?*

HUSKEY: The UK was pretty far advanced. Some Scandinavian countries, but generally speaking the U.S. was way ahead. Berkeley, California was way ahead. But, I went to a lot of countries, where they were way behind, you know, I had to sometimes bring kids out of hiding. Their parents would have them hidden in their rooms. It was an eye-opener of a job. They sent me to 45 countries over a period of eight years. I went all over the world and some really really tough.

We had these big arts festivals every year, where everybody came from all over the world. It was a very colorful mix of cultures and disabilities.

*Q: What was Jean Kennedy Smith like?*

HUSKEY: Well, she's a very complicated person. I traveled with her a ton. She's both very very shy, and yet she's from a very famous family, so there was a certain sense of entitlement that they all have. She's used to people adoring her and her family. She would tell me things like, I want you to go to Holland and call the Queen and tell her that you want to do this kind of an arts program. So, I would do that, and they would say, "Come on in and let's talk about it." She'd say, "I want you to go to Rome, Joanne, and call the Pope and tell him we want to do something with the Vatican." I did it and the Pope literally said come over for tea. I mean it was amazing -- the doors that opened for us, because of her name. Working with her directly was challenging because there were a lot of times where she was very demanding. She expected a lot and sometimes, for example, we might be in a setting and she didn't want to speak. She just didn't want to do it, and she would say, "You go, Joanne, and speak. I'd have to tell her they wanted to hear her. There were times where she was just not up to being a public person. She wanted more privacy but she couldn't have it.

*Q: Her son had a big problem, right?*

HUSKEY: Yes, I knew Willie. I know that happened after I left the program. Willie was involved with our program. Who knows. I have no idea what happened there. That was pretty bad for his life. I mean, unfortunately, it comes up everywhere. He's still in Washington. I think he's a doctor. I don't know much about what happened with him after that. He was actually acquitted, but it left a lot hard times for him.

*Q: The other side of that Kennedy aura is that things go bad. They've had a lot of sad very sad things. They do a lot of good work, though. They have done a lot of good. Sargent Shriver and Mrs. Shriver, her older sister, right? When her husband was ambassador to France, she got very much involved in helping disabled children.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, she started Special Olympics, which is a huge program still going on in sports for people who have mental disabilities. I think the whole family got involved in this kind of work because of their sister Rosemary -- their guilt about that. Mrs. Shriver got started -- she started a little camp at her house originally, and then it just grew into a worldwide movement.

*Q: How did you come to the Foreign Service?*

HUSKEY: I was working like I said all over the world. I was actually doing a program in China with Mrs. Smith. I was working with Betty Bao Lord, who was the wife of the US ambassador to China at the time. We were trying to develop an Arts Festival for disabled people in China. I'd gone to Hong Kong and I was planning a trip to China with artists. At that time, I was at a party and I met my husband, who was a China specialist working for USIA as China analyst at the time. We started talking and you know I had been doing all this work in China. He had a lot of China background, and it turned out we both had been in school in Madison, Wisconsin, although he was in graduate school. I was an undergrad at the same time. We discovered we both had traveled all over the world. I, as part of the Kennedy program, and he had sort of hitched around the world for four years by himself just exploring everything. We talked about all of that at this party on our original meeting day. We connected on lots of levels and we started dating. I, actually, was looking for funds for the China program I had planned, but the USIA didn't give any money at the time. I had to get it from another place. I was at the Kennedy Center and he was at the State Department, and we started dating. I had tickets to every single thing at the center, you know. I would call him and say, "Do you want to go the Bolshoi Ballet tonight?", and he'd say, "Oh yeah, okay, and he'd come over for the symphony or a ballet or whatever because we had free tickets. So we dated in Washington for about a year. Then we got engaged.

*Q: Were you OK with the Foreign Service?*

HUSKEY: Well, we got married in 1986 and I was still working. I, finally, did the program in China. I flew to China and was working with Mrs. Lord and running this big Arts Festival and I got a long distance phone call from Jim, who said over the phone, "How would you like to go into the Foreign Service? And maybe live in China?" I said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "Well, I actually took the Foreign Service exam, without telling you, and I got in!! They're offering me a position as a political officer and why don't you take a good look around China and see if you could live there."

I was like, "You tell them that your wife is in China and you can't make a decision until I come home!" So, he actually turned them down. He said that his wife wasn't up for it. When I came back, I found out. But he was so disappointed, so, we went back and told them we would do it. They, actually, assigned us China, ironically. They, originally, assigned us to Guangzhou as our first post. But, because I had already been working in Beijing, and I knew a lot of these people in the disabled people's Federation through Mrs.

Lord, we convinced them to send us to Beijing! So our very first posting was to Beijing in 1988.

*Q: Did you get any sort of introduction training at the Foreign Service Institute here?*

HUSKEY: That's a good question. I don't think I did. I might have had one course maybe at FSI, while Jim did his A 100 class. I was still running around the world for my job but I didn't get Chinese. I didn't get any introduction to Chinese culture or anything like that.

*Q: So nothing? Did they know the fact that you'd been a performer in China?*

HUSKEY: We moved in 1988 and that was still the old China. I mean the old, dark, dreary, China. You know Mao Mao jackets and bicycles and pretty tough; and I didn't speak a word of Chinese. The first day we're there, Jim goes off to the American Embassy and there I am in this country... you know this strange culture and I'm thinking, "What am I doing here?" I did know these people from the Chinese disabled people's Federation the All China Disabled People's Federation. So, I thought to myself, well, okay, I'm gonna have to do this. I'm gonna have to try this. I rented a bicycle and I drove across the city of Beijing. I don't know how? I don't know how I did it, because you know it was insane with bicycles. I got to their place and I met with them, and I told them, "I'm in China now. I'm living here my husband and I'd like to work here. I'd like to work with you." They said, "really, hmm." They didn't say it in very straight language, but it was very clear that a wife of a US diplomat was not going to work in a Chinese Communist Chinese government agency. There was no way! So they were, like, no that's not gonna happen. I went back pretty discouraged that day, I must say. That was a rough meeting and I thought, "What am I gonna do here? How am I gonna survive? You know how am I gonna survive in this place I don't know anybody. I don't speak the language. I have no idea what I'm doing here. My whole career was just dropped into a box and shipped to China. It was an awful feeling! I had to really gather it up, so to speak. I had to really dig deep and get something you know together for myself. I started taking Tai Chi in the park every morning, and I told my Tai Chi teacher that I was a dancer. I was there doing Tai Chi and all the Chinese people all around me were doing ballroom dancing. They were doing ballroom dancing in the parks, because that's what they were doing in those days. They were just, sort of, opening up to the West and instead of doing their own traditional things, they wanted to learn how to do waltz and tango and everything else. After a while, my tai chi teacher, Zhang Fang, invited some dancers to meet me. They were ballroom dancers and they wanted to know," "Can you teach us Western dance? Can you teach this Latin dance? Can you teach us rock and roll?" I said, "Yeah, I can do all that. I can teach you. So we ended up getting to know each other and began to work together. They were professional dancers. They were really good. I started teaching classes with lots of students I taught the foreign community ballroom dancing, too, and then I had a ballroom dance class that was at Beijing University. I would go and teach dance to these Chinese kids that were all dying to learn how to do these things.

*Q: Was there a problem with the authorities at this Western kind of thing?*

HUSKEY: Not at that time. You know people were just learning to kind of open up their worlds a little bit, but nobody was allowed to, so to speak, "let the Flies in." But dance was okay. I mean I remember -- this is a funny story. I was in Beijing University about to take the microphone in front of a hundred people and they said, "Now we're going to introduce Comrade Jo an na." and then I get on the mike -- I spoke very rudimentary Chinese cause I was just learning -- but I said, "Okay, now we're going to do the jitterbug jitterbug." I put on *Rock around the clock tonight*. You can imagine -- we all did rock and roll and they loved it! Oh my God, they loved it.

The interesting thing, this is really what happened. The Chinese Disabled People's Federation, which is run by Deng Pufang, who is the son of Deng Xiaoping, the Supreme Leader. Yes, his son who's actually handicapped. He uses a wheelchair, because during the Cultural Revolution he was pushed out of a window and was paralyzed from the waist down. So he started the Disabled People's Federation, which was really new at the time. The goal was to make people aware of the needs of people who have disabilities. He headed up that organization. So, they've called me back after I went out there, and they said, "We have a plan. We have an idea. Since you've been doing all this work in America in the arts, can you do this in China?" We will send a car and take you to all the institutions for disabled people in Beijing and you teach them arts. You teach them how to dance, how to do theater, and teach their teachers." I said, "Okay. I can do that. I'll do that. So I did. I spent months going to the schools for the blind, the School for the Deaf, schools for the physically disabled -- all these schools for people who are mentally handicapped. I went to orphanages everywhere, and I didn't really speak Chinese very well, but, I would come in and have maybe 100 teachers. I'd show them how to take some of these arts and use them to educate people and rehabilitate people. It was pretty wild for me to be doing. I didn't I don't know much about China.

*Q: I would think that the arts are sort of, as you say, a universal language. And that the Chinese are naturally adapted to art.*

HUSKEY: The one problem I would have -- this is a funny problem -- is that you know I was from Berkeley. I was from Madison. I was used to free form arts, where you expressed yourself. But in China, everybody wants to do everything perfectly -- the way the Masters paint or the way the masters have danced, or the way the Masters do anything. So, they would be very stylized. I would say, "No, no, no, no I want you to walk across the room like an elephant or something, and they'd be like, "Why would I want to do that? Why would ever want to do that?" When they would try it, They wanted to be like these dainty ladies walking across the room! So, there was that sort of interesting tug of war between freeform art and very stylized art.

*Q: Did you find that you had sort of the usual problem -- you're coming in with all this youthful American enthusiasm and you've got, in the end, people who think this was great, but the old standard... "No we all do it this way" type of people?*

HUSKEY: Yeah, but this was the important part -- this was in 1988 and you know things were starting to open up there really slowly opening up. There was a little bit of freedom. At one point during this process, I went to a huge orphanage with 750 kids, all of whom were in their beds, and I thought, "I can't do this by myself. How am I gonna do this?"

So, I decided to start an organization. I decided I had to get help. So, I set up an organization which I called "Beijing International Volunteers." I advertised among the foreign community and asked for anybody who knows anything about any of the arts or any of sports. I said, "I have a way that you could actually meet Chinese people and truly get involved with Chinese people. If you would volunteer your time." I did a six-week training of all these volunteers that came, both foreigners and the staff at that orphanage. I taught them how to integrate arts into their place so that the kids weren't just lying in bed.

For a while, we had a lot going on. I programmed the whole thing so that every day there were some different people coming and going, at different hours. We had dance and theater and soccer, and you name it. They were bringing all the kids out of the beds. Many of them weren't really even disabled. They were barely disabled. Their idea of disability might be a cleft palate, or something like that; and they were mostly girls because the parents disowned them. They didn't want them because of the one child policy... they wanted boys. So, the program was thriving. It was doing really well. I got lots of donations of toys and equipment to bring in from the foreign community. I brought it all in there. Then a weird thing happened. One day I said, "You know, the kids don't have anything to play with." They said, "We can't have these different toys, because they'll fight over the toys. I said, "Okay, okay." Well to solve that I went out and bought hundreds of teddy bears -- big black and white panda bears. I gave one to each kid and I put it in each crib and everything. Everybody had one which solved the toy fight problem. But, the next week when I came back, there were no pandas. There were no toys. I said, "Where is everything?" They said they locked it all up to protect them. Then, I walked around the corner and they were actually selling this stuff! They were selling the panda bears. They had replicated the pattern and were making them for sale! There were those kind of struggles with the administration there.

*Q: Wow, it was just a little bit difficult. Was life difficult as well?*

HUSKEY: I think for me personally, when I first got there, before all of this happened to me. I went to the embassy and I thought, well, you know I had been running this international program at the Kennedy Center. I should be able to do something there. I said, "I'd like to apply for a job." They were, you know, they said, "Okay, you can start as an FS1, and you can do stamping envelopes or something like that like and then move up the ladder. I thought, "I don't think so. That's not what I'm gonna be doing. I don't want to do that." They said, "Listen, you have to work your way up in the foreign service. You can't just like come in, even though you've got all this experience." So, right then I made a decision to avoid the embassy. Maybe I felt treated poorly, like a second-class citizen actually. In the beginning, I couldn't even get into the embassy building where Jim worked, because he's a political officer. I had to wait for an escort. That was it was

difficult. Very early on, I think I felt rejected by the Foreign Service. I thought to myself, okay, fine, I'm just gonna get involved in China and forget this whole thing. That's when I started working with the Chinese government with Deng Pufang and the DPF. I was really involved; and then Tiananmen happened!

*Q: Did you work with Bette Bao Lord?*

HUSKEY: She was there for about a year that we were there. I continued to work with her a little. She hosted a few events for us. Then, right around the time of Tiananmen, the Lilleys came -- Sallie and Jim Lilley. Jim Lilley served as United States ambassador to China at the time of the Tiananmen Square events of 1989. They came in like three days after the Tiananmen massacre. So, you can imagine. Here we are living in China. I just got married. I'd only been married about a year, and we were only in foreign service about eight months when the whole Tiananmen Square thing starts to happen. We were out in April of 1989 at Beijing University seeing a film. When we came out of the film we saw that all the students were all over the place, getting kind of agitated. There were these writings on the wall. These big long writings about Hu Youbang, who had been a leader of the opposition. He had been thrown in jail and he was dying. He was dying, so it rallied the students. They got agitated that Hu Youbang was dying. My husband, Jim, was then a consular officer, but was covering human rights for the embassy. They would send him to meetings and he met a lot of people. We met a lot of Chinese people. He would talk and find out what was going on in the country. He would then file that or write a cable into the political section. He was going to be a political officer the next year. That night, he said, "This is really is something major. This is gonna be -- something's happening here!" That was April of 1989. The following months, we saw this movement grow on the University campuses, then start to flow off the university campus and into the streets, and gather steam, and gather people. At first, it was just students that were demonstrating for more openness from the government. They wanted to have a dialogue on what was going on in the government and they wanted more democracy. After a while, they started marching through the streets. More universities joined them. Then the people started joining them. People on street corners started joining them. You would see these workers starting to join them. It was like watching, uh like watching a flower that was dead, like people who were dead, all of a sudden open up and all of a sudden smiled be animated! Everybody was sort of beaten down by the system. There was this sort of passivity. Then all of a sudden there was this incredible energy and happiness and excitement. Jim and I walked around all the time and there will be people gather on corners talking. They were all talking about issues, discussing things all over the place.

*Q: Did this affect your work -- helping the disabled?*

HUSKEY: Around the time, I think I was still going into the orphanages. Our volunteer group was still going in during that April and May. But by June, it got very serious. They were sending the army into Tiananmen Square each day. In the square, there started to gather all these people. There were a million people by the end of May -- a million people were in the square camped out. The students were on a hunger strike, so there were

medics running around helping them. There was all kinds of stuff happening on the square. Around that time the government said that I couldn't go into those orphanages anymore. Foreigners can't go in, because they were concerned that foreigners were actually propagating the democracy ideas that the students had. In fact, there was no internet. There was no cell phones. There were no ways to communicate. The only way people got information was through faxes at the time. But we would talk to a lot of people. They would ask us, "What was it like during the anti-Vietnam war movement? What did you do?" We would have conversations with people. I learned Chinese pretty quickly on the streets. My teacher, LU Yong, and I would go out and talk to everybody. It was a great way to learn Chinese. I was more up on the current Chinese language than my husband, who had sort of a book Chinese. I knew the in slang words and all. So we would talk to everybody. We would find out what was happening -- talk to people. We went out on our bicycles to the square almost every day and met a lot of people. But, by June the government was getting scared. So much happened. They cut off the foreign media. They blackened it out and all international media was asked to leave the country. They declared martial law.

*Q: There was no sort of interaction between foreigners and Chinese people right?*

HUSKEY: We had to live in a compound. There were walled foreign compounds at the time. You had to live in them. When martial law happened in early June, people were not supposed to be out at night. We were not supposed to be biking around late, but, still everybody was still in the square. Everything stayed alive in the square.

*Q: We're in June of 1989 in China during the Tiananmen Square time. It's now June...*

HUSKEY: I was with my husband going down almost every day into the square and interacting with Chinese students and learning about their demands while this historic amazing historic thing was happening all around us. Gorbachev had been invited to China -- the first time in ages that a Russian leader had been invited, and the entire international press was there covering Gorbachev's visit, but they ended up covering this democracy movement, which happened at the same time. So, the whole world was then watching what was going on in Tiananmen Square live, and getting really, really, surprised by what was happening. The Chinese government was not doing anything. They hadn't stopped it. They hadn't tried to stop it and the students were taking over so that pretty much the whole city was being run by the students at that point. They were directing traffic. There were people everywhere giving out food and doing all kinds of things. There was a lot of civic engagement people helping each other. Meanwhile, the Chinese government themselves were back behind their walls of Zhongnanhai trying to figure out how are we gonna respond to all of this. They had a differing opinion among the leaders. Jiao Ziyang, Li Peng, and Deng Xiaoping. Li Peng was a hardliner and Jiao Ziyang was really for being more open and inviting the students in to talk. So there was a lot of discussion going on behind the scenes, but, the people didn't really know what was happening. As I said, the government finally shut out all press -- just blocked it out -- pushed all the international media out of the country and called martial law. Nobody could do much at night. They weren't allowed to go out. Jim was basically assigned by the ambassador to

keep covering the square. So he kept going down there and I went with him. We went almost all the time. There was a series of days that happened in June.. on the 2nd, they sent in an army that came from the countryside. These were young kids, who didn't know what they were doing. They didn't even know where they were going and had no idea what was happening. They brought them in on trains and they were sent into the square and were told to put down -- calm down the students. The students all would surround the army guys and say, "You don't want to be against the people. You're Chinese. This is for China. They talked them out of doing anything, and they didn't have any arms, so, they were completely won over by the people. Then on the 3rd of June, again they sent in the army. This time, again, the people blocked the army. They got around the army and stopped them from entering the square. They didn't do anything and they backed out. That evening of the third, I went down to the square to meet Jim. His mother, who was with us from Alabama, was a visiting.

*Q: So it was it was that open that you could just go there?*

HUSKEY: Yeah, she was looking around the square and taking pictures of all these democracy movement people and talking to them. I don't know if you remember the Goddess of Democracy? We took lots of photos of that the day it came into the square. The students were jubilant that they had again stopped the army and they were celebrating. So we met Jim, but around midnight, we told him that we were gonna go back to the apartment. Jim said, "I'm gonna stay overnight again, because even though the last night they had stopped the army, he had a feeling that there was a rumbling. There was a feeling that something was going on. Something more was gonna happen there. He said, "I'm not sure but I'm gonna stay all night." So, I took his mother back to the apartment and on the way we stopped at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, which is near where I lived. All the foreign reporters were there that night, and everybody was discussing that there was something gonna happen that night. There was a lot of energy it was really very anxious. So, we went back to the house and Jim's mother said good night to me, and I decided to go back down to the square to see a Jim, because I felt like something was going on. I went back down in the car. I took the car and I started back down toward the square, and all these people started running out to me -- all the Chinese people, saying, "Lao Wai, which means honorable foreigner, go home! Go home -- it's not safe! Go home -- go back -- you've got to go back. They wouldn't let me pass. They blocked me and they said this was not a good time to be out on the street. So, I went back to the apartment and I was thinking well something's really happening and I wanted to know what was going on. I tried to call the embassy to say, "Do you know where Jim Huskey is?" and they said, "He's in the square." Then I heard all this rumbling happening and these armored personnel carriers were coming down the Main Street right past our apartment ,going towards the square. This was about 1:00 in the morning or so - maybe so the whole night the action happened in the square and I didn't know where Jim was and I couldn't reach him. There were no cell phones in those days, so, we had no way to have a conversation.

*Q: Did you hear the gunshots and all the things that were happening?*

HUSKEY: I heard the rumbling of the tanks going down towards the square so that was a big deal! I didn't see Jim for another 24 hours and all this stuff happened that night. They basically killed people all around the square on the roads leading into the square. It was the night of the massacre -- June 4th 1989. After 24 hours, Jim came back and he told me everything that had happened. He had to write up a cable, as he was practically the only U.S. embassy officer in the square the entire night on June 4. There were people outside in different parts of the city, but, in the square, he was the only one. His report on what happened there was critical for our government. He ended up typing all night long to explain everything he had seen and he'd seen people being killed, and tanks being burned. He'd seen -- the people taking the army people out of the tanks and ripping them apart limb by limb -- and witnessed people being shot. He saw a lot. The US government and China became polarized on what happened that night. There was a huge debate -- the Chinese government said no one was killed in Tiananmen. Therefore, Jim's report became critical to our position that over a thousand people were actually killed. Literally speaking, they were not killed inside Tiananmen Square, but they were killed all around the square. There was a lot of bloodshed that night and Chinese people killing Chinese people, which the Chinese little ladies would come running out in front of the tanks and say, "Zhongguoren by neng sha Zhongguoren." That means Chinese people do not kill Chinese people. There was just a lot of shock that their own government would do this to its own people. The next day, we actually went back down to the square to see what had happened. Jim, actually, left his car in the square that night. It was in the square -- left right next to all the tanks! The whole square was shut down. All these military guards were there with guns. The whole thing barricaded off, and there was destruction all over the place. Pieces of rocks and furniture and everything in the streets, and fire. You could tell things had really been really out of control. So, we had to leave our car there for about two weeks. We just left it sitting in the square alongside the huge tanks. Post Tiananmen, I was not allowed to run the programs in the orphanages anymore. I was not allowed to work with the government anymore with my whole volunteer program. But, I went by myself. I was still able to go talk to them and Ambassador Lilley even said to me that "There's no communication now between China and America. We don't know what's going on. So anything you can find out, while you're out at the orphanage and talking to people, let me know." There was just very little communication being allowed then. The embassy rallied. We all had to go down to the embassy and volunteer our time. We got on the phone banks and we called Americans all over China to see if they were okay and to make sure that everybody on campuses were safe. The Ambassador, who was then Jim Lilley, called a meeting of all the family members about three days after Tiananmen Square happened. We were gathered and discussing what had happened and what we were going to do and how we were going to stay safe. Ambassador Lilley said there was a voluntary evacuation. Anybody who wanted to leave China, could leave. He said, "We will get you out of here." But, while we were in the meeting, China's military people started shooting all around the embassy. You could hear gunshots and everything. Ambassador Lilley said, "I've just changed my order -- it's a mandatory evacuation and you have about 24 hours until you have to leave here. So go home and get your things in order. The marines will come pick you up." Meanwhile I didn't know where my husband was. He was still roaming around taking care of Americans on college campuses. So, I stayed at the Embassy. I decided -- I'm going to stay here and see if I can figure out

where Jim is before I leave a country. Ambassador Lilly said to get to the office and man the phones. So we were taking phone calls from people from all over, and it turned out right around that time the PLA started shooting all the Jianguomenwai foreign community housing! There was shooting up there. The PLA was shooting it up and the RSO family was in one of those apartments. They were calling and saying, "My kids are under the bed. This is impossible! The bullets are bouncing off the wall and we need to get out!" We had to send the Marines down to those buildings and get those people out of there. They had to run for it and grab whatever they could. Then get out. It was really, really incredibly tense and wild. Then, I had to go back to my house. I went to the house by myself and figured out I have to leave what am I going to take with me in this evacuation and I picked up a few things and closed the door. The Marines came and picked us up and we all went out to this hotel out by the airport -- the Lido hotel. We waited to be evacuated, but, I still hadn't seen Jim. I didn't know where he was and he was helping college kids get off campuses and get to the airport. I didn't know whether I would see him before I left. There were about 3,000 people at the airport at this point all trying to get out of there. That night before we were evacuated, Jim went by all the barricades of PLA soldiers and came out to the Lido hotel and to say goodbye to me. He had to stay because he was considered essential personnel. We all had to leave and we got on a United Airlines flight that was brought in for us. They whisked us out of there, which is really a big deal leaving some of our spouses behind. We were flown to San Francisco and when we were leaving China, getting on the plane, a CBS News grabbed me and said, "When you get to San Francisco, will you go on the Dan Rather show and explain what's going on in Tiananmen Square? There's a block out on the news and no one knows what's happening." A lot of the other people said maybe we shouldn't do that because our spouses were still back in China and it wasn't safe. But I had a different last name than my husband at the time, Grady, and he was Huskey. So, I said, "I'll do it." When I got to San Francisco, the CBS News people picked me up and they took me to the studio. When I got there, President HW Bush was speaking on the air about what was happening in China. I went on the air right after him, and Dan Rather interviewed me about what I had seen, what we had been through, where were the foreigners, how many people were killed. It was a pretty wild interview and when I came out of that interview, there was a bank of television cameras showing all the different stations. They were all showing China. I had no idea that the U.S. was so involved in what was happening there and that the American people had been seeing footage. Where we couldn't see any of it, because it was all blacked out in China. It was the first time, really, I had seen the footage of what I was living through. I've been living in the middle of it, but then, all of a sudden, I had seen all of it on the screens there. That was when I finally cried. I mean there was just so much that had happened to us! I went back to Washington D.C. then. I was evacuated for several months, during which time I got a chance to speak to different groups of people who wanted to know about Tiananmen. I spoke at our church. I spoke at a Civic Center. I spoke and told people what was going on in China. Meanwhile, my husband, Jim, was sitting in the embassy with the Ambassador and a bunch of other people trying to hold down the fort in a very, very, different China with a complete crackdown on everything.

I was home in the United States and what was interesting is the role you have when you come back from some major historical event like that, especially when China was on everybody's minds. I ended up speaking all over the place to Americans about what was going on in China and what it meant.

*Q: What was your reaction to the people who were asking you? I mean do you think they were informed at all or just --*

HUSKEY: I was surprised how really, really, interested and concerned the American people were about it. The democracy movement in Tiananmen had somehow stimulated this really deep interest on the part of Americans. I guess partly because it was sort of an indictment on democracy. I think America got swept up into it first because the media had been there and got a lot of footage. But then, later, because of the historic moment of people striving to get more democracy in their country and young people especially wanting it and asking for their rights.

*Q: There's something in the American psyche, something they're really responsive to about China. I mean this goes way back. I've done some study of the early diplomacy and you know this fascination with China as an alternative way of life. I mean, they really represent the complete opposite of what we do. Yet, I think the other interest was that the students there weren't picking up on democracy movements from the West. The Chinese government was certainly criticizing Americans and the American government for influencing the young people in China.*

HUSKEY: By the time I got back to China from evacuation, there was a huge debate going on. The Chinese government was basically denying that they had killed anybody in Tiananmen Square; and our government was saying there were over a thousand people killed. My husband's report -- his cable about that night -- - actually was one of the major sources of information, because he saw lots of people shot right in front of his eyes. He saw tanks roll over people and things so, that dialogue was going on between our government and the Chinese government. What was interesting was that three months later, when we were invited back in and it was a totally different China. It was what we call the crackdown -- so it was like the old China. The PLA was everywhere -- young PLA officers with guns, AK-47s were all over the city. The TV was just full of heavy, heavy propaganda about how the People's Liberation Army loves the people, and how they were doing this for the good of the people. It was just endless propaganda! There was this huge cut off between foreigners and Chinese, so, as I mentioned earlier, I had been working with Chinese people quite a lot. I was in all the orphanages. I was working with Deng Pufang, Deng Xiao Ping's son. When I went back, all of that was changed. nobody could talk. The US. wasn't talking to China at all.

*Q: Well how long were you in the States? Did the State Department help you?*

HUSKEY: I was there for about almost three months. I went back to Chin at the end of September. I don't recall State doing too much for us. I have my sister -- she lives in Washington. I was able to stay with her for the summer and it was all good. So, I didn't

need their help, I guess. I didn't need them as much as other people and they may have helped others.

*Q: When you went back, three months after, so it's now like late September 1989, what was the embassy like?*

HUSKEY: Very, very different from when I left. You may or may not recall the whole history during all of this, but there was a commotion. Ambassador Jim Lilley, who had come right around the time of the Tiananmen Massacre was now in charge. During the time we were away a dissident, named Fang Lizhi, was brought to the embassy and asked for asylum and Jim Lilley took him in! So, all of a sudden the embassy was now harboring this guy, who was basically critical of the Chinese government. He thought he was going to be killed and we gave him safe harbor. The embassy then was surrounded on all sides by guys with guns, and if we went in or out we had to go by young seventeen year old kids, who didn't even seem like they knew how to use these guns, to get in and out. It was a very, very, very tense. The Chinese were afraid other dissidents would arrive at the Embassy and be taken in

I had to stop my whole Beijing International Volunteers program. I couldn't bring any more foreigners into the schools for the disabled or any of that. We had to stop all of that, but, I kept going myself. I don't know why they let me go in. I've only been there about seven or eight months, but, I'd done a lot of work for them. They kept letting me go but nobody else did. So, the interesting thing that happened is really I still had a lot of friends in China, but it was dangerous for them to meet me. I got a letter from a friend in the United States asking if I would be willing to help her coordinate a US-China Women's Conference that she wanted to do in 1990 -- a year later. As I said, there was no bilateral anything going on, and I said it may be very difficult to have this conference at this time. There was no discussion between Chinese and Americans on any level. But, I went down to meet with the All-China Women's Federation and I made a proposal to them, saying we would like to do US-China dialogue between women in China and women in the United States the next year. The irony was they knew that in 1995 they were going to do the United Nations Beijing Conference on Women and they had to get ready for that! They needed to get practiced on how to do international dialogues on women's issues. So, they said yes! For the full year after Tiananmen, I ended up working with the All-China Women's Federation and organizing this conference on women women's issues. It was pretty much the only bilateral thing that happened at the time. If you recall, George HW Bush knew enough about China not to cut off relations completely, and he sent in a secret envoy, Brent Scowcroft, came to China at the time to work through some of these very very tough issues between China and the United States. It was all very quiet and nobody knew that was happening. Meanwhile, I was trying to organize this big conference and I actually kept going with it. I lined up all the women from the United States who wanted to come and the issues they wanted to talk about; then I had to go work with the Federation Women's Federation to invite Chinese women from all over the country to come and share some of the issues in which they were interested. It was fascinating because, when we finally actually did do the conference, the American issues were things like date rape, divorce, equal pay for equal work, sexual harassment in the

workplace -- these kind of issues were on the on the docket in the United States. They were commonly discussed. In China, that was not something you could talk about! Unfortunately, we'd get these papers from the US full of all these difficulties; and then we get these papers from the Chinese women which were all like -- Chinese women have completely harmonious marriages; the relationship between men and women in China is harmonious and perfect equal in all ways; you know, we hold up half the sky -- all those slogans. It was all propaganda! The Chinese side were all censored. Their papers were all edited. They were all completely organized by the government. The Americans were completely open and saying anything they wanted. The conference was wild, because we had these nice completely diverse points of view.

*Q: Oh, at least you were getting papers from the Chinese, right?*

HUSKEY: The Chinese Women's Federation is a huge Communist Party organization and their job is to make sure that everything stays copacetic for the Chinese government. So although they had great influence -- because they have over 500,000 units of women's Federation's -- all over the country, they can get the women there and they did get a lot of the women there! They made sure that everything was nice and tidy in terms of the message, but all that said, it was still worth doing because, to be sure, American and Chinese women were meeting in the hallways and the Chinese women were able to talk to American women. There were real conversations going on. I mean it was really very worthwhile in the end!

*Q: Oh, absolutely, I mean, you know anything of this nature of getting together you'd appear getting full propaganda, plus the fact that the delegates are not that controlled right? So they were there, and there were great meetings happening, and conversations and future meetings that happened. What were some of the issues they were interested in talking about outside?*

HUSKEY: There was there was a great deal of interest in sex, and sex in marriage, and what was appropriate and not, but, they weren't really allowed to talk about it openly. There was a woman who started a radio station there around that time and she was starting to take questions and she was still officially okay. They were just opening up all these questions.

*Q: We had Dr. Ruth. I'd like to talk to the diminutive little lady, who would talk about everything. In very frank terms. Like her?*

HUSKEY: Well, for China during the crackdown time, where everything was tight, tight, tight, that was pretty amazing that this woman tried to start this radio station and she went on. She is well-known in China. I forget her name, but, she got to be sort of the Dr. Ruth of China. Anyway, I would go and meet women in China and try to talk to them like this, "We're having a conference. We'd love you to be involved." People I knew in China in Beijing, I would have discussions about the kind of issues they wanted to talk about and it was good; but, then, as soon as I left the police public security police would come in after me meet and talk with these women and say, "Ta shi yiga weixian fengxi." She's a

dangerous element -- you can't talk to her." Me! The interesting point, though, is that these people risked it anyway. They risked talking to me. They wanted to.

*Q: They didn't freeze you out of this?*

HUSKEY: I mean no, I never got arrested myself and I know it was a real tight rope. I felt that I was walking. It was one-on-one. I wanted to get to the issues that are really important and some truth here, but, on the other hand, they were following me -- the security police were following me everywhere I had to be very careful. It's a balance there. I mean people are watching. Some of the issues that they really wanted to talk about were the fact that they had these danweis, which are work units, so everything about their lives was organized and checked and monitored by the danwei. Wherever their family worked, their husband worked, where they worked, to the point they would monitor the women's periods and know when they were having their period. This was so that they would not have relations with their husband at that time, because it was a one-child policy. If you had two children, you were criticized by the danwei and were fined by the government. There was a lot of pressure on women. That was one big issue they really wanted to talk about but they couldn't publicly talk in the in the conference. However, in my small meetings, I would have all kinds of conversations about this about the fact that they knew exactly when a woman was having her period and if she was pregnant with a second child.

*Q: Well did the danwei regulate how often a husband wife and cohabit or something? I thought they were almost to that level. They gave materials -- condoms, etcetera.*

HUSKEY: I think there was a lot of spying going on about what people's lives were like, but they were really, really rigid about the one-child policy at that time. That's changed completely now, but, at that time, people were really severely punished. You might lose your job or apartment. I mean everything was connected to the danwei, so, for example, say you found out so-and-so got pregnant. She would, then perhaps, lose her apartment. They'd have to go live with their parents or they'd be sent to the countryside or something and they'd have forced abortions. It was very tough for them to talk about that in a public manner, but, I would I was trying to find out what was going on, and I wanted so much to have some of those conversations at the conference level, but, that was very difficult.

The official line as women, you know, was women hold up half the sky -- officially on all documents. That's the way it was supposed to be, but, if you look at Communist Party leadership it's all male even to this day. Look at the political or some of the major you know organizations under them. They're all men. Maybe a few women, but it's still very male-dominated and in the villages and the towns it was the same. The leaders of the Communist Party were all men. There was no room for women to move up. There were women who were becoming professional in their work and that was good,

One of the things that a lot of people talked to me about, and I knew a lot about because I was working at the orphanage, was that nobody wanted to have a girl child, because if

you could only have one child you do not want a girl -- because then you'd have to have a dowry and your girl would leave you. The girl would go and be with the husband's family and take care of the husband's in-laws and you would have no one to take care of you when you were older. So a lot of families didn't want to have a girl. They would actually get rid of girls.

*Q: Was the problem of ultrasound giving out the sex of this child and getting abortions and that sort of thing? In Korea, during the 70s, and I was Consul General there, we were giving lots of visas to orphan, so-called orphans, who were all girls!*

HUSKEY: Right, I worked in that orphanage with 750 kids. I would say 99% were girls and it was supposed to be an orphanage for kids who have disabilities, but, many of them had no disabilities. They were girls. They might have a minor issue, maybe a cleft palate, or something small. They were in there because they weren't wanted by their families. It was really a crisis problem. Another thing that happened in this short period -- so it's one year after Tiananmen Square when I had this conference, and I spent a full year organizing and getting to know people. I was also pregnant and I was getting larger during the whole time which was interesting, but I knew it was a boy! In the middle of the conference, I invited Ambassador Lilley's wife, Sally Lilley, to be the keynote to open up the conference. We had we had a grand opening in the beginning with lots of party officials there and only she knew this, no one knew this, but while she was speaking to the group, at the very time that she was speaking to the group, the US government and the Chinese government had arranged to let the dissident, Fang Lizhi leave the embassy go to the airport and fly out to the United States! No one knew about it, except for Sally. Sally was there talking to us, and while it was happening, knowing that right at that moment at her home they were taking this guy who'd been in hiding in the embassy and hardly anybody saw him for over a year, about a year actually, he left right while we had the conference! Then, the next morning, of course, the press all reported it.

*Q: Well did the meetings pry open any real dialog at all?*

HUSKEY: I think what really happened and I feel good about having done it -- are two things. One, a lot of us women made contact with the Chinese women and kept that dialogue going after the conference informally - only a few years later five years later the same organization the All-China Women's Federation hosted the 1995 UN conference on Women in Beijing, which was a major meeting. Hillary Clinton spoke. Hillary made her famous speech "women's rights are human rights" and she was quite critical of the Chinese government. It was a big deal. I think that helped them prepare quite a bit for what was the future, because that would have been an international group of people from all over the world with all kinds of issues. The Americans had one set of issues but, people came from every country. As a result of my conference, they became much more sophisticated on the issues that women are interested in and the ways of dealing with them. In that five-year period, China also opened up a lot and so it changed a great deal from 1990 which was cracked down after Tiananmen to 1995, where things started to really open. I was there that year the year after Tiananmen. I did the work on the conference and by the end, I was almost nine months pregnant and I flew back to the

United States to have my son! I would have stayed to have my baby in China or Hong Kong, but Ambassador Lilley said to me, "But what if he wants to be the President of the United States? You don't want to be the reason that he can't become the president United States! You better go home. Go see your mother." So I went home.

That was then the second summer in a row in our first tour of office in the Foreign Service, that I was home again! This time having a baby boy!

I brought my son back after he was only four weeks old. I flew back to China with him by myself, and that in itself was quite a thing to do! It was an interesting year to first of all have a child in China where everybody just dotes on little children. They're so nice to children, but they're also nose-y. Because I was a waiguoren (foreigner), I'd be at the Great Wall or something, and have my baby in my arms and everybody would want to touch the baby, because it was a white baby! It was very fascinating time and I actually kept working. I worked then for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA.) I was just doing an analysis for them of the effect of all these educational exchanges between China and Canada at that time, and whether they were effective; whether it actually was useful to bring Chinese to Canada for education; whether they were coming back to China or not; that kind of thing. It was a big study. This was before the Chinese elite we're sending their kids to the States at least not like in the way they do now. Everyone you meet now, wants to know how they can get their kid into Harvard. I went to Harvard, so Chinese even then would be interested. They really are interested in certain schools. They only know a few schools. They only know the Ivy League schools practically. My husband was first a consular officer and then a political officer -- actually human rights officer. When he was a consular officer, there were all these children of high-level Chinese cadres, who wanted to go to America to go school. Jim would be at the visa window saying to them, "This very interesting news, since your father hates the United States. He's criticizing the United States every day in the press. Why would you want to go to such a terrible place?" They would say, "Oh, but I don't have anything to do with my father. I don't talk to my father." I had a lot of Chinese friends I was very involved in China. I taught dance and all my students wanted visas. Everybody wanted a visa to get out. It was hard to find out whether they were really your friends or not, because eventually they'd ask for a visa. I would hate to go to receptions, because I usually end up in the corner right backed up by some people who had children. Everybody wanted a visa, even my very close Chinese teacher, my tai chi teacher. They all eventually asked me. It was hard to think that you really had real friends.

*Q: I was thinking when I was council general in Seoul, one time one of my file clerks, a little small little woman, came up and said Mr. Kennedy, I wonder if you could help me. My brother has gotten scholarships to these two places. What do you think? She showed me these pictures -- one was MIT -- world class right? But they didn't know them very well.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, I remember when, a friend of mine's son got into Princeton, and they were like, "Oh he didn't get into Harvard or Stanford. They didn't even know what Princeton was!"

My husband tells the story about when he was at the barber shop in Beijing, and the barber was a woman. She had a razor and she was doing a fine shave. Then, she brings a razor right into his neck and says to him, “ Oh by the way, you turned me down for a visa!” It was everybody. My husband is left-handed, and so am I. He would sign the visas with his left-hand, so they called him “zoapiedzi” or left hoof. I would walk down the street and would actually hear people say “Ta shi zoapiedze de furen.” She’s left hoof’s wife!” Everybody knew who the consular officers were. They were famous. It was just amazing -- the lines were huge and even in the middle of all that, when the government was saying how horrible the United States was, all these people were at the embassy lining up to get out! We met a lot of interesting people who really just wanted to know us because they wanted a visa.

*Q: Did your organization and what you were doing have contact elsewhere going to other places in China?*

HUSKEY: The All-China Disabled People’s Federation did send me down to Shanghai at one point. I worked with schools for special education teachers in Shanghai for about a couple of weeks. Jim did an exchange, so he had a chance to be in Shanghai which was fascinating for us at the time.

*Q: Do you think that the Chinese were making progress with dealing with providing for the handicapped?*

HUSKEY: That’s a good question. When I went there, in the beginning, I felt like it was just the dark ages regarding disabled people. The All China Disabled People’s Federation was pretty new. Deng Pufang, as I said, was in a wheelchair, so there was a little bit of focus on accessibility like with buildings and places, but in China they had a big job and it’s huge problem. At that time, they didn’t know too much like about other disabilities. I worked with the deaf I told you, and I was an interpreter for the deaf, so I taught them a lot about sign language. In fact, I taught the whole disabled people staff sign language. They wanted to learn certain signs and things, and what was interesting to me is that when I’ve gone back in the last few years it’s so universally well-organized. All the TV stations have someone signing in the corner on almost all shows. Any event you go to they have a person there interpreting it to sign language, even more than the United States

*Q: More than the United States? Very well done. Is it the same language and alphabet that you use here?*

HUSKEY: It’s not universal if that’s what you’re asking. But you can communicate. I’ve gone all over the world, still to this day, and when I see someone who’s deaf, I can go right over and talk to them, even though they might be Brazilian deaf or Italian deaf. There’s this community common language that you can make sense with each other. It’s actually fun.

*Q: That way it’s fun well then they have schools for teaching it?*

HUSKEY: No, not at the time, not in China, in the 80s and 1990s. They had schools for the Deaf where people were basically trying to teach kids to lip read and that was the British system, where they had to sit on their hands and read someone's lips, which is a terrible way to learn. It's only been in the last 20-30 years that they've really come around and realize that people need to be able to conceptualize. They need to be able to express themselves, and you cannot limit people by making them do it that way. If you let them speak with their hands and then, they can think. They develop. They become able to function in the world, but, if you don't, you really are handicapping them.

*Q: What about the social life in China when you went back? Was that curtailed?*

HUSKEY: I mean social life in China was difficult always. We actually made friends with a lot of the reporters who lived in China at the time, because Jim was a political officer. They shared information a lot of times. We were friends, for example, with Nick Kristof, who was a New York Times reporter; and Mike Chinoy, who was from CNN. A lot of the people made their name during that time, because Tiananmen was such a big thing and their careers really took off. We knew a lot of journalists, and, of course, the political officers with other embassies, we did a lot of socializing with some of them. I, personally had friends, because of my work, and we did invite them to our house. We would have dinners with them. Having lived in China, and then moved to another post later, I realized it was a very different kind of friendship than I had later in my career, because there was always this question of what they wanted from us. The language is also quite a huge barrier. I spoke Chinese, and overall, it was a fascinating, exciting, time to be in China. I mean you wouldn't wish it on anyone, but, I'm so glad that I saw the old China! We rode our bikes everywhere. We didn't drive our car. There were still all the old hutongs, with old houses and little tea shops, and people lived very poorly. I was a dancer, so I as I told you, I taught ballroom dance, and I got my husband involved in that with me. We used to go and teach ballroom dancing in schools all over the place in Beijing. We'd go into these schools and we'd teach ballroom, or western two step. It was so much fun, and I really feel like I saw the remnants of a China that doesn't exist anymore. I've gone back many times since then, and it's just not there -- that old China that we lived in and I grew to love, actually.

*Q: Was Deng Xiaoping a figure at a time?*

HUSKEY: Yes, yes, he was major. He's a major reason that everything happened. He focused on the economy and the development of the economy and kept a tight clamp down on the political situation. That's how they've developed and at the time of Tiananmen Square, a huge dialogue was going on within the Chinese central command in the government. Li Peng and Jiao Ziyang were on completely different sides. Jiao wanted some liberalization. He wanted to listen to the students. Li Peng wanted to crackdown. The choice in China's always is that harmony or stability is a higher priority, than freedom or open discussion. Because when you have 1 billion plus people, chaos is what people fear! So people buy that they will give up some freedom, some liberty, to have harmony and stability.

*Q: On your bike, getting out could you find some empty spaces or it's really hard?*

HUSKEY: I mean there were hundreds of people in those streets at the same time, and nobody really stops at the crosswalks. Everybody just goes through. It's like Yin Yang. At first, in an American mindset you're used to stop. You wait, so you can cross in a straight line. Ha, none of that works in China. You have to ebb and flow with the crowd and it's like you know if somebody comes out you give way, and if somebody gives a space you take it. At first it was scary as anything, overwhelmingly scary, but, after a while, I was got used to it. Everybody would be biking along talking to each other, and that was the rhythm of Beijing in those days. It was the sprocket of the bike you know people would be chatting about this or that. You'd hear all kinds of conversations as you'd go along, all at a certain one speed. Nobody was speeding. It was just very poor. The average income and GDP was something like two dollars a week for a family. I mean they had no money, but still there was a charming thing that I grew to like. In fact, the new Ford Foundation guy came in, after Peter Geithner was leaving and we had him for dinner. I was telling him all about Beijing and how great it was, and he was like, "honey you have been here way too long!" I was raving that China at that point, after three years was great. Ha.

*Q: Yeah, so is there anything else that we haven't covered?*

HUSKEY: I think we did China. Lots of other things happened there, but you can't cover it all. I mean it was a phenomenal deal. We traveled a lot. We saw a lot of the country.

*Q: What about the wonders out in the country.*

HUSKEY: Even as hard as Beijing was, out in the countryside- it was poor and dusty. It was a very different world. I mean every time we came back home, we were exhausted from the trips, because they were hard. In the train station, there were people lying on the floor and all that. We did see a lot. Jim, my husband, is a China specialist, so he knew a lot about China and we saw a lot of parts of China. I enjoyed all of that, but it was always sort of nice to get back to our house.

*Q: What happened after you moved back to the US?*

HUSKEY: We did a two year stint in Washington. I had already had a baby. I had Christopher by then, so my life had changed, but, I didn't want it to change at all! So, I went straight to the Kennedy Center with my little baby. I dressed up the first home from China and brought my baby to the Kennedy Center and said, "I'm back. Can I have any job? Luckily they gave me a job, a half-time job because, I didn't want a full-time job cause I had a little boy. But I got a good job and they gave me tickets to Phantom of the Opera that day! So, I worked part-time at the Kennedy Center and took care of Christopher and reunited with my friends in America for a year. Then, I got pregnant again and at the end of our time there in DC, I had a little girl, Caroline! So, then I had two kids!

*Q: You had these experiences, which were really unusual in China. Did you find yourself called upon to give forth on this experience in the U.S?*

HUSKEY: In the U.S. when I came home, one of the things I did was begin to write. That's when I started my writing. I wrote a big piece for the Foreign Service Journal. I wrote articles and I tried to sell them at different newspapers around the city. One of the things that was really shocking for us is that you know going out in China with your child everyone talked to you. Everyone talked to your child, and there was this loving feeling. When we came back to suburban Washington DC, there was nobody anywhere. Everything was empty. My little boy felt it too. He'd ask me, "Where is everybody, Mom?" There was nobody anywhere and it was a very sad feeling, after having that energy and life and color in China.

*Q: What I recall as a kid this is during the 40s living in Annapolis. We didn't have air conditioning. Nobody had an air conditioner, except the drugstores and the movie theaters. So, this meant at night everybody had a porch in the front and we'd sit there and we'd talk to each other. What happened to us now is with air condition, nobody opens their windows. Nobody ever comes out and the city, the towns even in this country.*

HUSKEY: Yes, we lived in Chevy Chase village. There were very few people anywhere very sad, but, we had a very nice time there. I reconnected with my friends and family. But, when we got a chance to go again, we were assigned to India and we were ready to go! We went to India in 1993 and we were assigned to Madras, which was Madras at the time, Madras, India. I said that right before we left for India, I had a baby! We had a high stress couple of months, where we sold a house; bought a house; had a baby; and moved to India! I had a two year old and a one month old when we moved to India. When we moved to Madras in 1993, it was a sleepy town. I mean they had very few foreigners there at the time. There are only 12 people at the US consulate and practically no other American, or very few Americans in the whole city. At first, like all Americans, I was sort of scared of India. I didn't know about it. I was worried it was very dirty, very poor. I had little babies and I didn't want them to get sick. So, in the very beginning upon arriving, it was kind of overwhelming. It's very hot. I mean it was over a hundred degrees when we arrived there and humid, mosquitoes and all of that, it was really a big deal. The story is that we got a house -- a very nice house in a walled compound and it was empty. You know it sort of has this empty feel when you first move in you get the furniture later. The furniture was there, but it wasn't covered or upholstered or anything. So, there I was in this huge gigantic house with two little tiny babies and my husband goes off to the American Embassy the next morning and I, am there in India! The man had an unbelievable, wonderful support system. He has an American office with air conditioning and he's working with American people and everything works. I'm in India by myself, and I opened the door of my house and there were about a hundred people in the driveway, all of whom wanted to work for me! I had the baby in my arm and a little two-year-old in my hand and I thought -- "can I do this? Can I interview all these people by myself and figure this out?" It was huge, a big adjustment!

*Q: Well, talk about some of the adjustments. I mean how did you hire the people?*

HUSKEY: So I said, "I can't see you all today. It's my first day here. Please come back tomorrow." The next day I was organized. I had my notepad. I was all ready and I had my questions. In they came one by one. The first lady who came in the room was a young girl. She was 17 years old. I said, "Have you ever worked with babies?" She said, no. I said, "Here hold my baby. You're gonna stay with me the whole time I interview everyone, and you hold the baby, and by the end of the day, I will tell you if you have a job or not."

*Q: She helped you while you interviewed all these people?*

HUSKEY: Yes, I actually hired her and she was great in the end. She was great, and that day I hired seven people because that's the way it works in India, you know. I had to hire a babysitter and a housekeeper, a cook, a driver, a guard, an outdoor cleaner that swept the yard, etc. We had seven people work for us at that house. That was a huge job. First of all, I never even had servants. So here I was with all of that, but you know, somewhere along the line this little grandmother came in and I said, "I have two babies. Do you know how to make baby food? She said, "I can take vegetables and grind them up and put them in the freezer in little cubes and I know how to cook lots of a food." I said, "You're hired!" In the end, I loved my staff. But, my transition to India was very, very, tough, because I didn't know anything about India. I had a small family and a young family. At first, I was afraid and slowly, I got really involved in India. To the point that now, I'm really involved in India.

*Q: Today Madras, what area is it? Just across the water from Sri Lanka and the people are Tamil? Right?*

HUSKEY: Yes, they're all Tamil people. There were Tamil people that fought in Sri Lanka, but, the people are lovely.

It's a South Indian culture, where it is very gracious and slow and people are very generous. It's a very colorful place -- very spicy food. In the beginning I didn't know anything. I didn't know anybody. I'd bring my baby with me to the International Women's Association, and it was so hot I thought I was gonna die. But, I got up and said hello to everybody, and then, you know, after a while, they were all my friends. I was very involved in the country. I was -- I am -- an actress. So, very early on in my time there, a man asked if I would be interested in being in his play. He was an Indian playwright, and I said, "I can't. I'm nursing my baby." He said, "Don't worry, we'll rehearse at your house and when we have the show, you can have the baby backstage." So, I did it! Within a few months of living in Madras, I was starring in this play and everybody knew me, at least the elite Indian community, who all came to the theatre, all knew who I was. So as my husband, Jim, always says, in the beginning he starts out as the US diplomat and everybody wants to know him, he represents the United States government and he's very important, but, by the end of our time in most places, he's known as Joanne's husband.!"

*Q: Was there any connection with Bollywood?*

HUSKEY: Yes, there really was. Having been an actress, I got hired, also, to do a couple things at the big film studio in Madras. It's not as big as Bombay, Bollywood, but, it's very big. I did one commercial there, which was for Citibank and it was called, East meets West. I was a dancer in the thing and I there with a Indian dancer and we did our different dances. She did Baranatiyam and me, Jazz. Then, we danced together and everything. It was fascinating. I had to go in the middle of the night to the huge film studios with hundreds of people there, and these guys were all fanning me with big banana leaves and lots of makeup artists, just everything was done by people, rather than machines. There were hundreds of people doing everything all around. It was fascinating to see and you know a lot of Bollywood dancing would be going on. There were huge films being made, while I was there. it was great. I really learned a lot. Being one of the few foreigners in the city at the time you, you could almost do anything you wanted to do.

*Q: You were solicited to do a lot of things, well, in that area we used to be concerned because there was a strong leftist movement. How was it when you were there, and did you get involved or witness any anti-Americanism?*

HUSKEY: No, not at all, in fact, the opposite. People were very Pro-America. It was a time where Narisimha Rao had just come in after Indira Gandhi left office. They had been sort of a socialist government. Rao really was opening up the Indian economy to Western business. It was the very beginning of that kind of window of opportunity for India's middle class to develop. My husband, Jim, was the Economic/Political officer. There were international companies that were starting to investigate the south of India. It wasn't an area that international or American people had come to before. They would go to Bombay, or perhaps Calcutta, mostly to the North, North Delhi. There were just an inkling of businesses wanting to move into the south of India. Jim, and also the commercial attaché, Michael Keaveny, who was a good friend of ours would hear about these companies who were really curious about Madras, but didn't know how to maneuver it. So, somewhere along the line, one of the things that I did do about a year and a half into living in India, is that I spoke to a friend of mine, Ranjini Manian, who was an Indian woman, whom I met through the International Women's Association and other places, like the Madras Club. I told her I had a really hard time relocating to India because I didn't know anything about it as a westerner. I was afraid. I was scared. I asked her to think about these business people moving to Madras. They are gonna come in the same way, and they will never accept India, because they won't have the US Embassy to hold their hand like I did. I had the CLO (Community Liaison Officer) help me and that really was needed. I said to Ranjini, "Look, why don't we create a business that does what the CLO does for the Embassy personnel?" "We could do the same kind of thing for people in the international business community." They really will need the same kind of help." She said, "yes!" We decided to start a new business that day. We started a company and called it Global Adjustments. We created the name and created the whole thing, hung out our shingle on our newly found office, and made brochures. As Jim was

hearing about different companies that wanted to come to India, he would tell me and I would say, "Okay, we'll meet with them and we'll give them a sort of orientation/intro to the city -- what it's about; how Westerners can survive there; where to get help, etc. In the beginning, that was really hard. Obviously to get a business off the ground from zero was tough. Nobody had ever heard of relocation companies or any of that kind of thing at the time you. People just thought your friends helped you or your relatives helped you, but, they did it for free! The idea of charging for it and all was a big change. But, we had a really huge break Ford Motor Company wanted to move to South India. They weren't sure. They were looking at Pune up near Bombay; and they were investigating around Madras. The head of Ford for Asia came and met with Jim, and Jim said "Why don't you meet my wife. So, we met with John Parker and his Ford people; and Ranjini and I showed them all around Madras. We showed them the hospital and the potential schools and how you shop and everything about housing. John was with a team of about five people and they were sort of thinking to themselves, "Can we survive here? Could we live in this place? The infrastructure is very poor, etc." After our tour with them, he looked at his team and they asked me, "Do you like Madras?" and I said, "I really love it here!" which was after a year of really getting to know it and learning how to love it. I did love it, but it took me a long time. So he said to his colleagues, "Look at her face, would she lie to us? We're gonna move here!" Then right there, he signs a deal and said, "We'll send 50 families to Madras. We're gonna set up a Ford plant here, and you're going to help us relocate everybody!" That was the beginning of our business. After that, it was like a floodgate opened, people started coming.

*Q: How did they get into this telephone answering service business?*

HUSKEY: Yes, one of our very first very clients was a cell company, called AirTouch. Nobody had cell phones at that point. They were setting up a cell tower and he did a model cell -- he had a booth where people could actually call people on these cell phones anywhere in the world. People were shocked. "I can call my house! and the United States! I can call England!" We hadn't seen anything like that, so we had that very early on with Ford and AirTouch, our very first clients. What's really interesting is now it's 20 years later and Global Adjustments is booming, but, what happened was because Ford Motor Company came in at that critical moment around 1995, all these auxiliary companies that deal with cars -- tire manufacturers, steel, windshield manufacturers, etc. sort of started coming into Madras. Then other car manufacturers started coming in -- so Hyundai is now there, and BMW, and Mercedes. All of the companies. Tata also builds cars. They all started coming to Madras, and right now Madras is now called Chennai -- it is the car manufacturing center for India! It all happened at that critical moment. We thought, we can we do this; we can help them do this. We set up this company, which then boomed, because so many people started coming into the city. I was only there for another year and a half while the company was starting to get off the ground. Ranjini and I set up all the orientations and the programs for families and programs for business people, but now it's grown into a very successful business.

*Q: How did you find her? you were looking at the initial wave of foreigners coming in there. How were they reacting, because I mean you're sort of a Foreign Service type. You*

*had to do a little spin. I mean to meet a Namibian manager or something? I mean this is not it's not exactly an easy area. It's hard on those people and a lot of them don't make it in India.*

HUSKEY: Yes, the statistics we gave to some of these companies -- the statistics of families that survived this move, if they don't have any support are very poor. I mean they leave. They don't they don't like it. They leave, so the business fails and they lose all this money and everything. We would say, "Look, if you give your family a little bit of support, we will hold their hands. We will help them get centered and help them understand India, and like India. We'll help your family and help your business, so that you can negotiate with your Indian employees and in a way that will work for you." You know, there was a famous case of DuPont coming in to Goa. They just didn't do their homework. They didn't work with the community. They didn't get to know the people in the area that they built their factory. They were thrown out. They failed! DuPont actually came to Madras, while we were there, and we helped them. There were just so many examples. If you remember that Union Carbide thing happened, that was up north, but, there were great examples of failure with businesses who didn't really do the ground work to understand India. We were just lucky, I think. We were extremely lucky to be in the right place at the right time; and the company then developed all kinds of programs both for expatriates to learn about India and how to work well in India -- set up their homes, live their lives. And programs for Indians on how to work with their Westerner bosses and the conflict that happens there, and we dealt with different questions on cultural issues. We did all kinds of workshops for both sides.

*Q: I assume you had a significant size staff?*

HUSKEY: Well, I was the only foreigner at the time. We started to hire Indian people. Ranjini, my partner, she had never run a business before but she was a travel agent so she and I just started to develop all of the pieces that they now have highly developed in the business. We put out a magazine that gave foreigners some insight into all the amazing things that were actually happening in Madras culturally. Madras is a center of music dance and all kinds of things in the south of India. Foreigners had no clue. They didn't know any of it. We put out this magazine, that's now quite successful, called Culturama. We do workshops that orient people to setting up businesses, with the tax issues, and banking and all of that. We do workshops for family members on how to buy groceries, hire staff, work with staff. We do a bunch of things on culture, on protocol, on ways of working with Indian people, and understanding Indian culture etc. It really developed into a huge palette of opportunity for people. We have a now a big center where people go to take all these classes.

*Q: Were Ranjini or you involved in the politics of the area?*

HUSKEY: Because my husband was a political officer, I did know quite a bit about Jayalalithaa, who was the governor of Tamil Nadu. She's was very colorful. They would have huge posters -- three stories high -- of her everywhere. She was like a goddess. She was then married or involved with the a big movie star M.G. Ramachandran, and so, she

was like a movie star to the people. It was a very corrupt government and during the time that I was there, after she was in power, she got thrown into jail! But now she's actually got back in power! Ha. It's a very interesting history, you know. Indians are proud people. They're proud of their country. They're proud of their own culture -- the way they do things. They were not happy with the U.S. telling them that they couldn't have nuclear weapons. They didn't want to be told anything by the West, and yet, there was a great deal of interest in doing business with the West. That whole sector, the economic sector really opened at that time.

*Q: I was sort of amused by my little samplings of Indian diplomats in various other countries including Vietnam, but Americans and Indians of a certain level are two people who preach to each, like a convention of preachers who think their way is best.*

HUSKEY: Yes, about two years ago, Ranjini and I wrote a book called Make it in India and we interviewed 10 CEOs -- five of them were Indian CEOs of multinational companies, and five of them were American CEOs of multinational companies. They talked about how they worked those cultural differences out to create functional multicultural teams. It's important information. You can make major mistakes, and you don't even know you're making them. By, perhaps, insisting upon a certain way of doing things, when the other side doesn't get it.

*Q: All those kinds of things, yeah, I mean one looks back in history to the Sepoy Rebellion, which was apparently brought along by somebody putting out a cartridge that may or may not have had pig fat on it which angered the Muslims- the Sepoy Rebellion of 1858. I mean some of the British took over, even the British, they could not have understood Indians. It takes a lot of time.*

HUSKEY: Yes, it's a deep, deep, culture and it's very rich, but it takes being there. It takes being there a long time. I've been going back and forth for 25 years and still, I know very little, even though I started a business in India. The other piece of my tale in India is that the Indian schools were packed. there were no places in the schools for foreigners. So, while we were inviting these companies to come in and we were helping them get settled they had nowhere to put their kids into school! An another friend of mine an American woman, Martha Keaveny, had nowhere for her own children to go to school. She said to me, "Well, why don't we start a school?" I said, "Okay let's start a school!" So, we went around and tried to figure out how to do a school in India. We talked to all kinds of consulates -- the French, the Belgians, the British, and the Americans, asking who might give us some support. The American Consul General, Tim Hauser, gave us a little bit of support and said that we could have books from the American International School in Delhi so that we could make our curriculum based on that. That was enough to say, "Okay we're gonna go that way. We're gonna make it in America International School." We recruited students to go even though we had no teachers, no building, no anything! We would actually ask parents to give us tuition money, before we got all that, so that we could move forward. We got about 20 people to give us the tuition and were able to hire a person from the United States to come as a superintendent. We went to Delhi and we got the books, and set up the whole curriculum

based on the Delhi curriculum. Then, for a building, we were never gonna build a school. We needed to have a place for the school and the Russian economy was tanking at the time. The Russian Cultural Center in Chennai was closing down. They were losing their money, and we went to them and said, "We have a deal for you. We would like to put the American International School in the Russian cultural center. Would you be willing to rent us the space?" They said yes! So, in the autumn of 1995 we opened up the American International School in Madras India with 20 kids. I went back for the 20th anniversary of the school last year, and they now have a thousand kids, a ten million dollar building, an IV program, huge swimming pools, and everything. It's really amazing! Because Global Adjustments was there to sort of help the foreigner get used to India, and the American International School was there, where their children could go to school, business started flowing into Chennai. I think the biggest takeaway from my visits the last few years -- I went for these anniversaries of all these things, was that when I first went to India I thought to myself, "I have two little tiny babies. I'm only one person and this is so overwhelming -- the poverty is so deep here. How can I possibly do anything to help this country or do anything for this country's poor people?" Now, going back, I see not only did global adjustments employ eighty people, the American school employs hundreds of people, but we helped businesses move into India; and the whole city is developed and the middle class is rising -- not that I'm responsible for that, but, I feel like I played a role in the whole picture there. When I go back, a lot of people are so kind. They're so friendly and they all remember me! They all thank me for what contribution I made!

*Q: What was living in the American community like?*

HUSKEY: It was very small. They were only twelve people. We all knew each other very well. I lived in a compound, where the Consul General also lived, so we had a swimming pool that we shared with him and a tennis court, which we shared with them. I didn't have any problems with them. I didn't do anything over there at the Consulate. My husband did.

*Q: Did you have any dealings with the Indian press?*

HUSKEY: Yes, quite a lot, in fact, we were lucky enough that the *Hindu*, which is the major paper in India was fascinated by this whole thing that we were doing at Global Adjustments and gave us a lot of coverage. Over all these twenty years, they've given us a lot of coverage, so much so that the editor of the *Hindu*, who lives in Chennai, in Madras, he's a friend of mine. I just met him last year, when I went back for the twentieth anniversary of the school, and he told me this story he said, "You know, you were really instrumental in affecting my family." I said, "How?" He said, "You invited my family over and told my daughter about Harvard; and guess what, she went to Harvard and it changed her life!" I didn't know that I didn't even know that. Yes, the press helped us by giving us a lot of PR, which in the business was what we needed. We needed clients in the very beginning. We didn't know how to get clients, other than my husband telling me a few people. So, Ranjini and I used to go to the one hotel downtown the Park Sheraton Hotel, where foreigners would come. We would sit in the lobby with our brochures, my Indian partner and I, and she'd say we felt like prostitutes! Ha. It was like we had to push

our business. We'd go up to any random foreigner and say, "Hi, would you be interested in a relo business?"

*Q: I'm sure that was the beginning and after that, the press found out.*

HUSKEY: You know in 1990s or 1995-96, there weren't any of those kind of companies in India. There were all over the world. There were big companies like SIRVA. I don't know if you've heard of some of these that do relocation for people. If you're a corporate guy and you have to relocate your whole family to another country, they do the whole thing for you. They give you an orientation. They help you out, so those existent companies were competitors in a sense, but we were a small sort of -- more locally based operation. In the beginning, we prided ourselves on being very personal. We got to know the clients and really took them in and everything. We, then, opened offices -- we have offices now in six cities in India! We've grown and some of those big kind of companies have wanted to buy our company, but we've hung on to it because, we really feel that we offer a little bit more of a personal touch than those big companies do and if we were bought out, we'd lose something really very important. The important part was the person-to-person contact. The reason that a lot of these businesses survived and loved India is because we would work with them. We would teach them a lot.

*Q: What were some of the problems that you would be faced with for your clients?*

HUSKEY: We did everything, for example, the cell company guy -- he didn't have time for anything. He wanted us to find him a house, decorate his house, buy all the furniture, hire the staff, find a job for his wife, get him a driver -- all of that. Some people just wanted houses. We set up a whole real estate branch with rentals and homes to buy, which is really the way that the revenue comes in. That's the main revenue for the company. Some people are really afraid of India -- afraid to live there. They didn't know anything about it, so, they needed a place to go. Our Center is a really nice homey place. It's in a house; it's a beautiful place; and it's full of Indian artifacts and everything. They would maybe take a course on how to wear a sari, or how to eat with your hands, or you know all of these early things that you have to know in order to survive. We had a lot of people who actually needed support on setting up a whole business -- how do you rent office space, hire a staff, set up the payroll, do your banking, and all that.

*Q: Was India a difficult place to hire and fire people?*

HUSKEY: The traditions are different. You really need to take care of your employees in a way that American and Western business people aren't used to. You need to find out about their families. You might have to pay for parts of their parents' housing. The family part came in very much. I mean my staff at my house was constantly wanting things. It was a learning process and most Westerners need to learn you know about where to draw the line between getting involved in every aspect of their lives and their families and being sucked into a big mess. I knew so many Westerners who weren't used to having someone in their house, so they would be serving the servants -- giving them tea and making meals. They really got it all flipped around. I loved my staff. They were

wonderful people and I'm still in touch with some of them, but, for example, one thing that happened is a very poignant story. I had a gardener, who was a great guy, like a magic man. He did so many things for my children and created just beautiful things at our house. He was a young man -- very poor. He was he was in love with our baby sitter (baby aiya) we call her. Every day they would you know make these beautiful colas with flowers by our door. They were young and in love, but, somewhere along the line, I don't know something happened. She spurned him, and he committed suicide. I found out about it and I went to the funeral. It was such a shock! I mean, it was such an eye-opener because he had nothing, he had nothing! He had a dirt shack and had the one shirt that we had bought him, and one pair of shoes in the corner of his hut. He was laid out on the dirt floor. The people that came all were wailing and screaming. I was in the middle of all this turmoil. It was really overwhelming. I realized that although I was involved in India, and I knew a lot of Indian people, the layers and layers and layers of this society and the caste system and what I didn't know was very very very deep. There was so much I didn't know. It was a very poignant moment.

*Q: Did the troubles over in Sri Lanka affect you?*

HUSKEY: We went to Sri Lanka for holiday. I think twice. We were a little worried because there had been bombings in Colombo and stuff but, we really didn't feel it in Madras, not during that time.

*Q: Did you go up to Delhi much?*

HUSKEY: One time we went to the American International School and got the books and the curriculum for our school. Frank Wisner was the ambassador. He came down to be with us in Madras a few times and we met him a few times and the political officers from the Embassy came down and stayed with us and things like that. My husband knew them. Jim covered all the southern states, so, he was always going to the various consulates in the South. I don't think he went to Delhi very much.

*Q: Anything else you want to say about India?*

HUSKEY: At first India completely intimidated me. I was scared to death to go there. I didn't know anything about it. I really thought it's poor and I'm gonna get sick. But, actually, it's life-changing if you get into it. I completely immersed myself, and got so involved in the culture -- both building a business and building a school; meeting people. I was an actress. I knew everybody and I think it was great that we were in the South because you could meet the people and they became really, really good friends.

*Q: How would you describe the role of women in India?*

HUSKEY: That's very good question. Well, the governor of Tamil Nadu was a woman, and Indira Gandhi had been the prime minister. So women in India can be very successful. A lot of businesses are run by women. At the same time, on another level, there's a double standard where women have to take care of everything at the home and

manage the family affairs. They're not safe sexually to go out on the street. You've seen some of things that have happened in recent years -- about the rape in New Delhi -- so girls tend not to be allowed to go out without a chaperone. Years later I got very involved in women's work (when I came back out of the Foreign Service.) I run a program that trains young women in leadership skills. I did go back to India in 2011 and did a leadership training program for young women in India then. I think there is an emerging awareness among young women about their rights, but there's a long fight for them. A girl child was considered secondary, even in the way that China considered it a burden, because of the financial burden. They had to have a dowry and were going to be given to a family -- an arranged marriage. They leave and they take care of their mother-in-law, not their mother. Most poorer families would not want to have a girl. The government wasn't forcing people to get rid of children like in China, but in India they were getting rid of girls. They wanted to have a boy. There were all those levels going on there, even still going on to some degree in the poor sector sections.

*Q: I assume that there was a growing gap between the number of boys and the number girls?*

HUSKEY: I don't know the numbers but I think you're right. In China, they don't have any girls! They have a real problem. Boys cannot find brides. They have nobody to marry! They have all these spoiled boys. I mean it's a terrible problem in India too, but, it's not as visibly obvious.

*Q: I think for years that's been true that they would prefer to have a boy and get rid of a girl and then keep trying to have a boy, so they had more children than Chinese do and this would be more predominant in the poor classes than in the well-to-do. We all have our problems. Drugs weren't a problem?*

HUSKEY: I didn't experience that. It's a very conservative society in many ways, even still, people have traditional values in the south. That's part of the reason I loved it so much. It was charming. At first I was afraid I was living in a backwater, but, after a while, I loved that aspect of it! The family was very important -- showing courtesy and kind ways of taking care of each other. There were very conservative values. My husband's a southerner. He felt it was like a southern American town. People have time for you. We made really deep friendships in India and we felt like we really knew them. Of course, we speak English and they speak English, so it was easy to get to know each other in a regular way. Still some of my very best friends are Indians, even now. I'm very connected to India.

*Q: I understand the food in that part of the India is hot as hell!*

HUSKEY: Yeah, you gotta get used to it. I love it, but, at first it is a big change, plus everybody eats with their hands.

*Q: Did you get involved in dance there?*

HUSKEY: I actually did a lot there. They had something called the Madras Players and I was one of the major actresses for them. I did *The Importance of Being Earnest*. I was Gwendolyn. We played that at the Majestic Madras Club, which was a big part of our lives. It's an old colonial British club that we live next door to.

*Q: Has the British snobbery gone away?*

HUSKEY: Now it's all Indian, hardly any foreigners go there. Now there's a big foreign community in Madras but, they aren't in the Madras club anymore. We were, but, that was because there were so few foreigners at the time. I acted in *The Plaza Suite*. I did a whole lot of shows while I was there. I was in some children's plays that the Little Theater did, and I danced for sort of the Emmy Awards of India. I was the show for that evening. I brought my daughter into it. I kept doing performing, even while I was trying to do all these other projects, and that was a great way to meet people. I loved it. I loved that part.

*Q: The south is a place for temples and stuff like that right?*

HUSKEY: In South India, first of all, with regard to dance, it was the center of Bharatanatyam, which is a kind of Indian dance -- very formalized temple drama dance. People from all over the world come to Madras to study and they have a beautiful beautiful space, called Kalakshetra, where they teach. There's also a large center for Carnatic music, which is a kind of music from the south from Karnataka, but people all in in Tamil Nadu sing this kind of music.

*Q: Like you just pointed out the film industry is very big there, too. But with regard to the spiritual side of things it's sort of blended in, right, so the music the dance and everything has a spiritual component to it?*

HUSKEY: Everything about life in South India is spiritual. There are little temples on every corner. People do puja -- they bring offerings to the gods for everything -- for your job, for your family, for your education, for anything, all the time and daily. Most people study with a guru. Many people meditate. I did yoga there the whole time I was there. A good teacher came to my house every day and he was like in his 80s, but he was great. That part of life in India was for me the eye-opener because, you know, as a westerner you're moving fast. You're quick. At first, I felt -- there's no newspaper here, how am I gonna read the *New York Times*? How am I gonna see the TV? How am I gonna know what's going on in the world? But, after a while, what I loved was the fact that I could enjoy the simple things about life -- that you could meditate every morning, and that everybody honored the God within you. You know "namaste" that everyone says means "I honor the God within you." People took the time to actually look at you in your eyes where the third eye is. It brings light into you and connects you with the divine. So that's part of everyday language there, things that we don't talk about in the West. We Westerners, actually, really need to learn from it because it's a kind of a different orientation to what we're doing here on the earth. I loved learning about that. I feel like it really changed me in many ways -- not that I am Indian but that as a westerner I learned a

little bit about slowing down. That's the thing that we teach at Global adjustments we teach this. Every culture has some wonderful things that we all could benefit from and you need to open your mind to being a multicultural global person and not think that your way is the only way, or that your way is the best way.

*Q: Well you must have had problems with the American managers etc.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, all the time they think they know it all. They come in and then they do not do well. They come in and they say, "I want this and I want this and I want my report on the desk by this time, and answer me right now." That's not the way it works in India and you have to learn how to massage the people and work with them -- get to know them. They really care that you ask about their family; that you sit down with them and have tea before you start talking about deadlines and things like that; those things are so important in India!

*Q: Shall we conclude India?*

HUSKEY: I think the main thing I want to say is that while China had a huge impact on me, I mean China and India absolutely both did, and I'm so grateful that I got to see them at the time I did. Both countries had about the same GDP -- very, very poor and one was a Chinese Communist system where majority the people were cared for. They had houses and shoes and schools and everything, but they weren't happy because they didn't have freedom. The other was a place where people didn't have shoes, and they didn't have houses, but they could worship their God as they wanted, and they were happy! It was really interesting to contrast the two places with basically the same level of Economic Development.

India changed me in a major way. I mean India is such an incredible culture, and I got very involved there. I started a school. I started a business. I was very involved with the people. If you've been to India you know it's a very spiritual place, and there's a lot of insight that Westerners can get from being in India, if you're open to the culture, which I was in the end. I still am, I go to India often now, and I'm very involved in my business. I go back often. I would say that India was a wonderful experience for two reasons -- one people speak English and that makes it easier to really make friends; and two, the culture is just so welcoming and overwhelmingly interesting, so if you open your mind, and I feel like I did, you really can get into.

*Q: What did you think of Bollywood productions?*

HUSKEY: Well, as I said, I was in some films. I would go down to the film studios. I mostly did commercials, but I was around them. It's a pretty incredible scene. I mean there are hundreds of people there -- hundreds dancing and singing. They have hundreds of people doing the lights, moving the lights physically, people fanning you, it's really wild, because they have people doing everything. It was really interesting.

*Q: I find them a little bit ridiculous but that's the style. They're changing though. They're changing these days. Very clichéd style, but it is big huge. They're more people to see movies in India than probably anywhere in the world.*

HUSKEY: Yeah, Madras, where I was has, the film studio is quite big. So we moved from India after three good years. As you know the posting process is quite intense. We were almost going to Sweden, but, after having been in India, a warm sunny place where people were really open, and I had help in the house, the idea of going to dark Sweden didn't appeal very much. We also got Kenya as a possible post, so I called the woman who was preceding my husband's role in the political officer position. I called her and said, "How do you like it there? How do you like it in Kenya? She said, "I absolutely hate it. I almost got killed!" She was an African American. She was robbed. They had a gun at her head and she thought that they were gonna throw her into jail. I said to Jim, "I don't think we're gonna be going there!" Then he said, "Well, why do you call somebody else?" I called another officer, who had been in the same position. Allen Eastman was his name and he said, "I love it! We go on safari every weekend. The people are wonderful. The country's gorgeous! You're gonna love it!" So I hung up the phone and I said, "Okay I'm willing to try this out, we'll go but, you know they have really contrasting information!"

We flew from India South India to Nairobi, Kenya. At that point, I had a three year old daughter, and a six year old son. We were in Nairobi from 1996 to 1999. We were there through some very very intense times.

*Q: What was the state of relations at the time, politically?*

HUSKEY: There was a president, Daniel Arap Moi, a dictator -- very corrupt. The country itself was very, very, dangerous. There was, and there is still to this day, a lot of street crime -- robbery, carjackings, murder, house jackings, everything. When we got to Kenya, we had, as everyone does in Foreign Service, a security briefing very early on. We met with the RSO. Our whole family went in and it's pretty scary, when they tell you all the stuff. They tell you, "Don't open your door, if somebody comes to your door and knocks on the window. Don't open the window. Don't park downtown. Don't come downtown. If somebody comes to your house, don't open the door." We had to live in a house that was completely barred, also inside of a compound. That was completely barred with guards with guns. We even then had to live upstairs in our house and had to close ourselves into a cage and lock the cage, when we went to bed at night, because of the level of danger in that country. So you can imagine, I had two little kids and there I am in Kenya. Of course, like every other post, my husband goes off to work the next morning and there I am in Kenya by myself with two kids!" Very early on, I had to go downtown, because my daughter got sick. I had to go down, and right after that briefing, I had to go down to the embassy because the health unit -- the doctor etc. was in that embassy, which was in the center of Nairobi downtown. So, the first week I go down with my daughter. She's really sick, and she's throwing up outside the window. I had to open the window -- the window they say don't open! All these beggars are coming to the window, begging on her, banging on our door. I get near the embassy and I call in on --

we had given walkie talkie kind of radios. There were no phones. You had these radio operating things. I said to the marine guard, "I need to come in. I need to park inside the gate, can you let me in to the gate?" He said, "Negative, there's no room." I said, "Well, where am I supposed to park?" "Does that mean that there's no way that I can come into the embassy?" He responded, "Positive." I said, "What do you mean positive? Can I park there?" His response, "Negative." So there I was stuck driving around Nairobi, trying to find a place to put the car with two kids, one of whom is sick. I found a place in the middle of a very very messed up parking area in downtown Nairobi. We had to climb over barbed wire and through broken down glass and all these people were coming up to me begging. It was pretty wild! I mean the two kids and I get to the embassy, and I get in there, but I got lost in in the hallways. This is all really true. I got lost in the hallway, because you have to have a certain code to get in and I didn't know it, and I couldn't get out of there. So, there I am with the kids in the hall, trying to find my way but I learned a lot about the basement. I went all around the basement and finally got to the doctor's office. The reason this is important, you'll hear later. That whole story is actually very important. The beginning was scary. It was scary! We were worried about what was gonna happen to us during the time we lived there. But, you just can't live with that kind of fear, so you just live your life. I mean, I'm an actress and I auditioned for a play in downtown Nairobi. I got the part and I went every night to the theater -- did my show and came home in the middle of the night in the car by myself -- scared, but I did do it! I was in the *Gingerbread Lady* by Neil Simon, which is quite a play. I don't know if you know the story, but she's a recovering alcoholic, nymphomaniac! Ha. I walked into the audition and this British guy, who was then the head director was there. I said "I'm an actress. I just moved to Nairobi and I'm sort of interested in auditioning." He said, "Great you're the *Gingerbread Lady*!" I didn't even audition. I mean it was a big part. I was on stage for two hours straight by myself with a few people coming and going. It's a wild play. Like I said in India, doing theatre is a great way of meeting people. I was well known in the town within a week, because people come to the show. Then, they see you around town. As my husband always says, within a very short time, he's my husband rather than I'm his wife, because when we were out people would be pointing at me and saying, "There's a gingerbread lady!" Sometimes people have trouble separating theatre from reality and they forget you're not that character.

*Q: What contact you were having with people coming to the play!*

HUSKEY: Expatriates of British background, mostly British, but certainly Kenyans and other foreigners came the play. It was written by Neil Simon, who is really a New Yorker. There were a lot of really New Yorky jokes -- inside jokes that the audience didn't get -- so you deliver a line that would be funny in New York City, but it didn't make any sense in Nairobi. The hardest night was when my mother-in-law, who's a Southern Baptist from South Alabama, came to visit us and she's a very proper very conservative woman. My husband, of course, decides to bring her to the play and they sit in the front row! They pulled their seats right up to the front of the stage, and there I am trying to be this prostitute in front of my mother-in-law! That was not easy. That was the hardest night of the show, but, it was a great way to really get into Kenya. I met a lot of people. Nairobi, as you probably know, is sort of the cradle of humanity. I mean the

paleontologists believe that we originated out of the Rift Valley in Kenya. I started working at the National Museum of Kenya and became a docent there. I learned a whole lot about the history of Kenya, as well as paleontology was taught by Richard Leakey's wife Maeve Leakey, who's founded a lot of the major finds in archaeology in Kenya. She found some of the major bones. Richard Leakey, himself, found a lot of the major bones and we met him as well. It was a really a great way to be educated about Kenya and learn about the place we were living. We got to go into the vault and see all these prehistoric bones that were discovered several million years ago. So, between the theatre and the museum, I was starting to really get a broad perspective on Kenya. In addition, our family went, whenever we could, outside of Nairobi, because Nairobi is really a not a great place to hang around on the weekends. It's very dangerous and the safari options in Kenya are so amazing, so, when you're an in-country you can just go on safari at local prices, rather than the international price. You can stay in these amazing places in the middle of the Masai Mara, or Amboseli, or any of those wonderful game parks. We went all the time out to the game parks; and the kids were little and they learned so much about animals and about life in Kenya. When you get out of Nairobi, Kenya is a beautiful country with rich resources and just gorgeous land and beautiful weather and the animals are remarkable. It's like the Garden of Eden, with every kind of animal and every different design. We were lucky enough to really get exposed to all that quite a lot.

*Q: What did the people you met feel about Moi?*

HUSKEY: Well, my husband was a human rights officer. We really met a lot of the people who were dissidents and we heard the other side of the story. We, also, met a lot of journalists, because we meet journalists in most countries because when you're a political officer the information sharing is really great with people who are collecting it for the media. Moi was generally disliked by most people. He was very rigid and very corrupt. There was a guy named Biwott, who was his right-hand person and who took a lot of the funds and used them. Richard Leakey, who as I had mentioned earlier I was working with, was in the Parliament and was trying to attack corruption. Previous to our arrival, Richard Leakey had flown in an airplane, which inexplicably crashed. Some people thought that they were trying to kill him, because he was trying to get rid of the corruption. As a result of the crash, he lost both his legs. He's just a fascinating guy because he became much more involved in the government while we were there.

*Q: How was the functioning in Moi's government, after that accident happened? What were you gathering about the relationship between him and the United States? How were things at the embassy?*

HUSKEY: We had a pretty good relationship. I mean it was positive in a lot of ways. The State Department didn't think that it was a very important post, frankly. We had, as I told you, all that uproar about that Health Unit. I was one of the people who was pushing for moving the healthy unit out of downtown Nairobi, because it wasn't safe for us to go there. The ambassador, Prudence Bushnell was our ambassador, she had written to the Department of State many times asking for more security; asking for the embassy to be set back from the road a little bit more; asking for the health unit to be put in a safer

place. We had an all embassy meeting to discuss this health unit issue and most of the officers, who worked in the embassy, wanted to keep it there, because it was easy for them at lunch hour to go get their temperature taken or whatever, so in the end, they didn't move the health unit. But, it was a detriment to the families, who had to keep going downtown and getting involved in all that mess. Bushnell would get these responses from State that it's not a high-threat post, and we are not going to do any extra security on your embassy. It's not the highest on our priority list. Other major places, like London and maybe Beijing, other places were much higher up on the list of concern. At that time, they didn't worry quite as much as they do now about bombing and protecting people from things like that. The embassy was just there in the middle of downtown -- it was on a circle, and there was one very light fence between the street and the embassy. Jim had very open relationships with the members of parliament. We knew a lot of those people sort of socially. I, again, was very involved in theater. I was in many other plays after that first play. Very interesting -- one that the husband of the Ambassador wrote -- a play called *White Mischief*. Have you ever seen the movie *White Mischief*? It's an interesting story -- Greta Scacchi was in it -- and the story is still to this day a mystery in Kenya. There was a man who was the British Consul there in the 40's and he was murdered. Nobody ever really quite figured out who killed him, so the story goes on and on and on. It was a very colorful time. Kenya was a very colorful place in the 40s, where the saying used to go, "Are you married or do you live in Kenya?" This story of the *White Mischief* takes place in what was called happy valley. We recreated the spirit of that place, which was very decadent British.

*Q: They often sent their sons there because they wanted to get the hell out of the way of the family affairs. Weren't there an awful lot of white sloppy men?*

HUSKEY: Absolutely. The play I was in was about that kind of lifestyle and I was one of the mistresses of this guy Errol, who was killed mysteriously. The way we did the play was a murder mystery dinner. People came to the dinner dressed as if it was 1940 and we were in the dinner; then, during the dinner, they stopped the action and said, "Somebody has been murdered. Errol's been murdered and you're all culpable; and we're going to investigate who did it!" Then, during the rest of the evening, people were trying to figure out who did it. They would vote for one of the characters in the end, and as an actor, we were always hoping they would vote for you, because I wanted to be convincingly evil. It was really fun, because we met a lot of Kenyans -- white Kenyans, some of whom actually had lived during that time period. We did show at the Karen Club -- famous place where George and Joyce Adamson of *Out of Africa*, lived. There, I was dancing with this man, pretending we're in 1940, and he said to me -- my character was Alice de Janzé. He asked me, "How did you kill your husband?" I knew, at least, that I'd killed him in the Gare de Nord in Paris, so I said, "I killed him in the Gare de Nord", and he said, "Oh yeah? And what kind of pistol did you use?" I had no idea!! It turns out that he had been there and he knew the whole story! So, it was pretty wild. I was lying my head off and he knew I was lying. It was really a fun play. We did it all over Kenya. The expatriate community is huge in Nairobi, because it's the center of a lot of international organizations the UN's environmental protection group, UNEP, is there, and a lot of international agencies are located there. There a lot of British and a lot of Americans and

they do not integrate well they live their own kind of happy valley -- New Age version. It's very much of an expatriate community of socializing. It's a really fun place. We had a wonderful time but any in reality we didn't really make friends with African Kenyans, in the way that I felt I had in India. There is just a remnant of colonialism that still exists there. Because of my husband's job, we were invited to various ministers of Parliament's homes. We knew a few people, some of whom were in the opposition. But I think there was sort of -- it was never a written law -- it was just sort of this imaginary line that existed between whites and non-whites and I think it's still there.

*Q: You mean because black Africans stick to themselves? Oh okay let's talk about Rhodesia- it's in a bad way. It is Zimbabwe now, and they had a colonial set up like Kenya.*

HUSKEY: Well, Kenya has a wonderful climate and it's a beautiful place. That's why the British settled there originally. But, now, it has a lot of troubles politically; and, as I said, in terms of crime.

*Q: Still people wanted to live there, because in all of that part of Africa, that was probably the nicest place to be. Did you have any problems personally?*

HUSKEY: Luckily, I was never carjacked and our house was only robbed once. We were locked in the cage upstairs, and they were outside, but nothing major happened. But so many friends of mine had horrible things happen. A friend of mine, whose husband worked for Coca-Cola, was robbed in the middle of the night. A guy climbed into her house -- into her 12-year old son's bedroom -- put a gun to his head and said, "Take me to your mother's room." They went to the mother's room and they kidnapped the mother. They took everything out of their house. They took his mother in her nightgown into a car way. Then they drove her out in the middle of nowhere, and dumped her out. They didn't kill her and they didn't rape her, but, normally they might have killed her. Those stories weren't that uncommon actually, there was an Indian family that I knew, that lived down the street and their whole family was killed by some robbers who came in it, and took all their stuff and killed the kids.

Our kids went to the International School of Kenya, ISK, which is a beautiful, beautiful place -- a wonderful school and one of the ISK teachers was killed, because she didn't give up her car. They came to her car and they said, "Give me your car, but, she wouldn't do it, and they killed her. We were always hearing these stories. I mean you just heard them all the time. It was very common in Kenya to hear these awful stories. We were, actually, very lucky with regard to this kind of crime. We never had this kind of crime happen.

*Q: Did you get into the role that women play in Kenya?*

HUSKEY: I was very interested in the issue of women, because, as I told you, I did the Women's Conference in China. In 1985, I had been to Kenya for the UN conference on Women. So, I had met some of the women leaders of NGOs in Kenya. One of whom won

The Nobel Peace Prize. She is dead now, but, she was still there when I lived in Kenya. She started at an organization that planted trees all over Kenya. Her name was Wangari Mathai, and she was very, very, active in the women's movement there. I knew some of those people and I was interested in the issues of women.

It wasn't good though -- it was a really tough situation for women. The girls generally had to fear getting pregnant when they were young, before they were married. Because of the poverty situation, they were pretty well protected -- if you were in a poor family and you had a daughter, you didn't want her to go out in the night. She had to be chaperoned or something like that. Many of the families, who didn't have enough money, would send their sons to school, but not their daughters. Those kind of things existed, which I had already seen in China and in India. Again in Kenya, the thing that was really interesting to me was that I lived in China, where the GDP was about two dollars a day. I lived in India, where the GDP was about two dollars in a day. Then I moved to Kenya, where the GDP was again about two dollars a day but, the differences were so stark! In China, everything was provided for. They had schools. they had clothes and shoes. The government gave them everything. They were very controlled, however, and the people were not happy. There were visibly passive and unhappy. In India, they had no shoes. They had no houses. They were living in the street often, but, they had freedom. They were able to go to their temple on the corner and worship their God. There was a certain amount of joy. In Kenya there was the same kind of poverty. None of the men had jobs That's part of the reason there's so much robbery. There was just so much poverty there and they were frustrated. They were angry because they couldn't get work and they didn't have any sense of being a provider for their family, or being important. So, there was a lot of violence because of the poverty.

*Q: Is the U.S. doing anything -- aid projects, Peace Corps, anything like that?*

HUSKEY: Absolutely, yes, I mean AID is very big in Kenya. Peace Corps is very big in Kenya. I was the head of the American Women's Association when I was there and we also gave grant money to projects. We received proposals from people all over Kenya for different things. For example, we built a hospital in Machaca -- in the poor part of Kenya. Women wanted to build a hospital, and we funded that, and the women actually built it. They made their own bricks. They built the whole thing -phenomenal project! We went out to see it the day that it opened. We were there for the grand opening. There was a line of hundreds of people ready to come into this place; and we had provided the beds and the equipment for the hospital and medicine. People had no medical opportunity out there, but, as is typical in some of these places, because that was run by women, it was an insult to the men in the region. The government was insulted that they hadn't done anything about this. They, actually, took the hospital away from the women! In the end, it wasn't a successful situation. It was a real eye-opening to be doing some of these development projects. We worked with lots of kids we did a lot of projects with education.

*Q: Did you work with the Peace Corps?*

HUSKEY: No, I didn't there. I mean, they were there. But, I thought I would tell you a story because it's pretty major. We'd been there for two years and I was really involved in Kenya, because I was working at the museum and I was acting all over the place. I did a lot of work at the school where the kids were -- ISK. It was our second year, and we were away for the summer. We had just come back this summer of 1998. I had to take the kids once again to that famous Embassy Health Unit to get their school physicals. I had arranged with my husband -- and I'm gonna go into this in quite detail, because I think it's significant and I want to make sure it's in the record as well. I had arranged with my husband that we would have lunch together and we were supposed to be at this doctor's appointment at 10 o'clock in the morning of August 7. We started down to the embassy and the kids had hid our cocker spaniel, Jingle Bells, in the car. I said, "We can't take the dog into the embassy! We have to go back." So we took the dog back and we were a little bit late when we got down to the embassy. We had to drive into the parking lot. There's a wall -- a fence -- and a guard lets you into the embassy through the fence. Then, you go down into the basement to the health unit. My two kids, Christopher who was 8, and Caroline who was 5, and I went in and the nurse said, "Do you have your shot records?" I said, "I forgot them!" She said, "Well, you have enough time go back and get them and bring them back." So, I went all the way back home and got the yellow shot records. Then we went back to the embassy. By the time we got back to the embassy, it was a little odd because first of all there were hardly any cars in the parking lot. There was a truck in the parking lot and I parked next to it. I went to the same exact guard, who had just let us into the embassy a few minutes before, but this time, he didn't want to let us in. I joked with him and said, "What do you mean? I know I'm late I came twice, but I'm sorry. I had my two kids with me and he said, "You don't want to come in." I said, "Yes I do want to come in and I have to come back to go to the health unit. Oddly, he didn't want to open the gate. The reason he didn't want to open the gate, which I didn't know but he knew, was in that truck there was a man who had already threatened the embassy and wanted to drive that truck into the embassy. The guard had not let the truck in. They were already in a confrontational state, and there I am walking right between this situation with my two little kids. But, I didn't know I said, "I'm sorry. I'm late. So, reluctantly, he opened the walking gate, rather than the gate where a car would go in. We all just went in, not knowing anything about what was going on. You have to go down a drive away, and then down a long hall, and then down another long hall into this health unit, which is in the basement. Remember I said I'd gotten lost in that basement a while back, so I knew a lot about that basement. Anyway, I gave the shot records to the nurse and the second I did, there was an explosion. She said, "What do you think that was?" I said, "I think it was probably a car backfiring in the front of the embassy or something." But, then the next second, the whole building blew up! This may be hard for me to talk about. I was on the floor. My kids were on the floor. And if you've never been in a bomb, you don't know what happened. It takes a second to figure out what happened. So, I was lying on the floor in the dark, and realized that it probably had been a bomb and my children were on the floor somewhere in that room! I went around feeling in the dark, and I got ahold of them. My little daughter said, "Mom is this a nuclear bomb?" Because, we had just seen King Kong in England a day before. I said, "No, it's not a nuclear bomb, but, I think it really is a bomb and you have to do everything I say. We're gonna get ourselves out of here!" This is hard to talk about. So, I held my son's hand and my son

held my daughter. Then in a line, we had to crawl. We held on to each other and we crawled on the floor. There were wires all coming down. It was dark and because I'd been in that basement before, I figured out the maze. I knew there was a hall here, and I knew there was a hall here, all programmed into my mind. So, we had to climb over furniture to get out of that office and then we crawled on the floor. It was completely dark and there were people yelling out, "Help, help!" All around you could hear that. There was no light and my kids were right behind me. They were really good. They weren't crying or anything -- just holding onto me. Then, when we turned the hallway, there was light at the very end of the hall. There was a light. So, we were crawling along and there was a woman injured on the floor in front of us and I came to her and I said, "We're coming out of the nurse's office. The doctor and the nurse are gonna be right behind us. We told her to stay there and they would be coming right behind us to help her. We kept crawling and you could hear people saying, "How do we get out? How do we get out? Where can we get out? Where is the way out? Finally, I saw the light. I saw that light and what it was was the garage. The door had been blown in half, so the top half was blown off. We all crawled through that hole and we got into the garage, where the drivers for the embassy were. Some of them were hurt obviously. There were people yelling out that they were hurt. Then there was a ramp and we ran up this ramp and I was pulling the kids and when we got to the outside, there was huge fire right where our car was! That truck that we had parked next to, had the bomb, and our car was gone! It was obliterated. There was a big hole there and the buildings all around were down, as well. We had parked at ground zero! We ran around the perimeter of the embassy, inside the fence but around the perimeter. This is kind of like a miracle -- so, my husband was, also, in the embassy. He was on the fourth floor in the ambassador's office in a meeting. We had planned to meet for lunch at 12 o'clock but, I was late because of all this. I was late and luckily he was late. He was supposed to cash a check first and then meet me near the cheque cashing window on the first floor. So, after the bombing, my husband during all this, realizes we're in the basement and the building's blown up! He's upstairs -- the building is shaken up, but it's not destroyed up there. He runs -- you can imagine how he felt -- he ran down the steps -- the fire escape steps, and when he got to the third floor everything was destroyed. Everybody on that floor was killed. He got to the second floor. Everybody was dead. He got to the first floor and he thought we were there, but we weren't there. He ran out the front gate of the embassy like a bat out of hell, you can imagine. He went around the perimeter of the embassy right when we were coming out the back and rounding the perimeter of the embassy. Miraculously, my little girl, who was five years old, she had a red dress on that day which was completely covered in white. Her face was all full of white soot, and she slipped through the embassy gate bars of the fence. She ran right through to my husband right then and she cried, "Daddy!" He grabbed her and then my son also squished through the fence. But, I was stuck. I couldn't get through the fence. All these people were coming out of the embassy at that point, a lot of them were all bloody. I remember a man, who had no clothes on, an African man. I don't know who he was. There was another Foreign Service Officer that I know very well, Kevin Richardson, who put his face up to the fence and he was covered in white himself, and he said to me, "We're gonna get you out of here! We're gonna get you out of here!" It was at that moment, I swear, I was standing there shaking like a leaf, saying to myself, "Okay, this is too much. This is beyond what I need to be doing. This is way beyond what I

signed up for!” Then, my husband and Kevin Richardson pulled those fence pillars apart, and I slipped through there. We all ran to the front of the embassy and a lot of people, that we knew, were there. Everybody was saying, “What’s going on are here? There are people around here that are gonna shoot us.” Nobody knew where the terrorists were. This was Al-Qaeda -- their big coming out -- first time they’d really come out. The rumors started that they had blown up several embassies in Africa all at the exact same time. Everyone was trying to make sense of what was happening. So, there were people standing there in shock. We all started running away from the embassy, because we weren’t sure who was there -- whether they were still around there. We had no idea what was going on. You can imagine the confusion. Meanwhile, as is typical of some disasters, all the other people -- the Kenyans -- were all running towards the embassy! Everybody was running all over the place. We ran I don’t know how many blocks, and my husband was with us. He saw a car with embassy plates on the other side of the meridian. We jumped over the meridian and he shoved us in the car. He said to that driver, “Take them home” and told him where our house was. Then, he said to us, “I have to go back to the embassy. I have to go back.” He was a political officer. That is when my daughter started -- my kids started crying then. They cried, of course, because they were worried about their dad, but he had to go back to help people pull bodies out of the embassy. He had to count the dead and everything else. The driver dropped us as close to our house as he could and we ran home looking like we had been hit by a bomb, covered in soot. At home, I had this radio. I was trying to get somebody to tell me what was going on. I was pretty much by myself, even though all this was going on. I was really by myself in a lot of ways. I put the kids down in front of the TV; and I put the Brady Bunch on the TV. If you remember that was a really sweet old show, and I thought they’d calm down and be okay if they watched it. Meanwhile, I’m trying to find out what’s going on and I talked to the ambassador’s husband, who was a good friend of mine, because he wrote that play I was in. He’s telling me make sandwiches; start a blood bank; because I was the head of the American Women’s Association. He gave me like a list of 25 things to do. He didn’t even know that I had been in the embassy, and I didn’t even tell him, because his wife was still missing. She was, actually, in the bank behind the embassy when the blast hit.

*Q: Yeah, I know her very well. She’s writing a book. I know her tale. I mean I’ve read parts of it from different sources. She and I talk all the time. I’m good friends with her but anyway, I knew she was lost -- that she was in this bank building, and she had get down like 20 floors.*

HUSKEY: She was injured -- she had hurt her wrist. It was crazy. So Richard Buckley asked me all these questions. I said, “Okay I’ll do all that.” I didn’t even tell him that I had been in the embassy with the kids. I just let that go. The whole day, we were just trying to kind of calm down. We had to wash all this cement off of us. I had cement in my ears, cement my hair, and my whole body was white with soot. The kids and I threw out all the clothes we had on. My husband never came home that day. I mean he was really working to determine who was killed; who was alive; which officers were killed; trying to get some sense of you control over the situation. They barricaded the embassy with some ropes and the Israeli forces came very early on to help protect the embassy, because the people all wanted to go in. They were concerned about looting and

everything like that. My husband came home about midnight that night, and he was shocked that I was still there. Frankly, I think he thought I would take the kids and just jump on a plane and go home. We were fine though. I mean we were okay. He said that the media wanted to come the next day, all the media was interested in our story, because it was one tale that was somewhat positive in a very very negative situation, where all these Americans had been killed. I actually said okay. I did and then the next morning ABC, NBC, CBS, BBC, everybody flooded our house. They asked to interview my kids, too. It was pretty intense, I mean because to ask kids what's it like to be in a bomb? Caroline was only five! What she's gonna say? I was really protective of the kids at that point, but, we did do the interviews and they were on the air. Ted Koppel did a whole half-hour show about our family.

I knew that as the head of the Women's Association one of the issues that was going to come up very fast was all the Kenyans who were killed. Within a day, we pretty well knew that about 12 Americans were killed -- so it wasn't a huge number of Americans; but a lot of Kenyans, who worked in the embassy, and a lot of Kenyans in the street -- 250 Kenyans were killed. The American embassy staff was very concerned about taking care of their own, which is right but, already, within a day or two, the press in Kenya was writing negative editorials about America, saying that we didn't take care of the Kenyans; didn't care about the Kenyans. There was this huge rift starting to happen between our nations. I called the American Women's Association and said we need to put a full-page ad in the newspaper immediately, which says "We are with you. We are with Kenya. We are with the Kenyan victims." Richard Leakey was one of the people, who wrote a very strong editorial against the United States -- saying that we caused this to happen. We were the reason that all the Kenyans were hurt. But our people were hurt, too! It was very negative, and so, I actually called up Richard Leakey that day. I mean you could imagine the adrenaline you have and I said, "Wait a minute! We're on the same side here. We're all victims. What are you doing? Why are you doing this? You know we're all victims and we're not the enemy!" He was about to come and speak at the American women Association sometime later, and I said, "You know you are gonna have to change your tone or forget coming." He was very repentant actually, and wrote a letter to the paper after that saying he apologized to the Americans. The next morning I had a meeting of the American Women's Association and we decided to set up a bomb relief fund to respond to all the Kenyans who were injured. Many, many Kenyans were injured and even killed; but, many were injured. We made a decision that we were going to respond to this crisis; we were going to raise money for relief, because the U.S. embassy and AID had a lot to deal with. The embassy people were all moving over to AID and they were gonna take those offices over. They were still taking care of the Americans who were killed or the Americans who were injured -- a lot of Americans were injured. So, I went on television and radio, and wrote to all the press. I contacted all the people I knew in the United States to raise money to support the Kenyan victims. We raised about \$40,000 -- not a huge amount -- but it was something. Then, for the remainder of the year we worked with Kenyan victims. After the bombing, we had a meeting with Pru Bushnell, our ambassador. She said, "There's a voluntary evacuation. Anybody who wants to evacuate, can evacuate right now. No one did, except for one family! It's amazing, but with reason, because when you're in something like that, it is really important to be

around people who know what happened. It's almost impossible to go somewhere where nobody has a clue what you're talking about. Everybody in Nairobi was touched by the bombing in some way. The kids were gonna start school the week after the embassy blew up. After all they'd been through, the community was incredibly great, because they knew that the kids were in the bombing. They embraced them. Everybody was so wonderful to them. They knew what we'd been through. They knew what the embassy had been through. It was a very warm community all pulling together.

For a year after the blast, I met with victims, for example, I met with these kids, who were blinded -- who'd been in a school bus in front of the embassy and the bus blew up. They got glass all in their eyes and couldn't see. They were actually Asian Kenyans and so we figured out a way to have eye surgery in Boston Eye and Ear Hospital for all those kids. We got surgeries donated, and air fares donated. All kinds of support came to get about 10 kids to Boston. We sent them in the autumn and some of them actually got their eyesight back. We met with a lot of people, who were deafened by the blast. We met with some people, who were psychologically damaged by it. I mean it was pretty scary. This one woman, who had a street business -- like a stall on the street, she was trampled by everybody running towards the embassy. Her head was injured and so, we paid for her rehabilitation. Actually, the biggest thing for me in terms of all this rehabilitation was I heard about this woman, who had been in the bank behind the embassy. She was a secretary there and a wall fell on her back. She was stranded in some hospital in Kenya in Nairobi, and it was like six days after the Embassy bombing, but, she was still sitting there. When I found her, and she was paralyzed from the waist down. She was crying. She was reading the Bible, sighing, "What am I going to do?" Nobody knew anything to do at that Hospital for spinal cord injuries. They just had no idea and because I worked -- I think we talked about this earlier -- I had worked with disabled people with the Kennedy family for years. I said to her, "You know, you can be rehabilitated. We're gonna get you out of here. We're gonna send you to South Africa. You're gonna learn that you can live your life. You can live in a wheelchair." I mean she didn't believe any of that and her family didn't either, but we sent her to South Africa for five months. During the process, I met with her kids and her family, many of whom were really angry and hated America because of what had happened to their mother. This one boy especially, her 12 year old boy, I talked with him a lot, and I said, "You know, I know how you feel about your mother. I was there with my kids. We were in the bombing too, we are both in this together." I went for Christmas to their house and brought all these toys for their family. Then when the mother came back from South Africa, I met her at the airport. I got to go in all the way to greet her as she came off the airplane in a red bomber jacket and a red baseball hat. If you had seen her before, you would've been amazed. Looking brave and brilliant, she gave me the thumbs-up sign. She came down the steps and we had an amazing reunion. She said, "The biggest rehabilitation that actually happened there is that my Kenyan husband now knows that he can help his Kenyan wife!" He was pushing her wheelchair as a group of 100 family members greeted her. I spent much time later with them. After that, we actually rehabbed her house -- rebuilt it, so that was accessible for wheelchairs -- with ramps and all of that. I took her out at night to show her that she would just live her life. We went to a discotheque and I said, "You know you can go to a discotheque. Come on. We're going in and we danced

all over the floor together. She in her wheelchair and me with her twirling and dancing. It was a very moving experience for me. It was a healing process for all of us and I think part of giving back like that just makes you feel like you're doing something.

The Kenyan people, for a while there, were angry at the Americans. They felt that we didn't pay attention to their Kenyan victims. I, pretty quickly, got our AWA Relief Fund started and raised a lot of money. We were able to fund rehabilitation for many Kenyan victims. This is an important piece -- it was really right there, at that moment, that I realized the work that I had to do was cross-cultural training. I didn't have a clue about these guys who blew up the embassy. I didn't know or understand them. They thought they were doing something good. They thought I was the foreign devil. They thought Americans were evil. They were doing something for their God -- for their country supposedly. I didn't get that. They didn't know anything about me either. I realized I had been doing cross-cultural training informally for years, but, then I realized that that was the work I had to do from then on. The work of Global Adjustments that I did in India, I then redid in Kenya that year. I was just trying to promote understanding between Kenyans and Americans, and that was pretty important at that time, really important.

*Q: What was some of the reaction of the American community, which is quite sizable really in Kenya?*

HUSKEY: People who were not in the Embassy bombing themselves, carried on their lives. I mean they were supportive. They were sympathetic, but, it was just a small community of people who had been through it -- that really knew the monumental impact of it. We had a visit from Madeleine Albright, who was the Secretary of State at the time. She came to visit us and expressed her condolences and gave us a plaque. All the victims were waiting for hours for her to come. It's interesting, because, that was the day that they bombed Sudan in retaliation for the bombing. So, she was constantly on the phone. She left our meeting and went into the ambassador's house and they were negotiating on the phone. She and the President decided when they were gonna strike. Clinton decided to bomb a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan in retaliation and also a site in Afghanistan. She was doing that -- at the same time that she was supposedly making us feel better -- but none of us really felt much better after her visit. The irony is that the State Department didn't really send out psychologists to help us. We've been through a lot, but people just had to get on with their lives. I think it wasn't until about six months after the bombing, I was at a party and this woman said she was a psychologist from Oklahoma. She was there to study the bombing and see what effect it had on people. I said, "Well, that's very interesting." She said they were particularly interested in what effect it had on kids. I said, "That's really interesting. Did you know that there were American kids in the bombing?" No, she didn't know. "Did you know that there were Kenyan kids that were really injured?" No, she didn't know. I had all this information she didn't know. She was from the University of Oklahoma and was doing a PhD on comparing the bombings in Kenya and Oklahoma. She really wasn't there to help us. There was nobody there to help us. There was almost no psychological help for my family, which I felt really was outrageous, frankly. We put through a year of good work there and then we moved to the United States at the end of 1999.

*Q: Did you sense Madeleine Albright was sort of apologetic?*

HUSKEY: Our ambassador had raised the issue of security with her several times and they dismissed it. So, Madeleine Albright had to feel pretty guilty when she came to see Prudence Bushnell, the ambassador. Pru, actually, wrote a handwritten letter directly to Madeleine saying we were in an unsafe situation. This was the third time she had asked for some security help in Kenya. This was before the bombing happened and they then felt that Kenya was not a high priority. They said there was little terror risk in Kenya. They didn't do anything. Monica Lewinsky was happening and a lot of stuff that year, if you recall. They were preoccupied with other things. Ambassador Bushnell's story is an interesting one and she has many more insights into what the FBI knew, and what the CIA knew, prior to this bombing but may not have conveyed to her. After the bombing the FBI was all over the place. The FBI came to our house. You can imagine. They interviewed my little five-year-old son. They asked him, "What did you see in that truck? Did you see a man? What did he look like? My poor little kid. He was like, "Yes, I saw a man and he was Middle Eastern." I said, "Christopher, you didn't see him did you?" He said, "Yes, I did see a man and he looked like this." I said, "No, you didn't see a man that you could describe." He was too small to have all these six FBI officers interviewing him. Christopher wrote a letter to President Clinton, which was a pretty strong letter about protecting the embassies. He got a letter back, but, it was pretty much of a form letter -- but he did get a letter back from the President. I think the big deal was that the FBI called our Ambassador, at one point within the year, and said it's not safe in Kenya, and they were pulling all our FBI people out of there. They offered her a place for two people on the plane with them. They asked, "Do you want to go?" The ambassador and her husband were not about to leave all of us sitting in Kenya -- the unsafe place. She said, "No we're not going." You could imagine how that felt, because the problem was you have no idea who was there in the country. It was very unclear what had happened. The Al Qaeda came out with that bombing. We knew that Osama bin Laden had done it - - that al Qaeda had done it, but I was never sure who was around me -- who was Sudanese, who was walking around me. Kenya's a wild chaotic place. I took my diplomatic license plates off my car. They were American diplomatic plates. I just took them off completely and I drove around with no plates for a year. Nobody ever bothered me. Any time anybody would ask me, "Are you American?" I'd say, "Nein bitte and I'd pretend I was a German, because I just didn't want to be identified as an American. After all that, I didn't ever go back to the embassy myself. I never wanted to go -- well, I did go back once. This was horrible. As I said, all the media covered us quite a bit and the BBC News decided to do a documentary. They came and spent several days with me. We went to hospitals looking at people who were injured in the bombing -- as I told you I did, and they came with me. They filmed me doing all that and they talked to me and asked me if I was scared. I'd say, "You know, I'm not scared. I just took my plates off but, I'm not really that scared." They took me to the embassy. They wanted me to go in and look at the ruins of the embassy, which was a terrible thing for me. I hadn't really been back and they had the camera right in my face the whole time and tears were streaming down my face. It was just way, way too much and when the film came out I was shocked to find media really can't be trusted. They do things that you don't know they're gonna do. They

took things out of context. I was actually working with Kenyan people, but, in this embassy building footage, I looked like I was really scared. Then they juxtaposed interviews with Osama bin Laden, with interviews with me! It was on the BBC, and it was on the British Airways. People were telling me that they were travelling on British Airways and there I was with Osama bin Laden on this film! This was horrendous, horrendous! Dar es Salaam, the US Embassy in Tanzania was also blown up at the same time and people were injured there. No other embassies were hit. They may have planned to, but, they just didn't achieve it. They blew up two embassies on the same day. It was Al Qaeda's coming-out party, so to speak. Nobody really knew much about Osama bin Laden before that. The problem with all of that was that, as opposed to the way people reacted to China and Tiananmen Square, Americans don't really care about Africa. I mean it was way over there; and it was other people, which is why I guess the American media wanted to put us -- an American family -- on the TV. They wanted to say this affects Americans.

This really was the 9/11 for the State Department. People realized we can be killed in the business. There was an awful lot of effort to start pumping up security ever since. All kinds of things have happened, some of which I don't think are great. They built more big barricades around embassies. They put bomb-proof windows everywhere. They give security briefings like crazy. Before you leave for post, you get briefed heavily about all of that stuff. It's harder and harder to really be a diplomat or to just meet people. I feel the most important thing, that I did in Kenya, was hanging out with the people. I was helping, this family of Teresa, the woman who I mentioned got rehabilitated. I got to know them and that made a big difference in terms of Kenyan and American relationships. That's what diplomacy is about. I really feel like the Embassy bombing, and then consequently subsequent things, have made us less able to be diplomats -- to be real diplomats. So I wrote. I started writing the book, The Unofficial Diplomat, around that time. I started writing about what happened in the bombing, just because I had to. But, then slowly I realized I could write a book. The book's message and my brilliant moment of insight, which came to me right there outside of the embassy, was that the work, that has to be done, is that we have to communicate. We have to get to know what's going on in the world. We have to understand Islam. We have to understand why all this hatred. They, too, have to understand the United States. We are all so misinformed. I've gone on to do a lot of cross-cultural training. That's what I do -- that's the work I do. I'm concerned that the State Department is getting more and more afraid and so they're hiding behind more and more barriers, that keep people from being able to go out and just sit down and have a conversation with people. It's very easy to live sort of in a bubble around the American community. You just never really make inroads that way. Kenya was a huge moment in the history of the State Department. They did a huge investigation about what happened -- what went wrong -- and a report was put out and some of those findings are what they're following these days, in terms of setting up Embassies.

*Q: Is helping people get prepared for real life and real embassies what you mean? Did you mention you took off your license plates? But - how did you get around?*

HUSKEY: Well, you know, it's a really a chaotic place. I was used to the chaos before the bombing. It didn't bother me so much. People are coming up to you begging, and running around, and the roads are crazy. It might be better now, but in those days, it was really wild. After the bombing, there was this concern about who are all these people. We used to go to an island called Lamu, which is off the coast of Kenya. It's a beautiful place. It's an Islamic island, and it's there are no roads. You have to get there by boat -- beautiful dhows. It's a magical place, but, it turned out that some of these bombers were actually living out there on that island before the bombing!

*Q: So the Islamic movement in Kenya -- it crossed your radar screen?*

HUSKEY: No, no, and it barely crossed the Ambassador's radar. I mean nobody really understood that these terrorist cells were actually there. They were there during that time prior to the bombing. The FBI knew about them, and maybe the CIA too, but, there were some inklings of this growing Islamic movement. For example, there was a guy. I mean I found out this later, but, there was a man who came into the embassy prior to the bombing. He came to say, "This is gonna happen -- somebody's gonna try to blow up this building!" They didn't take him seriously. They let him leave, because they get threats there from all kinds of people, who make up things; and you never know. But he actually came into the embassy and gave them a direct warning. The question in historical terms is how much do they actually know right before the embassy was attacked, and were they negligent in not responding to the ambassador's request for support. She's now writing a book and it'll be interesting to see what she comes out with.

*Q: It's a very expensive procedure to essentially take your embassies from downtown, because this is where you do your business, and move them off somewhere kind of to a remote location. You're moving the people away from their customers.*

HUSKEY: Exactly. My husband often went to the Parliament. It's right there just down the street from where the embassy was. He loved that. Now the embassy in Kenya has moved far away. It's way out there by the Village Market where the UN is; and it is a very isolated area. There's one street and the UN's on one side, and the embassy is on the other. This doesn't seem particularly secure, actually, because all the diplomats are right there together in a very concentrated area. It's very far from the center of town; so if you want to do business, if you really want to meet people and get to know them, you have to travel way back downtown.

The last year I was in Kenya, I wrote a play. It was the Millennium and so we did a play called *Red, Hot, and Blue*, in which we looked at the music of the United States of the previous hundred years -- decade by decade. We did the music and dance of each decade, and we took that show all around the Nairobi area. We performed it about 20 times in lots of venues, and we raised money for the International School Kenya to build an Arts Center. It was really great! I mean I enjoyed doing that show. People were so depressed -- so down -- the mood was down after the bombing. People had been really shocked and hurt. To have a fun theater piece that people could go to -- it really was welcomed. I

mean we did one show in the famous Muthaiga Club and people were dancing up and down the halls. I mean it was a really hugely successful show.

I went back to Kenya recently in my present work. I went to the site of the bombing and there's a monument there -- a memorial. The embassy is completely gone, but they put this monument into park. Kids were skateboarding in the park. I put some flowers there and found the names of the people I know on the memorial. It was very emotional for me to go there actually, but, I'm glad I did. I'm glad they didn't build up another building right on that site. It's sacred ground.

When we came back to the United States a year later, they set up a new office at that point to help State people who had been in a trauma. They paid for therapy when I came home. There was that kind of help but, it was late, and it was little. I had to find my own support people. The aftermath of this story is that it didn't really hit me -- what had happened to me -- until I got to the United States a year later. I had been so busy helping people. I was helping Kenyans. I was really involved and my adrenaline was still very much moving me. But, when I got back to the United States, to suburban Maryland, I people were saying things to me like, "Didn't you get your kids into Little League? or aren't your kids signed up for camp? And, I was like, "I was just an a-bomb!" That was when I really got depressed. I had to go to a therapist to kind of talk out what had happened to me, because I need somebody to talk to about what had happened. She recommended that I start writing. Then I wrote. That was very helpful -- still you can see I'm so sad it makes me grieve. I have a friend who lost her husband, and her son, in the bombing. I'm really good friends with her. There are other people. We all talk about it and we've talked about it so much in our lives, and we've written about it. It's a major thing that happened to us, but, I don't think anybody had really major psychological problems -- thank God! My husband never dealt with it. He just went on -- he went to work. We built the embassy back up. He never did anything to debrief it. I've written about it. I've talked about it. I've gone out publicly and talked about it. That's all process and it helps. I, also, went to the trial of the Bombers in New York. That was really very interesting for me and somewhat helped me resolve things.

*Q: Do you think the bombing changed the psyche of Kenya as a nation? How might it have changed their own world view and their place in it?*

HUSKEY: That's a good question. Kenya's still a very dangerous place. But, there was an awareness all sudden that there were terrorists living within the Kenyan borders. Now there are Somali terrorists that are quite dangerous. It's a very serious problem for Kenya. Their military has pumped up their attention to this. They've shut down Lamu, that Island I mentioned. You can't go there any longer. I think Kenyans, themselves, are quite aware of the dangers of potential terrorism. There've been terrorist acts since then -- large ones -- so there's a heightened fear and security is also heightened. security okay you

I'd been working a whole year with victims -- Kenyan victims of the bombing. After a whole year, we decided to go back to the United States. We moved back to Washington and moved into a neighborhood in Bethesda -- a very American community with kids in

the streets playing, like a Norman Rockwell type place, which was perfect after such a traumatic time.

I thought we're coming back to America -- a safe haven, so to speak. The difficulty was the normalcy of it. You know after what we had been through -- people seemed too into consumerism, which to me was kind of shocking after Kenya. Americans were all buying the next big SUV; getting their kids into these great schools; getting them into summer camp; joining this and that activity. When I first came home I thought, "Well we're just gonna play. It's summer and the kids can go play in the street, like we did in Kenya. But that wasn't possible. People are all very busy and there weren't any kids around! They were all in camp!

Because I was working so hard in Kenya after the bombing, and my adrenaline was still very high, it was not until I really got to the United States a year later, where nobody knew anything about Kenya or the bombing, that it really hit me. I got pretty depressed and I had to find somebody who knew anything about Kenya, so I could commiserate. I found Kitty Hempstone, whose husband was had been US ambassador to Kenya. I don't know if you know the book The Rogue Ambassador, but that's about him. She's quite a character. I didn't know her, but, I knew that she was in Bethesda, where I was living. She invited me over and was wonderful. We had many afternoon talks, where we just talked about Africa and Kenya and the bombing. It really helped me.

*Q: She helped you get through the hump of becoming just American again?*

HUSKEY: And sorting out what had happened in Nairobi. I came to FSI and ended up taking work as a trainer here and teaching courses like "The Realities of Life in the Foreign Service" for future foreign service people. I taught things like -- bombings happen, evacuations and being prepared for life. I taught a couple of courses -- one on employment for spouses, employment in the Foreign Service. I also worked for a relocation company in Washington that helps foreigners move back to the United States. I would teach these courses to all first time FSI families, before they would go overseas for their first tour. They're all so starry-eyed -- like this is gonna be so wonderful and they they couldn't really incorporate these things actually happening to them. I guess it doesn't really hit you until it happens. We talk about things that they learned in the SOS course and the they were particularly concerned about what happens to children. Would they may be damaged by experiencing a trauma like that? I talked about my own family - - about our experience -- about the kids -- about issues of safety. I developed a sort of new modus operandi for myself -- the "unofficial diplomat" status is equally as important as the official diplomat status. That's what I was teaching. Who you interact with, and how you play a part in that community, can really have a major impact and change the way they perceive Americans, and the way you perceive that country. I talked a lot about how I founded a school in India, and the way that I got involved in various parts of the countries I lived in. That really was impactful, not only to me, but for the people that I interacted with. In some ways I felt, and do feel, that my impact is longer-lasting than that of my husband, who met with members of parliament and he did lots of interesting work, no question, but - when you're really on the ground in the country and you have

the time to get to know the place, you can make a difference. Most of the spouses are educated, very educated people, often speaking many languages. They can do a lot. My big message in those courses was that you figure out a place in that community where there's a hole, where there's a need that utilizes skills you have, and it can be anything. I mean for me, in various parts, as I told you in China -- I worked with disabled people, because I knew how to do that. I already had done that at the Kennedy Center. They didn't have any information about that, so I filled that space and used my skills to fill it. In India, I started this relocation company and there had never been a relocation company. But, I knew because of the CLOs and all the things that we get in the Foreign Service. I wanted to share that with the private sector. So, I was telling people here before they go off on their big first tour, how to be involved in the community and how to make an impact. I mean I didn't focus on the fear part, even though I did talk about the bombing, but it was more about being aware that you, too, are a diplomat. You, too, are someone that is going to make a major impact in that culture.

*Q: I have to say that my prejudice about this is so bloody American. I mean we Americans -- if there's a problem we see, we have to try to fix it, and if we can't?*

HUSKEY: I'm a cross-cultural trainer now. I developed a whole method of being a cross-cultural trainer with this message pretty much at the forefront -- you, too, are a diplomat, but you can't come in with an attitude of arrogance and say I know it all. It's more like sharing what you know -- sharing your skills, and also experiencing that culture fully and respecting the things they have to teach you. I really focused on that two-way street. I taught cross-cultural training here at FSI, too. That was another course.

So, we had to get used to being in an American lifestyle -- where the kids had to join all the sports teams, and do all the things that everybody does in America. We were going along fine for about a year and a half, and then one day, I was on the playground. I had dropped my daughter off at school. I was walking the dog up there and someone came running over to me and said (it was a beautiful day) "New York's being attacked -- go home!" That was 911 and I ran home, turned on the TV right when the second plane hit the World Trade Center. I called Sue Bartley, who is my friend from Kenya who had lost her husband and her son in the bombing. I said, "I think Osama bin Laden's at it again and we what are we gonna do?" We had this talk and for me it was too much of the same again. All of a sudden, all this was happening all over again on a much bigger scale. Ironically, at the very same time that the two planes hit the World Trade Center -- I have a glass window in the back of my house and somebody was using a blower for their leaves. They hit a rock and the rock flew and shattered my entire rear glass window at that very moment, which was unbelievable. I went back into sort of like a Kenya mode. I thought "Oh no, we're being attacked here!" Jim was in the State Department. I didn't know where he was. I ran out to the street thinking, "What do I do? Am I supposed to get the kids?" It was really big, and then all my neighbors knew that I'd been in Kenya and through the bombing, so, they all came over, which is really great. Then this gardener from next door said, "Madam, madam, I'm so sorry but I shot a rock into your window and it was a mistake!" and I said, "Thank you, thank you for letting me know." So, the 911 thing was so huge for us, because it was a repetitive feeling of -- here we go again --

here's Osama bin Laden again -- but now they've come here!" It's not just overseas anymore and there was this feeling of "What am I supposed to do? I know about this. I've been through this. What's my role here?" My daughter and I organized a neighborhood kind of a vigil a couple nights in a row around the time of 9/11, because a man on our street lost his parents, both parents, in the airplane that crashed in Pennsylvania. It was really very impressive. Everybody came out with candles and we all said something around the circle about our community, about America, about blessing our country. Then everybody went home and put up an American flag. It was just unbelievable that time.

There we were Washington, living through this very kind of scary time where nobody knew what was going on. The president (W.BUSH) was trying to lead us, as you recall. All that fear. There was this whole episode of -- everybody needs to go buy duct tape and get radios and get a place in your basement where you'll be safe; and tape up the windows and all these things have to be closed down in case we get attacked in Washington. It really did feel scary to be in Washington, because one of those planes was supposed to hit Washington.

*Q: I remember my wife and I had planned to go and we did go to Kansas City, where she was born. We'd never been there before and people we talked to, when we said we're from Washington, they'd get this look -- You live there! Oh my god!*

HUSKEY: That day, 9/11, I kept trying to call the State Department to find my husband. Nothing was working. The phones weren't working. You couldn't find anybody. He couldn't get home. Jim walked all the way from the State Department out toward our house. Everything was crazy, but, he was fine. It wasn't clear where that third plane was going to hit.

*Q: I like to recall I had just taken a shuttle bus from Fort Myers to where we are now, to the State Department, and all of a sudden, all these security men were out in the street looking around. A report came out that there was a car bomb at the State Department. The information wasn't clear*

HUSKEY: My kids had been in the bombing in Kenya and I had to go get them at school that day. I tried to explain what was going on. I realized I just didn't want their whole lives to be about Osama bin Laden. We had been already through that when they were young; and we just got back to America were starting to be normal. Then this happened. I was afraid that the main theme of their young lives was going to be Osama bin Laden. It was a tough time in Washington. It was a scary time to be in Washington and people wondered -- why are you staying in Washington? It's ground zero. The radio every morning said it was code Orange -- they said, "Be careful, if you see anything strange -- report it." You didn't know what to do. If you recall, not very long after that, the sniper thing happened in Washington. It greatly added to the fear level. It was so high because there was fear walking out the street with your children. You'd see a white van -- and you didn't know whether there was a guy driving around shooting people at gas stations and at Home Depot and all these places. It was so scary!

*Q: For the record there were two people -- one of them a man who had control over a rather young boy. They were going around shooting out of the back of a trunk of a car randomly -- - randomly.*

HUSKEY: I recall being very careful. When you bought gas, you ducked down behind your car. When we took the kids to school -- it was locked down. It turned out that our gardener's sister was the one who was shot at Home Depot! It was just unbelievable, so, the level of fear in Washington for me in that three year period we were home -- actually five years -- between 911 and this sniper. There was all of this uncertainty about what was happening.

Then we were supposed to bid. About going overseas again and the question was you know, "Are we safer in the United States? Or, do we want to put ourselves back in a place where we might again be victims of terror. We had just been through an embassy bombing. It was not clear what was going on in any of the embassies. We went through about a year of dialogue with our kids -- back and forth about what was the importance of international living. They were little. I mean my daughter was 11, and Christopher was 13. They were still young but, they got it that international living was worth it. They loved Kenya. They remembered something about India, but not much. In the end, they said, "Let's bid!" The year that we made our bid was the year that W. Bush decided to attack Iraq. Again the level of heightened fear in Washington was unbelievable. The day that he wanted to bomb Iraq, I was somewhere, maybe it was at FSI, and I said to somebody, "You know this is the wrong thing. I know what a bombing does. I've been through a bombing. This is the wrong thing to do. I decided I was gonna write a letter to *The Washington Post* explaining my experience and how this particular strategy is not a good idea. I wrote this big long letter and you know it ended with, "You are wrong President Bush. You are wrong Vice President Cheney. You are wrong Secretary Rumsfeld, if you think that by bombing Iraq, these people are going to get up and love America and become a democracy. I just thought it was a letter to the editor, but, it ended up the next morning as a full page editorial on the op-ed page, with a big picture of a child being bombed, and my name. I hadn't told my husband that I'd written a letter and he was working with Secretary Armitage at the State Department. They were talking about strategies after the bombing of Iraq. Jim went into the office at State the next day and the people say, "So, I saw your wife's editorial in *The Washington Post*. I guess she's not on the team." That is what they said to him. He defended me. It was a remarkable thing actually, because after I wrote that, I got a phone calls from about 100 people that day, including congressman Chris Van Hollen and his wife, priests, people -- all of whom said, "I really wish I had the courage to speak out." But the tone at that time was we must support the president. They have WMD -- which nobody knew whether they did or not -- weapons of mass destruction. Everybody thought you're supposed to do what the president wants us to do. People were afraid to say anything, but then, all these people were calling me saying they wanted to say something and that I was so brave. It was very interesting and as we now know, I turned out to be right! Our years in Washington were a tough, tough time for us.

In the end, we got involved in the community and became very American. We had a home base, which I thought was important. But when it came down to it, we bid and we finally agreed to go to Taipei Taiwan. My husband had lived in Taiwan before -- way back in the 70s. We didn't know much about it but, we knew a little bit about China because we'd been in Beijing.

*Q: So, you took time on your language training?*

HUSKEY: The kids had some a little bit of Chinese because they had been taking it in school. We talked it out as a family and we finally decided that international living was eye-opening. It made you a broader, more interesting person. Even at age 11 and 13, the kids got that and we all decided, "Okay we're gonna go to Taiwan." It really was not that hard to leave Washington after all that fear was so crazy at that time in Washington.

*Q: So you went to Taiwan and it was a win-win.*

HUSKEY: We arrived in Taiwan in 2004, when the president was Chen Shui-bian who is in the green party. They were for independence from China. The island -- Taiwan is an independent nation. There was a lot of tension regarding China at the time. China was not happy with that government because they were constantly talking about the independent quality of their lives in Taiwan. Jim was chief political officer there -- head of the political section -- so, he had to deal with this constant fear that there would be war between China and Taiwan. The United States, of course, would be pulled in because of our commitment to supporting Taiwan. We got to know President Chen Swabian quite well. We met him many times and had dinners with him. We knew a lot of the green party people and it was an interesting time in Taiwan. I didn't know anything about Taiwan. I'd been in China, but Taiwan is really a very thriving democracy. It really works as a democracy. They have many parties and it's a very functioning healthy capitalistic economy -- a very interesting place -- a very nice place beautiful island. The people are so wonderful. It had been a colony of Japan for many years -- 50 years -- and so there is a quality about the Taiwanese people that is a little bit like Japanese. They're very polite. They're very courteous. It's very safe. There's no crime at all practically and everyone you know is very helpful and friendly. It is a Chinese culture, but it's traditional Chinese culture. You have the old temples and they use the old written characters -- the traditional Chinese characters -- instead of the simplified characters. We were kind of immersed in an old China and a very, very, special place -- a very interesting place. We lived up in the mountains there because the US Embassy, which is not an embassy in Taiwan. It's called the American Institute in Taiwan or AIT. But, for all purposes it functions like an embassy. It was just that we don't have relations with Taiwan but with China. However, we still keep AIT there and it functions like an embassy. They have houses up in the mountains Yangmingshan just above Taipei. It was nice to be out of the city and we got very involved in Taiwan.

I started out working at the National Palace Museum, which is a very interesting Museum -- a very important Museum, because it has the collection of all the art from all the Emperors of China. The story is that during the second World War, the Kuomintang or

nationalists took all the beautiful (six hundred thousand) pieces of jade and bronze and beautiful paintings and everything from the Forbidden City in Beijing and they put it on trucks and they actually drove it all around during World War II so that nobody would find it or destroy it. When the war was over Chiang Kai-shek took all of this stuff and brought it to Shanghai. Right after the war was over Mao and Chiang Kai-shek fought but and the Nationalists lost and Mao Zedong took over the country. Chiang fled China, taking all of those treasures from the Emperors of China with him. They filled ships and ships of beautiful artwork and pieces of rare antiques and everything. That museum has all of that and it's just an amazing place with beautiful Jade's, beautiful bronzes. and art. To this day, there is still a contentious relationship regarding where it belongs. The Chinese say that the Taiwanese stole that stuff, while the Taiwanese say they saved all the stuff because, in fact, if it had stayed in the Forbidden City in Beijing during the Cultural Revolution they would have destroyed everything. Whether they have an obligation today to send it all back to China -- I don't know, but it was an interesting way to get immersed in Taiwan and Chinese culture and everything.

The international school there is it just a fantastic American school it's called the Taipei American School (TAS) and it's one of the best schools in the international school system. My kids were both there, you know I'd started a school in India. I was very involved in education. So, I decided to run for the school board. At TAS it's like a political position. You have to campaign and speak around town. But, I won. I served on the board there for three years, which was quite interesting. It's very political, well the politics were tough, because the Taiwanese are very proud. They're very much aware that it's their Island. It's their place. They also felt it was their school. It historically had been a US military school and then evolved into a much more Taiwanese place. The majority of the kids, about 90% were Taiwanese Americans or Taiwan Chinese. Our kids were in a huge minority there, with very few white American type people. The board was constantly bickering about who was in charge -- were the Taiwanese in charge? Were the Americans in charge? There was an American superintendent who is very political but, there was a lot of movement towards making it a very high-end prep school where the kids could get into good American colleges. They all wanted their kids to get into Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. But, the Americans there had kids who weren't really going to Harvard. They wanted a regular school, so, there was a lot of debate and the titular ambassador, the director of AIT, was not so happy with the school. Several other embassy people were not either. They wanted a place to be more catering to the Americans needs. The Taiwanese wanted hard academics, really, really, rigorous so their kids could get into great schools in the United States. It was an interesting time to be on the board. You're a public figure in a place like that. People come up to you with their needs for their child or their family. They want you to do something about it, so you're constantly being drawn into this dialogue.

So between working at the National Palace Museum, learning about Chinese painting and Jade and bronze and pottery, fantastic porcelain and then working in school, I really got an immersion into Taiwan. I love Taiwan! I also was a writer and wrote for a weekly cultural magazine that was all about things to do in Taiwan. It was a great excuse for me to go exploring and I had fun with it, because, I could interview anybody I wanted and do

an article about them. I met with any politician or leader or artist or anything and I would write up stories about them.

*Q: Did you find a need for these organizations like you set up elsewhere -- helping expatriates settle into the country?*

HUSKEY: That's a good question. I worked for an organization for about two years there called Asia Business Association ABA. I did training with Taiwanese business people on how to do business with the West. We did a lot of simulation activities on how do you bargain, how do you run a meeting, how do you do phone calls? They spoke Chinese but when they spoke English, it was in a very Chinese manner. Dealing with Western business people and Western bosses, it just didn't work. They were very formal. They were very polite but, the western style was not. We did a lot of work on helping them understand how the West works, and how they could be more effective when they're working with their Western counterparts.

*Q: Within the Taiwanese community is there a thrust to rejoin China or once you've taken the Democratic path, it's really hard going back, right?*

HUSKEY: The people loved their country and the idea of going back to being Chinese -- being part of China -- was not appealing to almost anybody in Taiwan. They are watching Hong Kong, because while we were there, Hong Kong turned back to China and it was losing its democratic flair, so to speak. Hong Kong is a beautiful place -- a fantastic place -- but it's gotten more and more Chinese over the years. Taiwan didn't want to go that way. They watched it very carefully. If you go to Taiwan you really grow to understand why they would never want to be part of China. It's such a uniquely western-style place and really it's a really wonderful place, however, the interesting part is while we were there, we did go to China again. It was first time that my kids had gone back after we had lived there way back, in Tiananmen time. China is another world now! China's much more like Taiwan or Hong Kong now. It's all developed. It's all commercial. it's huge you know Western influence but still politically it's so controlled and Taiwan is so free. I think people just didn't want it. There was an election while we were there and Chen Shui-bian who was of the DPP or the Green Party lost. Ma Ying-jeou, who was very much more of a pro-China person, won. That was when, as you may recall, they finally opened up flights so that people could fly between China and Taiwan which had never happened since 1949! Nobody had ever gone to Taiwan from China as a tourist. There were business people getting in, but, people weren't commercially going back and forth. By the end of our time in Taiwan, Ma Ying-jeou came into office and things were starting to be more friendly towards China. The tension dropped. I studied Chinese there to renew my skills. I took that every day. Our family all studied Mandarin. I got very involved in the whole thing about China I mean, when I was writing, I wrote articles every week. For example, I did one story that I just loved. Taiwan is full of hot springs and they really use them like the Japanese do. There are hot baths and the people go and take baths. I thought I'm gonna try this out. I want to write about this. I went as a Westerner into these hot baths. I was the only Westerner in there! At first you have to kind of get over the hump of getting naked. But the people are so nice. I mean they're just

so kind and wonderful in Taiwan. Everyone's so welcoming and that even if you are Western and your body's so different from a Chinese one, they are nice. I did this study. I went to all the hot springs around Taipei, which was fantastic and I learned so much about these great spas and natural places. Like down in the rice paddies, I found just amazing places! It was a wonderful thing to do and then I got my husband involved. I said, "You've got to see this! This is unbelievable what's happening in Taiwan!" Then every weekend we'd go to a different place and discover wonderful places. It's really fun!

*Q: How did your children like it?*

HUSKEY: Well, it's such a safe place. They were in a school where they were pretty much the only Americans, so they learned Chinese. They knew a lot of people who were speaking Chinese all the time. They were really getting fluent in Chinese. It's also a place where it's so safe that they could take taxis everywhere. So, all of a sudden, I don't need to be their mother and pick them up and take them around like I did in America. I didn't have to shuttle them anywhere. They took taxis everywhere. The taxi drivers were fantastic and very, very honest and good. So the kids were kind of free. It was a perfect place for them to be teenagers, because there was a little village by the school called Tian Mu. It's at the foot of Yan Ming Shan (Mountain) sort of a little suburb of Taipei. It's really a part of Taipei, but, and it's just a wonderful little village -- lots of noodle shops and stores. The kids felt like they were independent. They had tons of friends and so it was really great. We didn't know, when we selected that posting, that it was such a great place to have teenagers, but, it's probably the best place in the world to raise teenagers -- so safe -- so easy for them to get around -- there was lots of positive energy toward Americans. They like Americans.

*Q: Did they pick up the language?*

HUSKEY: Yes. My son now works in China. He's completely fluent. He works for Tencent in Beijing so, it really did affect his life. They look back on it as just a fantastic experience. They loved Taiwan.

My son is an interesting story. He got into music. He was a guitar player. He had a little band and then they put him in the jazz band at the TAS American school. Then, with a group of his friends who were Taiwanese guys, he wrote songs and he produced a CD. He became kind of like a rock star and toured all around Taiwan. I think it helped him get into college. He applied from Taipei to get into college and he got into Stanford. He had done this big music thing at such a young age. Actually, they both look back on Taiwan as, first of all a fantastic time to be a teenager, but secondly, they're so glad that we didn't stay in the United States. There was that moment where we just didn't know between having been in the bombing in Kenya and the fear in Washington, we weren't clear should we leave the country or should we stay in the country? Is it safer here or is it safer out?

*Q: The options for a lot of the countries -- it's not safer you know.*

HUSKEY: Yes, but Taiwan really was a great choice great choice. I did not know much about Taiwan, but I was a singer. I got into a band and sang with a group of women -- four-part harmony. We called ourselves Avalon and we toured all around doing the singing, and it was so much fun! But I didn't do any theatre there. Someone came to me at one point and asked me to do a one-woman show -- it was Joan Didion's show -- The year of Dangerous Thinking or something like that -- one-woman show about when her husband died.

*Q: Yes, I've seen this. with oh my god I've interviewed her.*

HUSKEY: They wanted me to do that in Taiwan but in Taiwan they're used to theater that's very upbeat -- Chinese style -- with music and dance and happy happy. I just didn't think it would go over well. The guy was a Filipino, who was the director, and he wanted me to be in it but I didn't do it. I did a lot of singing. I went around and I produced some. I worked at the drama department at the Taipei American School and I choreographed Oliver and a couple of shows at TAS. I was also involved peripherally in the dance and theater at the school which was fine I was pretty busy. I didn't have much time I was writing for the magazine. I was on the school board, and I was also in the museum doing all the docent work.

*Q: How did you feel embassy-wise integrated into the big world of Taiwan?*

HUSKEY: I feel like almost every post I've been in, I really make a point of doing that. I don't hang around with the embassy wives as much as some people would. They tend to stay together. I had a book group. They were all American Embassy or AIT people -- women so I mean. I knew everyone and I mean I did things with them, but, I really wanted to get involved in Taiwan. I want to meet Taiwanese people and be involved in Chinese culture.

*Q: You mentioned before that Taiwan had been a colony of Japan --*

HUSKEY: Some people there understand the Japanese, actually some older people in their 80s primarily spoke Japanese. It was interesting because there were so many remnants of Japan there. I loved the old tea houses on the cliffs. There were tea houses all over -- beautiful. I loved the way people care for one another -- it's Chinese but it's even more refined in Taiwan. Another thing is interesting there in the mountains of Taiwan on Yangmingshan, where we lived, there are these trails -- fantastic hiking trails. They were all set up by the Japanese and well mapped out -- very organized. The only danger was that during the war during World War II, when the Japanese were in Taiwan, they were trying to develop snake venom as a weapon to use against the Allies, against us. So, they collected all these very, very dangerous snakes and they kept them up on Yangmingshan. When the war was over, they just opened the thing and let them all out! So, when you hike, you have to carry a stick with a bell or something because you might step on a really venomous snake -- like the very serious black mambas. I loved to hike there. I went up there all over the place -- beautiful places to hike! The country is beautiful and nobody

knows about it. Because I was writing for that magazine *Centered on Taipei*, the *Hemispheres Magazine* from United Airlines contacted me and asked me, "Would you do an article called "Three Perfect Days in Taipei?" They sent a photographer out, who was from National Geographic, and I showed him all the great stuff that I knew in Taiwan -- the mountains and the hot spas, and the hiking trails, and all these great things that I loved. He said, "This is the best-kept secret in all of Asia! How come nobody knows about Taiwan?" I did that article and it was in all the United Airlines planes.

*Q: Did you get involved in the politics of the place?*

HUSKEY: Only through my husband. Like I said, we knew a lot of people -- both in the DPP (the Green Party) and some people in the other party. I heard all about it through Jim every night. He was really involved in tamping down the tension between China and Taiwan. When you live in Taiwan, you get more and more sympathetic to the independence issue rather than going back with the mainland. I don't think it'll ever go back to the mainland.

*Q: This strikes me as being not impossible, but by conquest.*

HUSKEY: I just don't see the Chinese doing that, because, you see, almost everybody that we met in Taiwan was doing business in China. Their factories are in China, so they're really interrelated economically. The second thing is the Chinese have been okay with this sort of odd status-quo -- the one China policy, which says Taiwan is just there. We relate to Taiwan. We relate to China as the main China, and yet we have this little funny relationship with a poor country that's so isolated from the world and all the world bodies. It can't participate in any of the major international organizations. It's not in the UN and not in the World Health Organization. The Chinese won't let it, so, it's an odd status. But the Chinese are okay with that status, as long as it's not ramped up into an independent status where Taiwan is considered a country.

*Q: Were there any of these crises about the Chinese sending missiles over or anything like that while you were there?*

HUSKEY: No, but there were missiles all along the border -- the southern border of China and Fujian province aimed at Taiwan. They're there so anytime things get tense, there is always this concern that Taiwan is in danger, that they would attack. The one thing that I will say that came from China that was really, I thought threatening, and this is completely different, but was the climate issue! I used to go to the beach on the north part of Taiwan and you could see this huge black cloud coming from China hanging in the air! Taiwan is really an island, so it has a lot of wind. They have typhoons all the time and the climate is very tumultuous. It has rain and changes a lot and the air is cleaned out a lot because of the wind. But, you could see this huge black stuff that was coming from China, and by this point actually, maybe has taken over Taiwan. I don't know. I haven't been there since I left. I know that Hong Kong has been pretty much taken over by that terrible air that comes from China. So the environmental impact of just China being so close -- just right there across the strait is very very damaging to Taiwan.

*Q: It's an island. I don't know how they're gonna address it. Well there's much more we should talk about. While you were in Taiwan, no major trauma happened to you?*

HUSKEY: No, luckily. We loved it. I loved it and it was a really a nice last tour. We came back to the US in 2008, right when Barack Obama was being sworn in. For me, that was great, because he was a multicultural president. He believed in bilateral relations. He had lived in Indonesia. He got the fact that you have to get to know other cultures, and work with them, and respect them. That was my big message. So, when I came back in 2008, I started writing a book, called The Unofficial Diplomat, which really emphasizes - talk to everyone, get to know people from different cultures, learn about their cultures, learn to respect their cultures, go traveling, invite them for dinner, have friends, do group activities. Don't be ignorant and don't be judgmental. It'll be a much better world if we all believed that. So, I was very happy to see Obama, and we had him for eight years!

*Q: What did you do when you came back?*

HUSKEY: I wrote a book and then I got a job at Meridian International Center. I was a program officer for the International Visitors Leadership Program the IVLP program of the Department of State. I set up these amazing trips. I don't know if you know the program it's been in existence about 70 years. They take future leaders from every country and organized around a theme, they bring them to the United States for a three-week trip. They meet their professional counterparts in the United States. Say it's a group of lawyers, they meet other lawyers in America. They talk about their career, their lives, or issues in their career. They usually start in Washington, and then they would go to three cities around the country and meet counterparts and see something of America. I would program all of those trips. I did lots of them for three years and great trips. I mean I did a peacemaking trip with Palestinian and Israeli artists. They met American artists and went all around the country. I did a Cuban trip, Iraqi politicians, Mexican judges, women lawyers. The program is fantastic soft diplomacy. They don't expect anything from the people. Just by seeing America, and meeting Americans on their own turf, the guests really have a very good impression when they leave. They go back with that and then if they become a leader in their own country, they have that knowledge of America. I did that for three years and then I started an organization -- my own NGO. In around 2010 with another woman, I started talking about young women and why there is a lot of prejudice against young women around the world, and how we might address that. I was also very concerned, because I've met so many Americans who know nothing about other cultures. So, I thought people need to understand other cultures. The woman I worked with really was worried about teenage girls losing their power when they're in their 13, 14, 15 year old ages. So, we decided to start this organization called iLive2Lead. It's an NGO. We've been doing it for seven years and have gone around the world working with teenage girls in so many cultures -- teaching them leadership skills. We teach them how to take an idea, any idea they have for a project or community service. We teach them how they plan it, how they find money to do it, how they communicate their idea so it reaches the public. We teach public speaking, networking, and all of that. We've reached thousands of kids all over the world and it's been a really rewarding way to give back to

all the cultures I've lived in. We feel that we are really were making a difference. With many girls, it changed their lives, just even in a short week-long training. It inspired them to believe you can be something, that you don't have to wait till you grow up and it doesn't have to be a guy in your community. It can be you! We had girls from Kyrgyzstan from Afghanistan, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, India, China -- everywhere. Many of whom nobody had ever mentored in that way or had taught them they could do something with their lives. One particular story is a girl from Egypt, who came during the time of the Tahrir Square and she said to us, when she came, "Don't make me speak in public! I cannot speak in public. I'm petrified of a microphone. Please don't put me in front of a microphone!" We taught her our normal curriculum and we taught public speaking that week. She took classes and was involved in the program, and at the end of the week, we all attended a huge conference for women. People asked her to speak about Tahrir Square. She got up and she took the microphone and she spoke about her experience of Tahrir Square. She had been going to the square. She got a standing ovation and everybody praised her. It just changed her life. Since then, she's gone on and done amazing things. It was just very rewarding to see those kind of changes happen. I've seen it over and over. I'm right now writing a book about it, called iCAN: A Young Woman's Guide to Taking the Lead, and also we've produced a film called the iCAN Attitude. We went to follow up on a lot of the girls that took the program, and we filmed them now working in their fields. The book is basically -- we took our curriculum that we've been teaching all these girls, and we share the curriculum. We explain how we created our organization by using the steps of the curriculum. Then, we share the lessons we learned along the way in making an organization from nothing. The idea is to inspire young women to act and address issues in their lives today.

*Q: Oh, I must say, you've had your fingers in a lot of pies -- doing good -- a fascinating career! Thank you for sharing this story.*

HUSKEY: Thank you, I think that Foreign Service spouses -- if they've had interesting lives -- if they've really been involved in the cultures where they have lived -- need to testify for history's sake. Others will learn from their experiences and lives. They can be agents of tremendous impact in the nations where they live and the world needs to know.

*End of interview*