

“Spilling Tea with Boomers” with Kay
Live Stream from @disorganized.religion, 2023
Full interview available at: <https://youtu.be/TwRJ41Xhg5o>
Transcript prepared with support from otter.ai

Sarah

Hi, everybody, this is Kay. She's 97, and I'm going to interview her today. And I'm so glad for all of you who are stopping by. And if you have questions for Kay, you're welcome to ask them.

<cut/transition>

All right, Kay, this is a little bit of a tougher question. What is something that you own, that you should really throw away?

Kay

Oh my gosh. Let's see. Throw away...I have some books that I realized that I don't want to keep and one of them is called Heaven and Hell. And I have conversations with my guides, you know, and, and I heard this voice say, “You don't need that book.” So I said, “Okay, so I've got it in there”. But, you know, I'm gonna get rid of it somehow. I thought I'd go through my books, and donate the ones that I'll never read, which is most of them. But then get rid of that one. Maybe I shouldn't even give it away to anybody because it sounded like it was not, you know, just not fit to read.

Sarah

If someone told you that. You don't need to read that. Maybe that's a good...if you need me to get rid of it on my way out, let me know.

All right. For those folks just joining us, this is Kay. She's 97. And we're asking her for some of her wisdom. So far, we've just talked about things to throw away and cheese sandwiches, but we'll get into a little bit more. And if you have questions for Kay, who's lived

longer than everybody probably who's tuning in, then let us know. But my next question is Kay, what is the scariest animal?

Kay

The scariest animal for a lot of people is the tiger, but it's the tiger is my favorite.

Sarah

Really

Kay

So the scariest one? Oh, we're nuts about elephants and all that, you know. I would say anything that slithers on the ground. I would not be too happy to see anything like that.

Sarah

Got it. Anything that slithers, and folks in the audience—you're welcome to join in with your answers too. Yeah, things that slither frighten me.

Kay

Yeah

Sarah

Although I have a family member who has pet snakes and they are adorable. <Kay laughs>

Kay

The family member or the snakes?

Sarah

Both. Alright, Kay, I'm curious. Where do you think Jesus would go first? If he came back today?

Kay

I think he would go to places where children are. I think he would. Because Jesus loves children. And we sing the song that says Jesus loves the little children, you know, and, the best place would probably be in a hospital. He would go and see a children's hospital and spread as much healing and love and everything as he is capable of, which is a whole lot.

Sarah

That's beautiful.

What about exercise? Is exercise worth it?

Kay

I think it is. Definitely it is. And I have gotten away from it. And I was thinking of calling up David McElhaney because he teaches you know, he's been my exercise companion.

Sarah

He is a personal trainer.

Kay

Yeah. Because now I can't...I just actually, last night, I was laying in a bed and I was thinking, Okay, now it's time for you to get busy with your legs, you know, exercise your legs. So I did a few things that I remembered I'd done before. And somehow I had two sheets of exercise. One of them was from one of the home something—her name is Mary. I forget her last name. And the other one was from David. And now I can't find them.

Sarah

Oh, no. I'm sure David would send you another one. Oh, yeah.

Kay

I'll invite him over. I'm sure he'll exercise with me, Dave.

Sarah

I'm sure he'd love that.

Kay

He would come. He's a lovely young man.

Sarah

Yes.

<cut / transition>

This is very important. What did people do while sitting on the toilet before they had cell phones?

Kay

<laughs> Gosh, I don't know. I don't have a cell phon to do anything. I mean, I don't use it. So let's see. What would they do?

Sarah

You didn't think deep thoughts?

Kay

That could be it. They could remember who they have to telephone today.

Sarah

So make a to do list?

Kay

Something

Sarah

Something like that. Right. Robert, my friend Robert says that Sears and Roebuck's catalogs used to be on the back of the tank. And that's what people would read.

Kay
Good for him.

Sarah
Okay Kay, what's something you still want to learn how to do?

Kay
Well, I haven't been able to dance for a long time, and I love to dance. I just love it. And so now a little while ago, I got started dancing with my with my walker. Because I can't go anywhere without my walker. And so it worked out pretty good. I could do a waltz. I can't do the two-step and whatever ever. Yeah. I better get back to that.

Sarah
That can be part of your exercise.

Kay
Yeah.

Sarah
I would love...you gotta tell Chris or Val to get a video of you two-stepping with your walker. I think that would inspire a lot of people.

Kay
Well this is, you know...I don't know if I can say this diplomatically...

Sarah
If it's about Val or Chris, you better not.

Kay
Both.

Sarah
Kay has twin daughters.

<cut / transition>

Sarah
Kay, do you remember any toys or games from your childhood that you think you'd still enjoy today?

Kat
When I was about 10, or 11, I had a lacrosse ball. You know, one of those India rubber balls or whatever. I loved that ball. It bounced, like, oh, gee, it was so much fun. And I would stand in the alleyway and throw it up against our house. And for four hours. And as I got older, I wondered how my mother could stand it, because especially, this hard ball was bouncing off the brick house. I guess that's something! But anyway, I was just thinking about this this morning.

There was a kid named Ivan who lived a couple of doors down the street from us. And he was not the nicest person. You know, he was kind of... Just at dusk one day, he took it away from me and threw it down the.. down our street, down the middle of our street. And you know, that thing could go for blocks bouncing. I never saw it again. And I went to his mother. No, I said to his mother that he did this and, and he should be gone to look for it for me. But it was getting too dark. So I never did get it back.

Sarah
Oh, I'm so sorry.

Kay

That was my favorite thing. Although when I was old enough to get a two wheeled bicycle, I really liked that.

Sarah

Robert says he's so sorry about your ball.

Kay

Thank you. Yeah. I don't know where it came from. And I have never seen one. But I'm pretty sure it was the game that they played it with, with lacrosse. But it was about this big.

Sarah

Yeah. I may have one... I don't know if Chris and Val would approve of me giving you one to throw around the house. But well, if I find it...

Kay

It was a regular ball size. I think about like that.

Sarah

Oh, it was bigger than...Oh, interesting. Yeah. But it was really bouncy?

Kay

Yes. Yeah, it was just all over.

Sarah

That's incredible. So you talked earlier about being 12 and about being hit by a baseball [in part of the interview not included in this transcript]. If you could go back and talk to your teenage self? What would be a piece of advice that you would give young Kay?

Kay

Well, let's see here.

Sarah

You can pass, or we can come back to that, too.

Kay

I think that's an interesting question, though. Yeah, you know, what piece of advice - practice the piano more. I took piano lessons, and I had to come home from school every night and enter this dark, cold house and practice my piano. I didn't really like that, you know, if it was dark, and cold. It was not inviting at all. My mother worked in my grandmother's store around the corner from us. And so, you know, I somehow I was supposed to practice. I wish I had done more, you know, put in a little work up front. There's a piano keyboard in there.

Sarah

You ever play it?

Kay

Once or twice. It's in the corner, and you know, it's kind of hard to get out. So no, but I think about it. I sit in my chair there and I think "Why don't you go in there and play that piano?"

Sarah

You know, maybe we could...I wonder if we could bring it out here every now and then?

Kay

Oh, yeah. It's not a very large thing, at all. That's Val's room.

Sarah

Does she play? Well, maybe we can talk to her about getting you a lacrosse ball and a piano to put out here.

<Kay laughs>

Sarah

Oh, and Grace has come, and Grace. You are still the moderator [of the live stream]. You know, Grace from church?

Kay

Wonderful woman. Yes, I do know.

Sarah

She's great. She's, she's watching.

Kay

Well, I'm telling you. When I first saw her, I thought wow. And then you brought her over here, and she was so wonderful. I just Gee, well, Grace, if you're watching come and visit me.

Sarah

I'm sure she'd love to.

Kay

Nobody needs an invitation. Or just well, this is a wide open invitation for people to come on over right? Well just let me know that you're coming, so I can look decent.

At one point in time, I had 17 Bibles and my husband said that enough. No more Bibles!

Sarah

I was gonna ask if you collect anything.

Kay

Well, it's Bibles

Sarah

Yeah. Alright, if you could describe the rest of your life in five words, what would you say?

Kay

I would say that I would like opportunity... in five words? I just used 4... to be able to love more.

Sarah

Mm.

Kay

Penny, McElhaney?

Sarah

Yeah

Kay

I love Penny. I just love her. One of the things that is irritating to me, and there's not a thing I can do about it, so I should just quit, but we're so far from the church.

Sarah

Yeah

Kay

We're like 15 or 20 miles from the church.

Sarah

Yeah.

Kay

We don't get over there very often. No, Val does. But there are things that I would do if I was closer to the church. And when I

moved here, which was 2020, I think it was 20. September of '03 or something, I forget now. But it's been 20 or 25 years ago. I wanted to go singing the choir.

Sarah
Oh, yeah?

Kay
I sang in every choir at every church where I lived, and so when I came here, I asked Linda, how the choir operated, you know. I happened to see her in the church one night. And she said they practice on Thursdays and what they did. And I thought to myself, because I wasn't driving very much, especially at night. And I thought I just can't ask my girls to do that. And then Val got into it for a while. I don't know. So I do miss singing in the choir.

Sarah
Yeah. How do you feel about us having the Zoom Church and the Zoom Bible study?

Kay
Oh, I think it's great. What would I do without Zoom? Wow. I think I yeah, I love that Bible study and worship service. And Chris often just fixes it for me. So I get the whole service on my laptop. And it's just wonderful. I just love it. I especially like Mango.

Sarah
For those of you listening in Mango is my dog, service dog in training

Kay
Her really active and fun dog.

Sarah

Okay, you're telling me you like it when mango misbehaves?

Kay

I do, and I, and I love the way you are talking to her. And, and you know, you're trying to calm her down and everything. And then you give her a little treat and then after that she wants more treats and it's just so perfect.

Sarah

Oh, we have our comedy scene worked out at my expense. The dog trainer just told me I have to stop talking to Mango so much.

Kay

Oh why?

Sarah

Because it winds her up. And she, she loves it and it gets her excited. And so we're working on using hand signals and body language more, but it's not as fun. It's okay.

You know, I know that getting older, there are some things that are not so fun, but what's something people can look forward to about getting older?

Kay

Well, I think about where when we're back, we went to one of the breakfasts, last Easter or something... So we open, actually, we came in through the back entrance, you know. And the door opened, and there was Maribeth. And she went [for a hug], Oh! And I was absolutely squashed. Okay, I'm so glad to see you, you know? Well, I was glad to see her too. But I think older people can look forward to things like that.

Sarah

Oh, gosh. Well, so folks tuning in, if you ever want to join K in Bible study, it's every Tuesday at 11.

Kay

Yes, it is. And I look forward to it.

Sarah

Yeah, and it's all virtual and in-person. I always have a blast hanging out with you, Kay. So I'm glad this was a nice excuse to do an interview. But I'm just glad that I got to see you today.

Kay

Well, I'm glad you did, too. Yeah.

I mean, Gee, love is something that you can send to anybody. You know, you can do that.

Sarah

I think that's a beautiful place to end. So Grace wants to know, what would you consider your greatest achievement?

Kay

My greatest achievement was having my children. Because, you know, Chris and Val?

Sarah

Yeah, they're amazing.

Kay

And they're twins. And just getting them to the point where they could, you know, take care of themselves was a really tough job. And they know that I think that because they were coworkers. I'm telling you, those two! And you know what, they had their own language?

Sarah
Oh, right.

Kay
They just talk to each other and whatever. And the house that we lived in was an old house, and it had an open dining room and living room. And so we had everything out of that. And that was their playroom. And my mother said, we'll get them those little blue Romper Room type things, you know, I guess they used to wear to gym. In the physical education class, the girls would wear those things. So we got them. And they had them up to here, you know, kind of big. I never had a camera then. So I didn't take any pictures. I didn't even think about it. But then they'd run around and and stop and look at each other. Either way. Oh my god. That I'm telling you that was hard raising those girls.

Sarah
Sounds like a lot then.

Kay
Then my son came along two years later, and he was the darling. Happiest, smiling, easiest, little baby. Little kid all the way up to being a man. You know, he's a wonderful man. I can't get to see him because he lives in Sioux Falls.

Sarah
Yeah

Kay
So, Sarah, this has been wonderful.

Sarah
It's been really fun.

Kay
I just had a great time.

Sarah
Thank you.

Kay
And Grace, please come and see me! She gives good hugs.

Sarah
She really does, huh?

Kay
She does. Boy.