

*I/V Stem, Martha Transcription Det. M. Poling

On December 02, 2009 I conducted a telephonic interview with Martha Stem. The interview was recorded and the following is a transcription of the interview. For complete details refer to the DSS.file from the recording.

Martha: Hello.

Det. Poling: Hello, may I speak to Martha.

Martha: This is she.

Det. Poling: Hi, Martha this is Mike Poling, Detective of the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, how are you today?

Martha: Oh hi, how are you, yes.

Det. Poling: I just I don't know if you have time and I am trying to fit it in, if there is a better time to talk, but I would like to ask you some questions in reference to our investigation, when you get a moment.

Martha: Yeah well, we can do it now, I mean I am expecting my daughter home in a few minutes but you know it's no big deal.

Det. Poling: Okay. Well you can tell me to call back later if, you know when she comes home, if I'm, if I go over whatever works for you?

Martha: Okay. Well it's fine, that's you know I don't know how much help I can be but you know, uhm, whatever, we'll see.

Det. Poling: Well I will ask you the basic questions, how is that? It's almost like a survey.

Martha: Okay, alright.

Det. Poling: How did you learn about James Ray?

Martha: Uhm, a friend introduced me to him years ago, uhm I want to say like 2001 and uh he was coming, uh, we were, I am based in New Jersey, but you know in the Philadelphia area. He was uhm, I actually, I actually had heard about him a year prior to that, I heard about him in 2000 when somebody that I worked with told me that she was going to go to his uh weekend seminar and then asked me if I wanted to go, and I was interested but it just didn't, didn't fit for me at that time, so I didn't go to that uhm seminar in 2000. At that time that seminar was called Power to Win and it was kind of his introductory seminar with a two day weekend in a hotel. And so I didn't go to that one,

so then a year later somebody said, uhm oh James Ray is coming to town tomorrow and he is going to uhm do a free presentation. So I said, oh okay well if it's free you know I would like to go hear what he has to say, so I called up my husband, uhm my husband is Greg D. Garren by the way, he is probably in your list too.

Det. Poling: Oh yeah.

Martha: And, and uh I said that this guy James Ray is coming to town tomorrow and I think we should go see him. And so we did, he did a uhm you know a couple hour, maybe an hour long presentation in a hotel down by the Philadelphia Airport, basically to promote his next event which was going to be held in Wilmington and uhm, Wilmington, Delaware, that is.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: And uh, uhm we uh were very impressed with the presentations and about what he had to say, so we signed up for uhm that event in Wilmington and we went to uhm that Power to Win event. And I want, I want to tell you that was, my husband knows all of the states, I don't care, but anyway it was like 2000 and, that was like in 2001. So we went to that event in Wilmington. And at that event in Wilmington, uhm we not only you know went through that course and enjoyed it immensely, benefitted from it immensely, that was great information. We uhm, uh signed up to go further, he was just developing a new curriculum like it was going to be ongoing. At that time, he only had two events he had Power to Win then he had just uhm the previous year done something which was at that time called Creating Wealth. And he was adding in another event and basically laying out a whole path of events that hadn't even happened yet, but he was developing them and he was like you know this is the way we want, that was his thing. So we bit and we said this is, this is great, we love this stuff, uhm we are learning so much, it's a great experience, really good value, blah-blah-blah, so we went ahead and signed up. So uhm that's how we met him, I am going on and on, but you only asked me one question, so that's how I met him.

Det. Poling: So you went to two; Power to Win and Creating Wealth?

Martha: We went to Power to Win and the next thing that we went to was called Quantum Leap.

Det. Poling: Oh, Okay.

Martha: Okay. And that was uhm the reason that Greg and I are kind of interesting people to talk to is that we are probably the oldest, not just, not chronologically, but we were the first, we were in the first group of students, if you will, that went through that emerging curriculum. So it was just new and developing at that time, we were, we were sort of, you know, we were the test to see how it was gonna to work. And so we went to something called Quantum Leap which was in Las Vegas and it was about two weeks after 9/11.

Det. Poling: Oh, Okay.

Martha: Which I remember very well because a lot of people canceled, they were afraid to get on airplanes and uh you know Las Vegas was the ghost town pretty much at that time, as I recall. We got in there and there is a like a huge line of taxis because nobody was coming in. So we did, we went through this event and it was another weekend event called Quantum Leap in Las Vegas then after that there was one called uhm Creating Wealth which took place in San Diego.

Det. Poling: Yes.

Martha: And then we went on to uhm something called, well at that time, it was called Leadership and it was done in two parts, it was Leadership I and Leadership II. And the first part was in a uhm, uh it was in Yosemite, I'm trying to remember, that was yea, that was the first one. The first was in a uhm, a place called Evergreen Lodge in Yosemite and uhm that was several days that was more like 4 days, it might have been longer, but uhm that was more like a 4 or 5 day thing. And then the second part of that was Leadership II which was in another place in California, the name of which I can't remember. Uhm and then after that we went on to something called uhm Spiritual Warrior. Here comes my daughter, hang on I gotta open the door for her.

(Talking With Her Daughter)

Martha: Okay so where were we?

Det. Poling: You said you went to Spiritual Warrior.

Martha: Well yeah we did, we went to, it was called, it was called Spiritual Warrior and it took place in Arizona and it was the first of the Spiritual Warriors. At that time, we stayed at the uhm, what's that, that big fancy resort.

Det. Poling: Enchantment?

Martha: Yes we stayed there, because the Angel Valley Ranch was not up to hosting anybody, they didn't have facilities there, they just had, I think at that time they just had that little thing of teepees, so they really couldn't sleep uhm anybody. So we stayed in

Det. Poling: And what year was that?

Martha: Oh (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: And that's okay, if you don't have it.

Martha: My husband would know, I'm gonna say it was probably '03.

Det. Poling: I was gonna say wasn't 2003 his first sweat lodge, was this one of his first?

Martha: Yeah it was the first.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: It was the first. You see because in here, an important part to this whole; your name's Mike, right?

Det. Poling: Yes.

Martha: An important thing, my husband and I feel that really an important piece of this is that at the time that we went through it, its curriculum was uhm being developed and there was a small group of people that were participating in it. And the courses had to be taken in chronological sequence just like a college course, 101, 102, 103 like that. And so we had, by the time we got to Spiritual Warrior, we had already done all of this other stuff and had time to meet (inaudible) seems pretty weird but you're from Arizona. We had time to integrate it. You know, it, it, we, it was a little different feeling, uhm plus the size of the group I don't think can be very important to that, I don't think it can be overestimated. But anyway, yeah so first Spiritual Warrior, we attended, uhm Liz Neumann was with us, uh Lou Caci was with us, uhm Lou Caci and Greg and I were the only original, are the only original uhm people left. Liz came in kind of in the second wave of uhm, of people. But anyway yeah Spiritual Warrior in 2003, we were at Enchantment, excuse me and then we went over to uhm Angel Valley for uhm like a walkabout where we slept outside and at that time, we did the sweat lodge first because of the, because of the, we, the scheduling of the whole thing.

Det. Poling: Right.

Martha: We, we, we had done various activities over at Enchantment, we had done some uhm you know some classroom stuff, you know we did a little bit of classroom stuff and then you did some experiential stuff. And we did some Red Rock hiking, this and that and then we uhm packed our stuff we went off to uh Angel Valley and we did uhm sweat lodge and after sweat lodge we went out and were dropped off to have our overnight.

Det. Poling: Your Vision Quest?

Martha: Yeah exactly where we slept outside.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: And then they came and uhm picked up like you know the next day, and hauled us all back to uh to Enchantment to finish up.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: Uhm, we did it that year then uhm after that we went to Hawaii for uh what was supposed to, and the first time we went to Hawaii was called Spiritual Warrior II.

Det. Poling: Oh really?

Martha: And again we had, yeah, yeah, he was always changing stuff, first time we went to Hawaii it was called like Spiritual Warrior II and we had a uhm, again you know relatively small group, and I am going to guess at about 30 people. I guess I can remember we used to do things where you would stand in a circle and if I think about who was there and look around the room, I'm thinking there were maybe 30 people there.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: So I could, I could be off by uhm by 5, but you know but, but it certainly wasn't, it wasn't 60, it wasn't 50, I don't even, it, it wasn't even 40, I don't think, I am thinking 30 feels like a good number to me. So the first sweat lodge was about 30 people and we did the Vision Quest and there you go.

Det. Poling: So Spiritual Warrior II in, in Hawaii, was that Kona, Hawaii?

Martha: Yes,

Det. Poling: Is that James

Martha: Yea we stayed at, that year we stayed at the Ohana. And uhm then the next year, uh and the thing was after that, then he uhm he might have done yet another Spiritual Warrior because I didn't go to Hawaii the next year. My husband went by himself and I don't know if they called that one Spiritual Warrior, if he decided to change it to Modern Magick at that point, but eventually the Hawaii even became known as Modern Magick, the Leadership Event became known as Practical Mysticism.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: The Power, you know the Power to Win event became known as Harmonic Wealth Weekend.

Det. Poling: Okay cool.

Martha: That's The Secret, and then Creating Wealth became the Creating Wealth Experience I think and whatever you know. Uhm, so Greg, I went to, Greg and I went to Hawaii together the first year, he went the second year then like the next time I think I was supposed to go, but he had to delay it because there wasn't, uhm he canceled the event because there wasn't enough uh participation. And somewhere along in there, he decided uhm I think in part because of some of the people that he was attracting, he felt that they were more advanced further along in their uhm personal growth paths then maybe some of us had been initially. That, and the problem was is that with the

curriculum the way it was where you had to go through it sequentially, if somebody missed their window and couldn't attend an event then they had to wait for a whole other cycle,

Det. Poling: Oh, another year

Martha: yea, and then he lost people during that like people would fall away. So somewhere along the line, he decided, okay we are going to open it up and you know anybody can come and go to anything there's no prerequisites basically anymore.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: So instead of having people and, and, and I don't know how much you've been told about these, but you know, there's, it was always an experienced at every event which is part of what made it so powerful, you had classroom stuff, you started out with the workbook, you're are taking notes, you're sitting there and the usual seminar kind of setup but there was always a whole lot more going on there.

Det. Poling: Well what is meant by experience when you say that?

Martha: I am going to tell you.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: So Power, the Power to Win, uhm was the trademark of the Power to Win was always the board break that's uh, you know and he, and he borrowed a lot of stuff from Tony Robbins. Tony Robbins does the board break too, where you take your board, they have these boards especially cut, they're about, I don't know how, how thick they are, uh you know 3/8 inch something or other. You, uh, they take these, you have a board and you write uhm you know an obstacle, something that's holding you back, some set of limiting belief, you write that on the board. And then on the other side, you write what you want to (Inaudible) leave with. And then there's a big sort of ceremony thing where you break the board and you have about you know three minutes of training on how to do it and then people line up and they break boards and they do, I mean people break boards daily. I, I, the first time I did it, it took me like three times, but I made it through the board and I didn't hurt myself and I mean I did scrape myself a little bit (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: No hospital though.

Martha: Yeah, yeah, yeah, no hospitals there.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: The uhm, in the Quantum Leap experience, you uhm the, you did a couple of things there, one was you, everybody went into a separate like ballroom and you practice something called Hakalau which is a Hawaiian thing, your basically using you peripheral

visions, so that you are not in (Inaudible 15:01) vision, you're not like focused in just television, your, your, have a more expanded view. And everybody just walks around the room and using your Hakalau, you avoid bumping into anybody,

Det. Poling: Right, okay

Martha: but that's one experience that you do. The other thing that you do is sort of theme of Quantum Leap that is based on the film The Matrix, if you have seen that and you talk about the red pill and the blue pill, have you seen the movie?

Det. Poling: Yes.

Martha: Okay, so you have a red pill and the blue pill and you know we will show you how to beat the rabbit, whole ghost kind of thing, right, okay. At one point in that, uhm there is a again you're writing some things down and then you line up and you go and you put it in the fire, so there's an experience there like a cleansing thing like I'm letting this go. Okay?

Det. Poling: Okay

Martha: Uhm, and let me think was there anything else at Quantum Leap? Well he added, uhm he did, this is another thing, he got so he was always having to amp it up and like do more things. And the first time, we went through, I have been through Quantum Leap three times

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: and the first time, the first and second time, it was just as I have described it, the third time he added in breaking an arrow where you take a you know a wooden like target shooting arrow with a metal tip and somebody holds it against the, I don't know what you called this part of your body, but it's that little dip in your collarbone at the base of your neck.

Det. Poling: At the sternum?

Martha: No, higher than that, your throat.

Det. Poling: Okay right there at esophagus or --?

Martha: Yeah right there on that, that little, there is a little dip uh below your uhm Adams Apple, there's that little dip between those two bones,

Det. Poling: Right

Martha: you put it right there and somebody holds that, their hand flat against the feather end of the arrow and you walk towards them until the arrow breaks.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: I know it sounds crazy.

Det. Poling: Well if it works.

Martha: (Inaudible) Uhm, and Liz actually held my arrow for me at my last Quantum Leap that I was at.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: So uhm let me see, so that's Quantum Leap. The Creating Wealth Experience, uhm the first time I went and I'd been to that one a couple of times, but only once as a participant, uhm the other times I went I was staffer,

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: uh like a volunteer, a volunteer staffer. Uhm, the first time you did a uhm you did a scavenger hunt, I mean well one time I think you, you, you know you did some things like you make collages and so on uhm and I think he got rid of that in the place that was (Inaudible). But the, the big activity was he'd got on a bus, and he took you into La Jolla which I don't know if you are aware of that, but it's a very expensive (inaudible) place, right?

Det. Poling: Uh, huh, it is.

Martha: Yeah and you get off the bus in La Jolla and you're given basically a scavenger hunt list with points. And you go around and basically you know try to collect these things and then you meet up at the, and they give you, they tell you what the address is you're supposed to show up in the end at a certain time which is a restaurant. So everybody runs around La Jolla and uhm collects things and then there's a tallying up of the things you've collected and somebody is the winner. And I forget what the winner gets, but you know bragging rights for one thing.

Det. Poling: Right

Martha: Uhm so that's another exercise you know to show you that they're really, you know there are more things. Well the thing is the exercises always show you whatever it is you need to learn and so everybody gets something different out of them, that's the whole point.

Det. Poling: Right, it's an individual learning.

Martha: Yeah exactly and I am telling you, fantastic,

Det. Poling: That's great

Martha: like he was so creative about the things that he came up with and they were always delivered you know in such a way that we really got so much out of it and we look back on this experience that we had with him, very, very fondly. So that was in Creating Wealth. Uhm Leadership, a couple of things, well Leadership gets a little, Leadership which later became Practical Mysticism that starts to get a little more intense. Leadership, you walk fire. Again Tony Robbins does that too but I don't think he does it quite the same way. I mean they, uhm a fire is uh built in a (Inaudible) and you spend some time in the classroom talking about you know the meaning behind it and all this other kind of stuff and then you have the opportunity to walk the hot coals. And lots of people have been burnt over the years including me. The first time I did it, I did not get burned. My feet were uncomfortable for a couple of days after which, it was just like they were sort of scorching, they weren't really burned. But there was at least one person at that first one that was burnt, uhm actually two that I am thinking of right now. And uhm the other thing that we did at that event was that we bent rebar with our necks. Uhm again you had like a 6-foot maybe 4, I don't know how long it was, piece of rebar, two people face each other and again he placed that rebar right on that place in your neck again,

Det. Poling: on the front?

Martha: at the base of your throat, yeah and the only thing between the rebar and your throat is a folded up dollar bill, it's folded up into like a you know a little one inch square, so that you don't scratch yourself.

Det. Poling: Uh huh

Martha: And you walk towards the other, you know you lock eyes and then you walk towards each other and you bend it and I'm, I'm telling you this and it sounds absurd but I have done it.

Det. Poling: And it works?

Martha: Yeah. Again so there's another reference for the students about wow, I'm more than this you know. I don't ever recall there being any mishaps with the rebar, because basically if somebody feels that they can't do it, they just back away and they don't do it. But people will, they say don't do it the first time, they just keep trying it. And I have had my struggles with the idea, some people just do it right away and other people have to really work at getting into the right space to be able to do it. And then there's like a high ropes course, zip line you know that kind of stuff which is very challenging for some people, but also lots of fun. In Hawaii, well then we talked about the Spiritual Warrior, so Spiritual Warrior and we did it twice, we also did it in 2006. Again I'm going to guess there might have been 40 people at 2006, I don't think there was any more than that because I do recall being in both times, like we were in the uhm, actually I don't really remember the first time in the sweat lodge that well. But being in the sweat lodge, there

would have been, it wasn't the one that huge one that was built, it was whatever would be considered a normal size sweat lodge, I suppose with the wood, because we thought before you know they put the blankets on it or whatever, I mean we have seen the shells where it's like a wooden thing you know sort of strapped together deal. And it was covered up with blankets. Now the first time we did it, it was very cold, it was freezing outside, I mean like really cold, like in the 30s and we were wet.

Det. Poling: Wow, yeah because

Martha: I know this cause we were wet

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) last which you (Inaudible) that sweat and you then you go into the cold.

Martha: What we did, and you're covered with mud, you come out of the sweat lodge and you're all, you're all sweaty and you've been sitting in dirt, so you're filthy. So what we all did was we hosed ourselves down and just changed clothes right there, I mean I didn't even really care it's dark and I don't care I got to go in and sleep with the Vision Quest thing for two days. So we just (Inaudible) through, just hosed ourselves, towed off, put new clothes on and went off to the Vision Quest. But it was very cold because I remember him commenting on how, as he was leaving that night to go back to his cozy little padded encampment, someone sat on the car, told him that it was like you know 36 or something.

Det. Poling: Wow

Martha: And we were cold, I was really cold, yeah.

Det. Poling: I bet

Martha: And that first year, we are talking about 30 some people in the sweat lodge and it's freezing outside. And one of my friends was commenting on the sweat lodge because he had done it before and then I remember him saying like you know this is not a great sweat lodge because I could feel cold air on my butt, you know so cold outside, they need to put like more blankets on it. So in 2006, we do it and there's more people, Angel Valley has now amped it up so that they can accommodate more people. They have put in some like temporary buildings and they had some, some people were staying in like platform tents that's where the uhm, the so called Dream Team was staying in the platform tent. I stayed in one of those teepees and they didn't have adequate bathroom facilities, so they had like trailer like you would have in the construction site those kind of bathroom trailer, they had that kind of stuff there, it's not port, it's like an actual trailer you know with a shower and sink and flush toilet, but it was a trailer. So there still weren't you know they still were challenged with accommodating all of us, but I can remember what the dining room looks like there and I can't imagine there had been 60 people in the dining room, it was more like 40, I want to say that year. And I do remember there being two rings of people around me, I mean the ring around the fire was

two deep because there were some people that were sitting two deep in other words, two rows deep.

Det. Poling: Like an outer circle and an inner circle?

Martha: Exactly, so there were some people that chose to sit on the inner circle, but I sat on the inner circle, but they could also move back like there was room to move in there, not a lot, but there was room to move. And you've spoken to Tere Gingerella and I remember actually that might have been in the first year that I was sitting next to her. I remember sitting next to Tere in the sweat lodge. But yeah and it was as has been described in the media, James sits at the door then calls the stones in and you know pours the water on and you did several rounds and there is you know chanting and praying and that kind of stuff in between and blah-blah-blah. The first year that I was there a guy did leave, he got up, he got up and left, he was a big man, he got up and left and there is a saying that's called Haiyaha, it's like I don't know and some kind of Native American thing like you know that's cool. He got up and he got and left because he didn't feel well, he wasn't sweating, so he was getting overheated so he left, no problem. The second year that we did it in 2006, Maurice was there and got up and left and he actually came back, but he got up left for a little bit and then came back. And again no problem, but other than that everybody stayed all the way through. And we had done, in that one, we had done the Vision Quest first and the sweat lodge was last,

Det. Poling: Okay

Martha: I believe I remember, right. So when you go up to Modern Magick and you do, that one you walk glass, yeah broken glass. And it gets thrown down on a towel like in front of you and I have done that twice and I don't ever remember anybody being injured on that either, at least not seriously, somebody might have gotten a little pin-prick or something, but no big deal. And so I have been to Hawaii twice, Greg has been to Hawaii twice. Then what happened was The Secret came out somewhere along in there and he got little famous and he changed the rules like I was paid up to go to another Hawaii, I was gonna to go to another one. And he moved the goal-posts, some friends of mine, Julie Bunker who would be a really good person for you to talk to because she was at Spiritual Warrior 2007 or 2008, but one before this, where it was also, she said, when she called me, Julie is the one who called me to tell me about what had happened on the Friday. And she said you know it's a miracle that didn't happen last year because we had, she was, I got out after the second round, I was like I'm going to die here and I got to get out now. And she said people were staggering around, being sick and she said it's miracle, her words, something to the effect of it's a miracle we didn't lose anybody last year.

Det. Poling: And that was in 2008 then, huh?

Martha: I think so, yes, but Julie would be the one to tell you that

Det. Poling: Gotcha

Martha: for sure. And so anyway the reason that we fell away, Greg and I fell away and, and, and dropped the, dropped the course because he changed the rules and he changed the course, he took out the content of, a good bit of the content of we were umh that we had been working on and he raised the price substantially. And I am like, okay you know this is not what I signed up for, I shouldn't have to signed up for that. So at that point, I decided that I was done and withdrew and took myself off all the lists. And you know I had some, I was no longer able to contact him directly, I had to work through staff, but you know I made my feelings known and got as clear on it as I could. Yeah then that's another big shift is that when we started, we had complete access to him, he would say call me, make an appointment, but call me any time you need my support or my help. He knew us by name, he knew our stuff and he really knew us and just personally I don't know how that could have been possible when the numbers went up the way they did and that's just my personal take on it you know.

Det. Poling: Okay. Going back to Spiritual Warrior, did he ever tell you, you said you used the word experience, so each one of these you experienced something, did James Ray tell you what you will experience by participating in the sweat lodge?

Martha: I am trying to think, I mean we called these things radical spiritual experiences, okay, so anytime we did something like this, we referred to it as a radical we were spiritual, it was radical spiritual experience and the idea is to give yourself an out of, not so much in it, but I know that word "out of body experience" has been used, but it's more about knowing that you are more, I mean normal people can't bend rebar with their necks, would you agree?

Det. Poling: I don't think I could do it.

Martha: Well that's the thing you could, but it's not something that you would normally do. So when you step out on something on a high rope course, and a lot of people do high rope courses, not just to be physically active, I mean there is challenge there you know. You step out on something and even though you know that you are tethered and you are on repel and all that on delay, it can scare the living shit out of you,

Det. Poling: Right

Martha: you step on and you are like whoa, it's really I remember stepping down on like the wire going okay it's really blue up here.

Det. Poling: Well like when we watch it on TV, you know you see these people doing this and you go, they're strapped on, how hard can that be. Well when you're up on the wire or on the rope or whatever it's a different story.

Martha: Yeah. So the whole idea you know it's about breaking through barriers, it's about letting go of limiting beliefs, it's about knowing that you can do more than you think you can, it's about knowing that you are more than you think you are that you are physical being having a spiritual experience, and those aren't James words, but he quotes

that all the time, that you are a physical being, you are spiritual, I am sorry, you are spiritual being having a physical experience, so you are not just this flesh and blood, you are much more than that. And one of the ways to do that is to step out of your normal day-to-day stuff. We did a lot of coursework and theoretical stuff, but then you actually go out and do something that anchors it in a physical way, so you go wow. Okay so the sweat lodge, he borrows from everybody and that actually has been part of his brilliance in my opinion is that he had the ability to take material from all kinds of different sources and synthesize it together and deliver it in a very understandable way. So he would borrow from the Native American tradition, he borrowed from the Hawaiian traditions, he borrowed from the South American natives, and has read extensively and like weaves all this stuff together. So when you are doing the stuff in Arizona, you are of course heavily on the Native American side of things and you are experiencing the energy of Sedona which is why people go there and the red rocks, and okay now we are going to do a sweat lodge, now this is a cleansing experience, but it's also you know little bit physically challenging and you know you may need to sometimes push yourself a little farther than you think you can that's where the trouble comes in, in my opinion again because --

Det. Poling: Well that's why I need to get into that portion of that, you know each one of you is pushing yourself, but there's some safety to it, or there should be you know it's like if you are on that ledge and you have the rope.

Martha: Right, I don't know what happened in that sweat lodge, I can only imagine. My experience with him, when I did them was, people did get up and leave if they felt they needed to leave and nobody gave them a hard time about it. And yet it's almost inevitable that I think as time went on, I mean I always referred to him as a teacher, as my teacher and I knew he was not perfect. There were plenty of times when I took him on about that as well. We had some exchanges. But I used to always say, well he is a fantastic teacher and you don't want your teacher to be perfect because then you could never strive to be you know that. So those are the kinds of things that I said to myself to make it all make sense, but he was very male, I don't if that makes sense to you.

Det. Poling: It does.

Martha: Having a lot of male energy, okay, a lot of testosterone and people inevitably would sort of, myself included would find yourself in a position of seeking approval, it's not an uncommon dynamic with a student and a teacher, would you agree?

Det. Poling: Right, I would agree.

Martha: My sense is that what happened is you get 60 people in there, but there were also way too many people, God knows what's going on with the oxygen levels in that place if that many people breathing the air and all of that. It's too crowded, it's not easy for somebody to get out if they need to get out. It's people trying to do what they think is expected of them which is to stick it out. And nobody knows when to listen to their inner voice which is saying, get the hell out of here, which is what happened to my friend Julia.

She said, she goes, it was really hot and then she said you know the second round was coming and before it came, a door opened and the girl next to me got up, she said the door opened and nothing, no air came in, I thought well this isn't good because if no air is gonna come in when the door opens, I am not going to do well. And she said, the person next to her got up and left and she immediately got up and followed her and she said, if she hadn't gotten up, I don't know if I would have had the courage to do it myself.

Det. Poling: Wow!

Martha: As I understand it the people that were most affected were the ones that were furthest away from the door.

Det. Poling: Right

Martha: So that would have been that much harder to climb over, to clamber over to make your way around the rocks and all that kind of stuff. Then you know have James there, passing judgment on you which is you know whether he was or not, if you could see that he is, the image is the same.

Det. Poling: Right (Inaudible) right

Martha: Yeah and you know and I got to tell you, you know Liz was my friend and I had a lot of shared experiences with Liz, I get a little choked up even talking about her. Not that I have seen her in like two years and it's not like that we talked on any kind of regular basis, but you know she was my sister in all of this. And one of the emotions that I have had to deal with around Liz's death is anger with her for not listening to her own intuition and saying this is enough, I'm getting out, because she could have saved herself and possibly the others. She was viewed clearly as a leader because she was one of the longstanding people and had even worked for him for a time as a coach and you know had Dream Teamed many events, so you know when you are staffer, people look at you as more of a leader too. How different might it have been, had Liz said okay this is crazy, I'm getting out of here and other people would have followed?

Det. Poling: Right, I agree. And that's what I didn't understand like the experience, what is told about the experience like are you going to experience intense heat, what, you know, what is this goal, you know what I mean? What is the goal of the sweat lodge?

Martha: Well I am going to try to remember and I can really only give you my impressions. My impressions of the sweat lodge were okay you know this is a final cleansing thing, it's a higher element type of thing, so you know it's cleansing it's about rebirth, it's about metaphorically you go into the sweat lodge and kind of die and come out born anew, you know its sort of womb like in its structure and there's all this heat. He does tell you that you know, it's going to be hot and the stones are gonna come in, we're gonna pour water on and if you get too hot, you get down, lie lower down and that kind of thing. I do remember the first time we did it, he said, he called around to try to find somebody who would facilitate this, host it and facilitate it. He couldn't find

anybody who was willing to do it, because he called some Native American places I guess that do this. And they said well how many stones or how many rounds did you want to do and I forget how many he said, but whatever his number was, they said no, white people can't do that. And he thought that was really funny then he said, well you don't know my white people, but yeah exactly you don't know my white people is what he said. So he took over and did it himself and found Angel Valley who was willing to let him do that, I guess. I also remember the first time we did the high ropes course at the place in California, the name of which escapes me, the guys that were the whatever you call them you know the rope guys, the teachers, said, he told us, he said they said okay well we'll bring them out and you know the first step, we will just get everybody warmed up, you know we will start out with doing some things on the ground and James said no they're going up. And they said well no, how we usually like to do this is we would like to get people acclimated and get everybody comfortable and we do a couple of things on the ground and James said, no they are going up. So we went, that's what we did. We got there, we immediately went up. Now he told us this story in the context of telling us also that the guys were so impressed with our group because we did go right up and nobody had a problem and we just took it on and did it you know, but in looking back on it you would see more examples of things where the professionals said one thing and he said something else and we all followed.

Det. Poling: Right, and I can understand that, I can see where you're breaking through and doing this stuff and that's good stuff.

Martha: Those were all good stuff, it really was. It was very good stuff. We got a lot out of it and we met great people and we had great experiences. He was a great teacher, I think my personal thing is that it got too big. That if you're going to do those kinds of intense experiences, the group size has got to be smaller or you lose control, that's my personal thing. I wasn't there for the big groups, so I don't know, I do know that the second time that I was in Hawaii, I felt the group was getting too big, I did, because in Hawaii at Modern Magick in addition to walking on glass, you also walked the volcano, you walked the crater and we got totally lost. We are lucky we didn't all get like Shermanized on that because he led us across and so you could tell by the way we were turning that, a big storm came up it was hard to see but anyway that was kind of a crazy thing though. We did that and we did the glass and we did something called trans-dancing which is you are blindfolded and they put on some aboriginal sort of you know thump thump kind of music and you are just left to dance on your own for some period of time. And the first time we did it, again there were, gosh, we were in Hawaii, there were probably 20 of us first time. And there were couple of staffers there, who were not blindfolded and if you got too close to a table or too close somebody else they would come up behind you and like put their hands on your shoulders and sort of like steer you in another direction. And I did it the second time in Hawaii, there were so many people there that you were getting smashed you know, knocked in the face, bumped into and I thought well this is really like, this is not a good experience because you're supposed to be just expressing yourself freely while getting into the music and not thinking about anything else, but if you're waiting where the next smack in the mouth is gonna come from,

Det. Poling: Right it takes away

Martha: You know? Yeah but he thought it was great, he thought it was great, he was talking to somebody afterwards saying oh you know your dancing was awesome, you were so into it, you were so great, and then all of a sudden, she keeled over face first onto the floor. And we're not supposed to move as part of the deal. Like you are in this secret circle thing and nobody is supposed to move and if do have to move you have to move clockwise around the circle. So she just keeled over, boom, face first onto the floor and I'm like holy shit, he doesn't see it, he's in the middle of this big ballroom doing whatever he is doing, maybe even Josh saw it but they were on the far side of the room and they don't move, okay. Everybody in the room saw this happen except for James and maybe some people didn't see it happen but they saw it, the fact that she's on the floor. I look at the guy on my left, the guy that was on her other side, and he's not moving. So I'm like well I have got to do something, so I kneel down and I put my hand on her back and I'm like okay she appears to be breathing and there was a doctor, pediatrician, but a doctor about six people to my left and he told me afterwards, he goes I was going to come, but I didn't know what to do and as long as you were there, I was going to wait and see, because I was going to have to walk all the way around to get there. And he would have had to go all the way around the room, so it would have been a big whatever, again that like big disturbance thing that you don't want to be the one making the disturbance. Well I put my hand on her and I am just sort of like, you know she is breathing, so I am sort of like just sort of gently rubbing her back and she started to come to and she turns and looks at me and you know she had no clue what happened and she broke her jaw, she got blood coming out of her mouth and you know I helped her up and I see this blood and she feels it and she reaches up and touches it and it's like blood coming out of her mouth because of her teeth, you know. I don't know what to do with her, right and there was blood on the floor, I mean she bled enough there was blood on floor. So I help her up and I'm like you know you are okay, you are okay, and I don't know if she was okay.

Det. Poling: To make her feel better at least.

Martha: It's something to say, right?

Det. Poling: Mmm hmm

Martha: And I held onto her for a little bit and she continued to stand there and she stood there throughout the whole thing. And, I mean her husband was there, he didn't move.

Det. Poling: Wow

Martha: So when it was all done, they took her out she went to the doctor; her husband I guess to her someplace and they got her checked out and she had a fracture. Now the issue there was, there was somebody in our group who is head surgeon in the military and she said what he needs to tell people is that you can't lock your knees like they tell you in the military. If you're gonna be standing in aparade, you can't have your knees locked,

you have to keep your knee soft, so that if you do go down, you are going to crumple and not (Inaudible) and she did (Inaudible).

Det. Poling: Wow. And what did she learn from all this? Isn't it what he says a lot of times?

Martha: Well, yeah, he would say things like well, yeah a lot of people, a lot of us were programmed to always say well, what did I do to attract this, what about me, (Inaudible) and some of it's good, but it goes, taking to extremes, it's disempowering in my opinion. It's empowering to take responsibility for things that you create in your life.

Det. Poling: Right

Martha: You know we all want to do that, but if everything, you know, sometimes shit just happens too, I mean I believe. Anyway, that's one thing to Julia; Julia said that when she was at Modern Magick last year that they did a brick break and people broke their hands.

Det. Poling: Right.

Martha: And a number of people broke their hands and they were all going around, going oh well, you know, I was (Inaudible) this thing and dah-dah-dah and she's like okay, you guys are like, this is ridiculous.

Det. Poling: And that was little tough for a lot of people I guess and there was a number of that went to the hospital.

Martha: Okay. Well, we didn't do that and we didn't do bricks, when I was there. We did ceremony, we did glass, and we walked the volcano and --.

Det. Poling: You did a lot that I haven't heard before, you know I haven't about the rebar, I haven't heard about the glass, so that's all new to me.

Martha: Yeah.

Det. Poling: In my interviews and I did have a good, in 2004, I was looking that, there's only like 14 people in his Spiritual Warrior Retreat.

Martha: Yeah, okay, so you mean you actually have like the rosters?

Det. Poling: Oh, I got them all. I got 2003 too. There were actually 40 people at that one.

Martha: At which one now?

Det. Poling: 2003. I am trying to see if you are in here in 2003.

Martha: 40 people in 2003?

Det. Poling: Yeah, that might not be your group. Liz Neuman was there.

Martha: Liz was there, Diane Hunter. The first one that I went to

Det. Poling: Diane Hunter was there.

Martha: Diane Hunter, okay that's the first one. There were 40 people because it doesn't seem like that many, I know why, because not everybody initiated. So I can see the group in the circle and it's where the people that initiated and then yeah, that first one was James Wiley, Diane Hunter, Debbie Rash, that gang, yeah, the Wilfreds, Larry and Jodi,

Det. Poling: Lou Caci

Martha: Yea, Lou, yea uh Buddy and Cathy Edmuston, Heather Kilroy.

Det. Poling: Kim Covell.

Martha: Camilla Gregory, Gloria Point, yea and Liz and James Wiley and the Morrows, Mark and Sheila.

Det. Poling: Why don't I have you on here? I don't have your name on here at all.

Martha: Do you have Greg (Inaudible)?

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

Martha: I don't know. Do you have Greg (Inaudible)?

Det. Poling: Yep. Yep, on [REDACTED]

Martha: That would be my husband, yea.

Det. Poling: Yeah, but I don't have you on here, how come? That's weird

Martha: Is that the Spiritual Warrior in Hawaii?

Det. Poling: No. That was (Inaudible)

Martha: Or the one in Sedona?

Det. Poling: That was Sedona in November. That's when it would have been maybe cold, too.

Martha: Yeah.

Det. Poling: But for some reason your name's not on here, unless they put you on a different name.

Martha: Martha Stem is the name.

Det. Poling: Yeah, there is no, you are not on this list, but that's okay. It doesn't mean you don't exist, you're okay, that's weird. Oh well, not a big deal but yea there was 40 signed up on the roster and then a year before that there was only like 17, but yeah, Tere was there too.

Martha: What do you mean the year before that, because there was no Spiritual Warrior the year before that, that was the first one?

Det. Poling: Oh am I in 2003, right now, hold on I forgot which one I was in, sorry, that's my mistake. Yeah, this is 2003, November. And then yes, (Inaudible) and 2004 (Inaudible)

Martha: (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: So there's more in your group than the next year, (Inaudible)

Martha: Okay. Well, yeah, you see I think that was a challenge, was uhm because as the course you know, I think he kind of hit like a crossroads here; what do I do about this course because of the sequential business and people missed (Inaudible) then they couldn't go. And so then the numbers are affected so then he started opening stuff up, and I'm not sure exactly when that all happened cause he was always changing stuff but somewhere along the line that happened.

Det. Poling: Oh, okay. In 2005, they went up about 50, so they started getting bigger after that and that was after The Secret, right? (Inaudible) changes.

Martha: I don't know no, well I don't actually remember when The Secret came out, but it was all part of that. Like he told us about you know that he'd been filming this thing and he was all excited about it. So then we were all excited to see it come out. Then it comes out you know and he has his little part. And then when we went to that Quantum, when I went to Quantum Leap that one year, well I can't remember the years now but it's like the third one I went to, he was actually using clip at that time. Oh so here's what happened, because of The Secret he actually did a call with us, and my husband probably has that recorded where he said you know where he disbanded the fraternity, he got rid of the (Inaudible) we are not going to do any of that stuff anymore. We're not, he says, because I can't, all it would take is a picture of us walking around in white robes to show up on Oprah and you know the whole thing will be done. And I'm like okay what, I thought this was something that was supposed to be important, we were all on the same page here, we are trying to make a better world for people and that's really not what we're about, so good bye.

Det. Poling: I'm trying to think here. I've looked up this too. Now, you're here in 2006, they have you listed in 2006, just not 2003. So we got you. So what else should we know that I haven't asked, that you might think is important, you did tell me a whole a lot and I do appreciate your talking to me today because I got information that I didn't have before.

Martha: Yeah, well I mean there is this actual stuff and then there's the uhm you know where did he go wrong thing and I just I think I have told you, well I didn't tell you about the time that might have something that my husband and I burned the hell out of our feet.

Det. Poling: Well, if he told you, he said, look, do this, you're not gonna burn your feet, just trust me, and you burn your feet then, yeah I definitely want to know that if he says, this could cause injury but if you focus right, I don't know what he is saying like to get you to do that.

Martha: Yes. Well, you know I don't know either. It's just that I know another time, the time that Greg's facilitated, I don't know why some people burn their feet and some people don't and I don't know some people, and I don't know why that happens. I don't know why I was able to do it one time and I didn't and another time, I did. Christine Rocks burned her feet badly, when she went through that Magical Mysticism because my husband was, my husband and (Inaudible) Wilfred were the staffers at that time. And Greg said oh, she burned her feet badly. Why, I don't know. And it's the kind of thing that if you burn your feet, it's your fault.

Det. Poling: But if you're do it properly, you wouldn't have done it, right?

Martha: Yeah. That's the implication, stated or non-stated, is that you know if you do it right, and that's why the people were talking like that when they broke their hands, was if you were in the right space, if you weren't resisting, and if you weren't holding on to your stuff, you wouldn't have hurt yourself, that's your fault.

Det. Poling: That's where the (Inaudible) comes from.

Martha: Yeah.

Det. Poling: I could see him saying, I could see that. I could see the meaning there, but still I mean people putting themselves through that I don't know why, but they do break through and if you are breaking through that's the good part.

Martha: Right.

Det. Poling: And then I would never say anything bad, it's just some of these things, I think could have been done differently to prevent accidents from happening and that's

Martha: Well, I would agree and I think that it's hard, I mean I did all that stuff and I really was fine, I mean yea I burned my feet, but they were fine in about a week and a

half. I would say Christine burnt her feet, she kept going and then she broke her jaw and she kept going. So whatever the value was for her, was greater than the price she paid in terms of the injury.

Det. Poling: Right.

Martha: And you know we're people of free will, so that if you want to do that, that's fine. Having done additional work that I've done, what I have come to understand is all this, you know when crazy things like this happen, it's always men.

Det. Poling: It's always a man's fault.

Martha: So think about David Koresh and Jim Jones and you know this kind of stuff. When something like this goes to kaplooy, it's the (Inaudible) leader.

Det. Poling: Yes.

Martha: It's not a woman and it's an (Inaudible) thing, when you're running all this male energy people are not paying attention to what's going on with their bodies. Their not listening to their intuition, their not following their female side, the female intuition and their not following that. And if their female intuition is saying, okay, this is really not a good idea, we don't need to be here right now or this is, we have had enough and it's time to go home. I'm thinking (Inaudible) that, because "you need to push through".

Det. Poling: Right.

Martha: "You're a wimp if you don't", kind of thing.

Det. Poling: Right. And I don't know, does he tell you that? Does he say you have to push through or you're a failure?

Martha: No, he wouldn't say that, he wouldn't say that in that way. I do remember being at Leadership I with Ryan and Stephanie Swanson, they haven't been on, in the course for some time, but she was pregnant at the time, and she was on my team and she was probably like first trimester, it's that time when you're exhausted all the time. And here she is doing this event, she is exhausted. And we have some assignment that we had to do and her husband who was a very driven guy was on another team was giving her a hard time about she wasn't pulling her weight or whatever. And there were two women on my team myself included and we were like you know what, she needs to take a little break now. We're gonna do this and she can go back and lie down. And James said well no, she needs to work through whatever she needs to work through and (Inaudible), James she's s pregnant. Well yea but she has to find a way to work with that. And I was like okay, you know, you jackass. That was one of those jackass moments.

Det. Poling: Yes, the man thing

Martha: So that's an example of as close as I can come to him (Inaudible) saying, well, you gotta do it anyway kind of thing. But no, he would not stand up there and say I don't care how much it hurts, you would have to do this, that's not how it comes.

Det. Poling: All right.

Martha: It's more like, seems like you show up as you, that's the famous James (Inaudible). He probably stole it from somebody. You show up as you, so when you do these exercises however you show up is how you show up in your daily life. So if you are not getting the results that you want in your daily life and then you see how you're performing at one of these tasks, what does that tell you?

Det. Poling: Yeah.

Martha: You know that kind of things, (Inaudible) really.

Det. Poling: No, I believe that and now I am supposed to be getting a CD so I can listen to this, but I still haven't got one yet.

Martha: What kind of a CD?

Det. Poling: I thought I was going to get, but I don't know, they said they are going to give me one that tells about James Ray and what he does. So I guess it goes through all the stuff.

Martha: What do you mean the office is gonna give you one?

Det. Poling: Someone was gonna give me one and he hasn't done it yet.

Martha: Now, you know cause I talked an awful lot of stuff because I still have a lot of stuff in the house and I was guided to clear it all out and get rid of it. So I packed up my robe and I packed up, because I still had it in the closet. I packed up my robe and I packed up my ring and I packed up anything that you know he had sort of given me or that I have bought from him and shipped it back to their office.

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

Martha: I also had (Inaudible) you have to speak loudly.

Det. Poling: Yes.

Martha: We had some CDs. We have some bonus sort of CDs that were like recorded. I have a CD that was recorded at the Spiritual Warrior 2006, (Inaudible) if you want that.

Det. Poling: Did he talk about it about the (Inaudible)?

Martha: I don't know what he talked, I don't know what's on it. All I know is there is, you know it was part of the course the classroom time, they recorded it, burned a CD and said you know this is like a bonus for you to take home. So I don't remember what's on it, but I had bundled all that stuff up to throw it away and my husband took it out to the garage so I said you know what maybe we should keep that because they might want it. But I don't think, I honestly don't know what's on it, I haven't listened to it. I mean not since I came back from there yeas ago.

Det. Poling: Yeah, just sounds like it's interesting. If you are gonna, in my opinion, if you're gonna do the case, you need to understand everything.

Martha: Right. Well, I would like nothing better than for uhm you bring this to a court and to get some justice, I am telling. I subscribed to the ABC News feed for Phoenix now and I watch everyday. (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Well I'll keep you posted when it does happen and you know what's going on. We're gonna to be wrapping this up in the next week or two and presenting it, giving it to the County Attorney's Office so we'll see.

Martha: Okay

Det. Poling: I can't promise anything, I'm just trying to put all the facts together and hand it to him so he can make that determination.

Martha: So do you want me to, what can we send you? What else can we give you?

Det. Poling: Well, you don't have to send me anything, I'm just curious you know of what, I just haven't seen nothing. I don't even have The Secret at home, you know, I could go to library or something.

Martha: Yeah, yeah, yeah, okay.

Det. Poling: I just want to check it out, if I'm gonna you know be involved in it, I wanna know what it is about, so when I am talking I understand. Then I can say okay I get it, you know.

Martha: Okay. He's just got one little piece on The Secret but you know all of those guys that appeared in that used that as much as they could and I mean it's their business, right. Okay, so I would surely encourage you to talk to Julia Bunker because she was there more recently.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Martha: And she was there when the thing got big.

Det. Poling: I got her down here. Let's see if I have your email address, it might be an old email address, I have Greg's

Martha: It's not one, I don't check that one very often, the [REDACTED] let me give you another one.

Det. Poling: Okay, I got, I just have the Yahoo one.

Martha: You said Yahoo, so you do [REDACTED]

Det. Poling: [REDACTED] Okay. Net. I will send you an e-mail that way you just have my information if you ever need to email, or you do have my email.

Martha: Exactly.

Det. Poling: Okay. Well, I'll send you confirmation that I talked to you just so you know.

Martha: Okay.

Det. Poling: And my information.

Martha: Okay.

Det. Poling: And if you have any questions, feel free to ask me or contact me, I'll keep you posted.

Martha: Okay, I appreciate it.

Det. Poling: I appreciate your help today.

Martha: All right Mike, thank you so much.

Det. Poling: Martha, enjoy rest of the day.

Martha: Okay. Bye-bye.

Det. Poling: Bye now.

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