

Interviewee: Lisa Cipriany-Dacko (hyphenated last name)

Interviewer: Laura DiRusso

[Introduction] *How did you decide to hyphenate your name?* Since I was a physical therapist for eight to ten years before I got married, everybody already knew me by Cipriany. That was one reason I wanted to keep my name. And then because my only brother Allen had died I wanted to keep the name Cipriany around just for my dad. For those two reasons I decided to keep my name. *Do Emily and Sarah [your daughters] have hyphenated names?* No theirs are Dacko. I was really just doing for my dad and I didn't want them to worry about having a long last name cause it's a real hassle to have a long last name....*Did you have anyone that influenced your decision?* No not really I was pretty independent by the time I got married so I just wanted, [long pause] since I had so many professional contacts out there I just wanted people to remember who I am. *Do you think in choosing to hyphenate your last name it has worked out for you?* There's like lots of disadvantages to it it's a real pain sometimes because, all the time I use my whole name and people just send back Dacko. I even had a lawyer say to me one time "What is your name anyhow? Is it Cipriany, is it Dacko, is it Cipriany-Dacko?" like it's all my fault that everybody else decides to change it. I think people are just lazy because Dacko is shorter than Cipriany-Dacko. It really bothers the heck out of me when a guy uh, donates to a charity and we have both our names on the check and they say "Mr.Stan Dacko thank you very much for the donation". He had nothing to do with the charity donation [laughs] it's like you just don't even exist. So there's still a lot of problems with that. *So Cipriany's first but people still choose to call you Dacko?* Oh all the time. I mean just when we're at church, Pastor Jim just did the advent reading and said "it'll be the Dackos". So, you know. Which, that's ok. I mean when it's kind of a family thing there are more Dackos than Cipriany-Dackos so, then I'm ok with that. But I think people just do it cause they're, you know, I mean it's not a real easy thing. I go to vote every year and it's the same old guy at the voting booth that says, I even wear my name badge from work just so he can read it, and I tell him my name and he calls me Dacko and his wives going, "It's Cipriany it starts with a C not a D!" [laughs] *So do you think if you had to make the same choice you'd make it?*

Yeah, I think I would absolutely I think I would, yeah, yep. Cause I have [pause], there's just too many people, you know, a tons of my friends found me on Facebook just cause my name's Cipriany..... *So for you do you think that keeping your last name has been effective in helping feminism in general, or what do you think about taking a husbands name that makes women invisible, or erases them?* Yeah, I do think that and there were some feminist motives behind me doing that. It really bothers me when we [women] do all the work and the man gets the credit [laughs]. So I definitely had some motives in that. .... *Do you think you made the right choice in your daughters keeping Dacko?.* Yes, I think they'll develop their own identities as Dackos when they grow up, and I think they'll be ok because that'll be their identity. If somebody says "what's your mom's name, they use my whole name". They respect my choice to keep it, but they'll develop their own identity as a Dacko. As long as people don't call them dorko I don't care [laughs].