

**Chapel Hill Public Archive  
Pandemic Stories Project  
recording with Samir Knego**

*Narrator: Samir Knego*

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*Location: Chapel Hill Public Library*

*Interviewer: Klaus Mayr*

*Additional Attendees: Mandella Younge*

**Klaus Mayr [00:17]:** State your name, you can describe yourself in sort of whatever way you want to, and say whether or not you agree to have the interview recorded.

**Samir Knego [00:25]:** Ok, I'm Samir Knego, I don't know what to say about myself. He/him pronouns, I guess. I worked at the library. I've seen some of these questions before, I'm not going in fresh, but I consent to being interviewed and having it recorded and all that stuff.

**Klaus [00:36]:** Awesome, so before we jump into the questions that we have, I just wanna ask if you have anything that you've been thinking about in regards to your time in the pandemic, anything that you've been wanting to reflect on to start us out? You can sort of take the interview in whatever direction you want to

**Samir [00:59]:** Yeah, one thing I was thinking about the other day is how much the kind of present of the pandemic has affected my memories of before the pandemic. So for instance, I moved from Minnesota, where I've been looking before to North Carolina relatively early on in the pandemic, and when I think back to Minnesota, a lot of my memories are of being places and people wearing masks, but that never happened. I didn't go out that much when people were, like once the pandemic started, my roommate kind of handled all the shopping and stuff, so I don't... it's this sort of fake memory of pandemic in a place where I didn't really have a lot of pandemic experiences, I don't know that that's a good thing or a bad thing, but I think it just sort of speaks to how much the pandemic has kind of reshaped my brain and how I just like the assumptions that I make about what social gatherings look like.

**Klaus [01:55]:** It's like creating false memories in your head, that's how deep it cases pretty wild.

**Samir [02:06]:** I don't know if it's just like masks have become so natural that I just... it's hard to imagine a time without them or what, but it's...

**Klaus [02:16]:** Yeah, I can totally see that, people that you love, your memories of them are not just masked memories.

**Samir [02:23]:** Yeah.

**Klaus [02:23]:** That's really interesting. So you moved to North Carolina during the pandemic? And how deep into it?

**Samir [02:39]:** It was in May, end of May 2020. 'Cause I mostly grew up around here, my family's around here, I had gone to Minnesota for college and stuff, and my roommate in Minnesota worked retail at like a children's bookstore, and of course children are disgusting and grimy, and there had been a lot of talk in May of the bookstore was gonna try to re-open, which they ended up not reopening, at least not at that time, but since I am higher risk, I was really wary of working with someone who was working retail around a bunch of grubby children and so coming home to live with family kind of was the move that made the most sense, I had looked into continuing to live in Minneapolis or St. Paul, but it's an expensive place to live on your own. Not actually as expensive as around here, weirdly, but that's a separate issue I guess.

**Klaus [03:53]:** Just so you know, you have already seen the questions, but if we get to a question that you don't wanna answer, you're uncomfortable with or just like "I don't have anything to say." Feel free to just say pass, we don't have to do it.

What did you do for fun during the pandemic?

**Samir [04:03]:** Um, in a way, I think I did kind of the things I've always done for fun, I... visual art and a bit of writing and I like being outside a lot, a ton of accessible outdoor spaces when it... Back before I moved from Minnesota, my roommate and I would often go to the state fair grounds there, if you're not aware, Minnesota's known for having one of the best state fairs in the country, and their state fair grounds are like... It's like this really elaborate paved system thing. So we spent a lot of time there. And then here, the Bolin Creek Trail, I would go to sometimes. So in a way, I think about my ways of how fun and relaxing are pretty pandemic-friendly.

**Klaus [04:55]:** Did you take up any new hobbies?

**Samir [04:55]:** No.

**Klaus [05:02]:** How long have the zines been going on?

**Samir [05:05]:** The zines are pretty recent. I did my first one towards the end of last year, it was a... I've done visual art and writing for a long time, and I've often thought... I like to think of stuff in sort of collections and put together little kind of collections of things for my own

use and then... But it's only pretty recently that I really got into... Like last fall, I got into actually making them and into some of the zine trading and stuff.

So I guess that is kind of a new pandemic thing. I remember one person I swapped zines with pretty recently... it was a couple of zines that they had made about their pandemic experience. In the past, when I've read about zines and stuff, I tend to not go for the ones that's just like someone sort of telling about their life, because unless it's someone you know, I was always sort of like, "Eh, I don't know if it was that interesting." I went for more, kind of, art and comics and that kind of thing. But I have found that I think the pandemic has made me more interested in some of those individual stories, and I don't know if some of that is a product of... Not kind of engaging with people in the same way or in... And not having, I think, especially some of those interactions with strangers that you maybe would have had more opportunities, or been more likely to stop and talk to someone you didn't really know, or I don't think... I don't feel like I've had that opportunity quite as much. So I have become more interested in that per zines and stuff.

**Klaus [06:44]:** That's such an interesting point, trying to find ways to see other people since we're not allowed to in a lot of spaces.

Were you working anywhere before the library when you moved here?

**Samir [07:05]:** So when I lived in Minnesota. I worked for this digital agency with a focus on... so they do sort of storytelling and creative design for mission-driven organizations, and I interned with them in my last year of college, and then I was working with them... So I guess... Let's see, I guess, 'cause I moved back here when I was interning with them, and then I continued and then I was contracted for them doing sort of editing and a little bit of social media and stuff, and that was through June of last year, and then... And then I started work in the library.

**Klaus [07:55]:** Can you tell me about your experience of working... 'cause I guess as you were...

**Samir [07:57]:** Remotely, yeah.

**Klaus [07:57]:** Can you talk about your experience or working remotely with them working and then starting at the library, coming in... I don't know if you did any work from home for the library, but...

**Samir [08:11]:** No, I didn't. Yeah, it was interesting 'cause that agency — Pollan is what it's called — did a fair amount of remote work and a lot of hybrid work pre-pandemic, so I think before the pandemic for my internship, I was working three days a week and I only went in for one... or I worked three or four days a week, only went in for one. So in a way, it wasn't a

huge kind of cultural shift in the way that I think it was for some organizations since they did have all that stuff in place. In a way, I was really glad because the building that pollen is in, it's this old paint warehouse manufacturing thing, and so they don't have a sort of normal, proper elevator, it's this freight elevator and I couldn't operate it myself, like someone had to come down to help me 'cause there's this whole... You have to pull up this thing and go in and... And it would often get stuck between floors — it was just kind of a nightmare. So in a way that sort of made the building a bit unfriendly, because I had to get help any time I wanted to go in or out. So especially with that, I think I was initially kind of relieved in a way with some of the pandemic, because I was also... the start of the pandemic was during my last semester of college, and the campus I was at, similarly, it was... like the buildings were reasonably accessible, but the whole thing is kind of like on a hill, and I definitely remember when we started having to be home and stuff, being kind of relieved that I didn't have to deal with some of the inaccessibility stuff. So yeah.

I feel like I got off on a tangent, I don't know what the question was

**Klaus [10:06]:** Yeah, you answered it perfectly. Wherever you wanna take any of the questions — there's no tangent from these questions, there's only the right path, which is what you're saying, so don't even worry about it. And I know you've read this question 'cause we just talked about yesterday, but can you tell me how it makes you feel to look back at pictures or journal entries, other relics from earlier in the pandemic?

**Samir [10:31]:** Yeah. I do like this question, I don't know if I have a ready answer for it. A lot of the pictures that I have of... Well, I think it's probably because it is so tied up for me like, pre-pandemic is very tied up with Minnesota and then pandemic is very tied up for me with North Carolina, but a lot of the pictures that I have are of food and stuff in Minnesota or various... I did take pictures like being around the sort of empty state fairgrounds, so those are my two big visual memories, and that kind of supported by photos, or like going to restaurants with my roommate, and then going to the state fair with my roommate, the restaurant being obviously all kind of pre-pandemic stuff and that just feels like... the restaurants and food feels like such a totally different world. Yeah, it really does is. I can't even... I don't know, I don't know what to say. It's just so wild to be like, oh yeah, we like sat in-person eating places, and it's just such a different way of engaging with people and spaces and food, but I don't even know that it's that I miss it, it's just that it feels so different.

**Klaus [12:02]:** Yeah, absolutely. What will you remember most vividly from the last two years, or some of the things that you'll remember vividly.

**Samir [12:10]:** I think in a way, some of the... I think at least at this point, some of the memories that I go back to most are from that weird point at the beginning of the pandemic, where A) it was like, when I was still in Minnesota and... 'cause that was also like for those couple of months was still in when things felt really uncertain in terms of how long it would

be... I think by the time I moved back here, there was more and more of a sense of like, "Okay, this is we're kind of in it for a long time." And I feel like in a way, it's like time just feels like I really has slowed down since I moved back. I think it's also like living with my family, kinda tough in a way, and so yeah, I don't know, for whatever reason I... some of the memories that I do have most vivid are like... Yeah, being at the empty state fair with my roommate, she had decided that she was gonna take lock down to learn how to roller skate, she could roller skate a bit, because she used to play hockey, so she was big into ice skating and I guess it kind of translates to a certain degree. Yeah, and I think it's also because it was like at this... A lot of the state fair... I guess we couldn't even been going to the state fair for the whole time because it would have been lots of snow, so this probably was really only a few weeks that I have then just way expanded out in my head, but I think it's partly... It's like the weather was like... the rare, good bit of Minnesota weather, that little bit of spring that you experience and you're like, "Oh, this is good, this is why I live here," and then it becomes gross in summer, then it becomes gross in winter. Yeah, in a way, I don't feel like I have any memories that feel super obviously pandemic-y. I don't... actually, I think the other kind of big memory that I have is my mom and one of my brothers and I went to Greensboro to the FEMA vaccination center to get vaccinated. My brother was a service worker, and since I'm higher risk, so we went a little bit earlier than some people, and they didn't really have much vaccination stuff around here, but I think it was probably was going somewhere else, even though Greensboro isn't that far away, it felt like such a novelty. I don't even actually remember the getting vaccinated part, but I remember all the stuff around it, but that in a way is maybe my clearer pandemic memory. I don't know, this is another one that, like I think it's a good question, but I don't feel like I have a great answer for it necessarily.

**Klaus [15:16]:** Part of what this is, is just creating a space for people to think about it if it's the first time, and maybe they thought about it before, but my hunch is that... yeah, I don't know how exactly we want to approach it, but... Your answers have been wonderful. So, seems to be going alright. Yeah, you can feel confident in your responses.

**Mandella Younge [15:48]:** Your answers are making me think.

**Klaus [15:55]:** How have your relationships with friends and family changed as a result of the pandemic?

**Samir [15:59]:** Yeah, I think one happy thing about the pandemic is that I ended up sort of getting back in touch with a friend of mine from college, and who now I talked to very frequently. I think... So she had been living in Spain at the time when Spain was really, really locked down and things were pretty grim, and I guess she was like locked down in this tiny apartment and somehow we just ended up talking and texting and calling and stuff, and... So we've really reconnected and then... she had come back briefly to Minnesota and then is now in Northern Ireland, and we still continue talking a lot, I think before... Prior to March

2020, I think we had last talked very briefly... 'cause she's like a year older than me. So it was like she was... She had graduated, and it was like the very end of the semester, I was working at the Tech Desk in the library at my school, and she'd come by and she ended up... nobody I guess needed tech help or didn't interrupt us at least, and we ended talking for a couple of hours and then just sort of never talked ever again, and I wasn't sure if we'd ever talk ever again, and then we did end up reconnecting with the pandemic. So that was really nice. Overall, I think between moving and just being able to see people in person, I do feel like I have... I feel a lot more distant from a lot of my friends, there's a few people, like a lot of my college friends, there's a few people who I still do exchange letters with. My old roommate who now lives in Texas with her partner, and then another friend of mine who I had also kind of lost touch with a bit because they also graduated and then they're living in California now. So it's funny, I sort of how these people all dotted around, but a lot of the people who I knew in college just sort of... I don't know, drifted apart, whereas like... I think that if I still lived in the Twin Cities, I would maybe see them a bit. It's nobody I was super, super close with, but yeah, I do feel like overall, my social circle has probably gotten smaller.

**Klaus [18:39]:** What role has love played in your pandemic? And that can be romantic, platonic familial, whatever direction you want to take it.

**Samir [18:44]:** It's funny because I'm currently taking part in this collaborative zine project thing, talking about... everyone's sort of answering various questions about the idea of love and intimacy and stuff. So I've been sort of thinking about this, and I think one of the — to go back to the eternal theme here of the Empty State Fair — one of my panels was like some of my photos from that because it really does stand out to me as sort of representative of one of the last times that I did feel like I was in that kind of more loving friend environment, like kind of in person and sort of realized that. I think the in person element to friendship and connection and stuff is really important to me, not even necessarily the in person, but it's like place based, I guess. I think of... it's like, I don't know, kind of associating relationships with people with places and stuff.

**Klaus [20:12]:** That's interesting. [inaudible] I'm realizing that the phrasing here is confusing. In what ways has your mental and emotional health been affected by life in the pandemic?

**Samir [20:32]:** I don't feel like there's been any sort of like, super clear single thing, in a way. I definitely know folks who, like, because of the pandemic, have just, are feeling a lot worse than they did before. I remember, as I sort of referenced a bit earlier, earlier on in the pandemic, there was a certain sense of relief of things being able to do things virtually, not having to deal with some of the in-person and accessibility sort of stuff. I guess I should say for the record, since at some point somebody else might listen to this in the future, that I'm disabled and a wheelchair-user — that's like, useful context for this. So, yeah, I don't know.

In a way, early on there was a certain sense of relief, I guess, around that and not having to deal with certain stuff. And definitely in like a lot of the disability community stuff I'm involved with, there has been a lot of frustration throughout the pandemic in various ways, sort of disabled people being forgotten and erased, and I definitely do... I share that frustration, and at the same time, I don't feel like I felt it as kind of acutely as some folks have. I don't feel like it kind of has been maybe weighing on me in the way that I've heard from other people. I think that living at home has been tough, which is obviously as a result of the pandemic. But it's also not as clear as... it's not directly because of COVID. Yeah, I don't know.

**Klaus [22:25]:** Can you tell me about... I feel like you already have touched on it a little bit, but if you have anything else that you want to say about how your physical health has been affected by the pandemic, then would also love to hear about that.

**Samir [22:48]:** Yeah. I don't know that it has specifically. Yeah. I don't have an answer. I don't think.

**Klaus [22:55]:** How has the pandemic affected your relationship to your faith and spirituality?

**Samir [23:04]:** Yeah, well, short answer, like massively. In a way, I think, pre-pandemic, I went to church pretty much every Sunday. Me and my roommate often went together, and we would go to various different churches because we're both from different Christian traditions, but I think both are pretty open to going to a variety of different churches. We had sort of like our own Church in Minneapolis that we kind of maybe like mostly affiliated with, and we went to those couple more frequently, but we'd also just try various other ones. This is all to say, like, while I experienced while I didn't necessarily have one singular Church, like going to Church and having that in person worship experience is definitely, like really, really important to me. And I've tried like a couple of Zoom services, and I just have zero interest in it at all. For me, it's like the physical space thing is hugely, hugely important. It's funny, actually, because the other day, I don't know if y'all saw that it was like an Op-Ed in the New York Times by Tish Harrison Warren or something. She was talking about the need to go back to in-person stuff and basically totally erased disabled people. And then someone... and then someone from the site Religion Dispatches had sort of interviewed me about some of that stuff. And in that was sort of like, I was more just sort of talking about some of the kind of ablest assumptions that she makes in the piece. But it was interesting thinking. Like, I do kind of defend virtual worship, and I do think that it should be an option for people. But at the same time, I think that it should exist, but I personally have really not had any interest in attending. So yeah, so that's been weird. So I think, I think the one way that I have sort of connected with my faith is through art stuff. My upcoming exhibit is about, well, the title is "The Divine: Dreams of Disabled Gods", which pretty much sums it up, I think. And so that's been sort of like a way to engage with various religious themes. And I think that there's been definitely, like, points while working on that and some of the pieces

that I've done that have felt very like, I don't know, like they were sort of like getting at maybe something that I was feeling or missing or something. But yeah, I think another thing about the religious thing is that I would say, for the most part, my sort of roots and my identity is based in kind of like Eastern Christianity. But actually some of the churches and stuff that I've most enjoyed are almost entirely like Western Christian spaces. So that's the sort of, like, kind of complicated thing for me, then, when it comes to... if I'm doing something on my own... like what calendar am I going to follow? Is actually kind of the biggest place that it comes up. I think either way, it sort of feels like I'm abandoning something that's meaningful to me. And so I think that that makes doing any kind of religious thing kind of like on my own in my house or whatever feel really high stakes and feel difficult in a way that if I'm just going somewhere, then I'll just be like, yeah, whatever this Church is doing, I'll just sort of go along with what they're doing, and it's kind of I don't know, it doesn't force me to make kind of big personal decisions, I guess. So yeah.

**Klaus [27:19]:** Can you share a little bit about what is in your exhibit, or is that something that's not available to the public yet?

**Samir [27:22]:** Yeah, sure. I can talk about it. It opens in April. It's a combination of poetry and visual art. A couple of the poems are ones that I had published previously. They're out there. But I think this exhibit sort of started, I guess, last year, or work on it started last year in May. I was the local artist in residence at Level in Chapel Hill. And a big thing I worked on that week was this thing that I had in mind for a long time of this sort of figure that kind of is in and is a wheelchair and is sort of this kind of colorful, amorphous being. I tend to not do stuff that really is... that's kind of the closest I get to representative art. I would say it's still a pretty abstract piece, but usually I'm still much more abstract. But for whatever reason, I really had this thing in mind. And I did it then... I spent a lot of this residency working on it. And also at that time, I think it was during that, I did a couple of other pieces that I don't think that I kind of was thinking of them as part of this exhibit at the time because I didn't quite have it in mind in a specific way, but some pieces that ended up becoming part of this exhibit. So sort of thinking about the layout of my head. So the exhibit starts with the painting is just called "The Divine", and it's that figure that is and is in a wheelchair. I was really inspired by this quote from Nancy Iceland, who's a disability theologian and talking... It's this sort of vision she has of God in a wheelchair and kind of like what that means to her and how she's thinking about that. And then I have a poem that, among other things, sort of talks about, I guess it was last year around this time, a Church — I don't know if I should name names because I don't necessarily want to pick on them — but a Church in Durham had like the Stations of the Cross outside... obviously Stations of the Cross Jesus falls several times, and they have this "All is Welcome Sign" and it's like at the top of these stairs, which I thought was a little bit ironic. And then seeing the falling. And then I sort of think of this idea of a disabled God. And then from there I have several pictures of these various disabled gods. None of them are necessarily... it's a very clear you would look at it and be like, oh, that is either obviously humanoid or obviously disabled or obviously

whatever, which was kind of deliberate. I want them to be things that people sort of look at and think like, how is that disabled? And then sort of maybe think about what they would assume from that or what that kind of means. And I want to be clear that I don't want the kind of conclusion for that to be like, oh, everyone is disabled in a way, which I think is like something people often do. And I'm like, no, okay, but some people are disabled in a sort of meaningful social way, and I don't want to lose sight of that. But, so there's that. And then another sort of image or idea that I encountered, there's a quote in the Book of Daniel that some people have interpreted as portraying God in a wheelchair. It sort of talks about God in this wheeled throne that's like on fire and stuff. And so I was sort of inspired by that. And so there's like a poem that talks about that and kind of contrast that also with Nancy Iceland's Disabled God, because she's thinking about it a little bit differently, even though they're both these wheelchair-using-gods. And there's just an abstract, a pretty large acrylic piece, I think it's a diptych, is that we called? It something across two canvases. And then there is... And so with this, I was sort of thinking like, okay, you know, what... I can think about what a disabled God might look like. I can think about the idea of a disabled God. But I spent a lot of time thinking about kind of what does that mean practically for people? Because I think that one conclusion that I really hate, that I think people sometimes — but that I've even found myself doing, and it annoys me — is people will say, "Oh, well, yeah, we'll be on board with the idea of a disabled God," because I feel like that explains, like, flaws in the world of like, "Oh, yeah, it makes sense that God would be stable because that's like..." And it's like, no, no, no. But the thing is I have found myself doing it, so I understand why people do it. But I think it's bad. But then I was thinking, okay, to what end, I guess, is the significance of the Disabled God, and I thought that the thing that kind of seemed most... well, the conclusion I came to, and this was after a pretty long time, was a God that is kind of oriented towards accessibility and trying to make things more accessible. And so I guess to represent that, I have this piece, it's like six kind of pages a drawing, so it's sort of like a topographic map that kind of, as it goes on, becomes sort of smoother and smoother and kind of a theme in the poetry throughout is this idea of falling and falls, and the smoother world where you don't have to fall. And then the final poem, I talk about the idea... some Christians will talk about this idea of living in the world, but not of it, and I say that maybe disability is the reverse, where you're kind of subject to this world that's kind of trying to distance itself from you. And then I have a final disabled God. This one also a little bit, is not quite as abstract as some of the others, and it's a piece where I was thinking about the idea of flight as a mobility disability, which is something that I've sort of been interested in for a while, of kind of wings and flying and kind of how that might be like a disability. So that's the exhibit. It's relatively small, actually. There was, like a whole section that I had in mind that I had to kind of cut out because this particular space is pretty small. It's only like last month, I guess it was that the Gallery manager was like, "Hey, dude, do you want to do a spring show?" And I was like, "Uh, sure, I'll send you some materials." And it's only last week that I went and actually looked at the space and was like, "Oh, I have way too much stuff for this. I'm going to need to really pare this down." There's another piece, another large acrylic piece because all the small gods are like watercolor, and a lot of them,

it's watercolor and then pen and ink on top. But there's another big acrylic piece that I was inspired by. There's this quote from *The Passion* by Jeanette Winterson, where she talks about, it's something like "churches springing up like mushrooms in the night and then dissolving in the day." And so it's like these churches emerging out of mushrooms. And then I painted kind of silver and some pastel, cool colored paints over it and then scratched it away to sort of mimic this dissolution. I'm really happy with the piece. I didn't feel like it was quite as tight thematically, but I'm hoping that I'll have an opportunity to put it elsewhere. And also there was like a whole poem with that of sort of thinking about the idea of falling or dissolving and kind of nature and like, is disability natural? And it is but sometimes treated as this sort of unnatural, and so... And then there was like a few other of the small disabled gods that I had to cut out. Yeah.

**Klaus [35:59]:** That's awesome. I'm really excited to see it. You've got to let us know. I'm sure.. I hope you will let us all know when it's done.

**Samir [36:05]:** I definitely will.

**Klaus [36:08]:** Well, I know that you were the one to recommend that we give some people some time before they have to resume their days after the interview. So I'm going to let you know that there's ten minutes left 'til 5:00.

**Samir [36:27]:** Okay.

**Klaus [36:27]:** So I'll let you do with that what you want. But we do have a couple of questions left.

**Samir [36:30]:** Yeah, I feel like this is not... I know Cara was saying she had a really tough time in interview, and I've not found it that emotionally difficult, so go for it.

**Klaus [36:38]:** Okay. How do you think living in Chapel Hill has shaped your experience of the Pandemic?

**Samir [36:45]:** Yeah, I think it's interesting to talk to different friends who live in other parts of the country or other countries. It seems like overall... it seems like Chapel Hill didn't go as never has kind of locked down as much as some places did. I definitely felt like in Minnesota there was much more. I don't know that it was a formal lockdown in the way that some countries had them, but definitely it felt much more like things did really shut down: everyone stayed home, things were more restricted. I didn't get the sense, at least by the time I came here, that was the case here. But then on the flip-side, it seems like people have been masking more consistently here. It seems like in Minnesota it's like, things were getting a lot better there. They had high rates of vaccination, and people were just, like, stopped masking and stuff. So I don't know, safety wise, I guess I feel like I'm pretty glad to

be here. Well, Chapel Hill, I mean, it's a hill. It's not very accessible. I think that's been like a real source of frustration in terms of wanting to get outside and spending time outside that even though I live in Northside, I live very close to downtown, but I can't get to Franklin Street because it's just like up a Hill. And so I think in that way, one thing that was nice about being with my roommate, and we were both mostly working from home. She would occasionally go in working just like on her own at the bookstore. I did sort of have more of like a companion to do stuff with and help me with stuff. I mean, my family helps me with stuff a bit, but it's a different sort of relationship with your family than with friends.

**[38:58]:** Let me... I think that... I've wondered if Chapel Hill is kind of more, because it's smaller, is any more like cohesive of a community than the Twin Cities. Like the Twin Cities, it's much more a sort of like neighborhood by neighborhood thing. And I don't know if that does account for some of the people continuing masking if there is any greater sense of obligation to each other. On the flip-side, like the college students in my neighborhood are completely obnoxious and have been having large parties throughout the pandemic. So I don't know that I have any conclusion there.

**Klaus [39:35]:** I'm going to skip a couple of questions. So if there's any point in which you'd like to, I can send you the questions that we didn't get to and you're welcome to record them at some point. But I guess, do you have any advice that you would give to future generations experiencing something like the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Samir [40:08]:** I think for me, one thing, thinking about the sort of mental and emotional health, I think that I've, throughout the pandemic I've always had my expectations for when things will be sort of done or normal have always been pushed pretty far out. Not necessarily... and I think that that has sort of allowed me to feel a little calmer about things, which isn't necessarily to say... I don't think of that in sort of a pessimistic way of like, "Oh, sort of assume the worst." But I think just sort of accept that things are going to be long and even like, exactly how long in a way, I don't know if it matters, like the specifics, but I think that viewing these things as sort of a long thing that is like unfolding and not just like a thing to kind of do and get done is probably a way to not stress yourself out as much about it. I feel like folks I know who have been really, really eager to get back to normal are some of the people who have been struggling the most. And I think some of that is just I don't know, maybe that's not something that you can control, maybe if you... I don't know. But I think if possible, I feel weird telling people how to think about things because I don't know, as I say, I don't know how to control that. But I do think that I mean, I think I have sort of like tried to be intentional about trying to be like patient or whatever, and I think that it's serving pretty well.

**Klaus [42:05]:** Okay. I think I should probably let you go because we've got four minutes left. Yeah. Thank you so much.

**Samir [42:14]:** Yeah.

**Klaus [42:14]:** This is really wonderful. I think what I'll do is send you the metadata form to fill out.

**Samir [42:20]:** I'll just be in the Lower Level, so I can do that.

**Klaus [42:23]:** Okay. Great. Wonderful. Well, thank you so much.

**Mandella [42:28]:** Thank you guys for letting me sit in. This was really cool.

**Klaus [42:32]:** Agreed. That was a really wonderful interview. Gave some really wonderful responses.

**Samir [42:39]:** Thank you.