

**00;00;00;08 - 00;00;19;24**

**Eileen Lamb**

Welcome to Adulting on the spectrum. In this podcast, we want to highlight the real voices of autistic adults, not just inspirational stories, but people like us talking about their day to day life. Basically, we want to give a voice to a variety of autistic people. I'm Eileen Lamb, an autistic author and photographer, and I co-hosted this podcast with Andrew Komarow

**00;00;20;00 - 00;00;20;15**

**Eileen Lamb**

Hey, Andrew.

**00;00;21;03 - 00;00;45;04**

**Andrew Komarow**

Hey Eileen. I'm an autistic entrepreneur. And today our guest is Charles Gies, born in New York City, went to college in Michigan for mathematics and currently living in and in Connecticut. He is unlucky like me in that regard from being in Connecticut. He worked for 35 years as a mainframe computer software engineer. Currently serves as an elder with his Jehovah's Witness congregation in New Haven, Connecticut.

**00;00;45;09 - 00;00;46;11**

**Andrew Komarow**

Thank you for joining us today.

**00;00;47;24 - 00;00;49;24**

**Charles Gies**

Okay, My pleasure.

**00;00;50;12 - 00;01;10;06**

**Andrew Komarow**

So we like to start off our podcast where we ask each guest how they prefer to identify. And we don't mean pronouns. She her he them. Although you're welcome to share that as well. What we do mean is a person with autism on the spectrum. I don't care. Do you have a preference? And if so, what is it?

**00;01;10;29 - 00;01;22;28**

**Charles Gies**

I really don't care which terminology you use. You know, men, anything is fine with me. I think too much. Too much of a fuss as a male over labels.

**00;01;24;13 - 00;01;38;12**

**Eileen Lamb**

And we agree. And that's the answer we get most of the time. So thank you. Can you tell us a

little bit about your autism diagnoses journey, Like what led you to be to be diagnosed? Because you were diagnosed pretty late in life, right?

**00;01;39;25 - 00;02;07;07**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah. Let me start out. I start by talking about my childhood and also missed opportunities then. But very little is known about autism then and even much of what medical science thought it knew about autism is wrong. Like the Devil Homes refrigerator mom theory. And so maybe it's just as well. I wasn't diagnosed then, but anyway, some of the things showed up.

**00;02;07;07 - 00;02;31;11**

**Charles Gies**

I was I was way ahead of the other kids in math at home. I started first grade. I could do this multiplication long division. I understood the concept, the powers things. The first graders back then I don't know about now, but back then, first graders didn't know any of that. No, they were doing good that they could add to it to read and write pretty, pretty well.

I mean, my writing was mostly phonetic spelling itself. But, you know, the thing is, I had difficulty socializing with other kids and I tend to be very rigid in my understanding of things. There was a painful medical experience I underwent when I was six years old and because I wouldn't drink all of any, I drank only glasses. They had these vines on them.

**00;02;54;09 - 00;03;13;12**

**Charles Gies**

I was running a low grade fever and and had a sore throat. Anyway, the doctor. Back then, doctors made house calls. The pediatrician put a glass of water on the floor next to the controls laying and asked me to bend down to pick it up. Well, it was a plain glass. I wouldn't pick it up. He and my mom both thought I couldn't take it up.

**00;03;13;23 - 00;03;44;06**

**Charles Gies**

As he was leaving the house, I heard my mom say, Well, I guess you must have polio and in school, another problem came up. I had this idea that you can only use the school bathrooms during the class bathroom break. And so consequently, when particularly after they were used to the class bathroom breaks for our day that we'd just one sometimes wet or dirty my pants in school and so that drove the school to tell my mom to take me to a psychiatrist.

**00;03;44;06 - 00;04;06;24**

**Charles Gies**

So my parents found this child psychiatrist and my mom wrote him a long letter and she detailed all the oddities she'd observed. And they and I mean, there are other things that that I didn't even mention. Time would permit here. But she started also with the issue that immediately drove her to take me to him. He apparently read just that first paragraph of letter.

**00;04;06;24 - 00;04;30;06**

**Charles Gies**

And on that basis to dismiss the diagnosis, said that was all Mom's fault, that she was obsessed with toilet training, but eventually led me to my diagnosis much later in life. My daughter, By then my doll had a daughter and she was grown and she watched the movie Rain Man. Now she watched that movie. She began urging me to watch the movie.

**00;04;31;01 - 00;04;42;28**

**Charles Gies**

And it was from watching that movie that I recognized her. Raymond is a more severely impaired version of me now.

**00;04;43;05 - 00;05;10;05**

**Andrew Komarow**

So yeah, it's funny because most people don't identify with, you know, the movie Rainman or a lot of most of the guests that we've had. Eileen is not a movie savant, but you did show a lot more, let's call them typical signs, right, of autism, things that can often be maybe stereotyped. What drew you to math?

**00;05;10;05 - 00;05;33;26**

**Charles Gies**

I just I just always from the beginning, like math, my mom told me because I don't remember this as a child. I remember things that that stand out as a child, not the things that that are important to the adults around you. And so that my mom told me when I was four years old, I was playing with some toy bricks and I started on my own just discovering one and one is two and two and two is four.

**00;05;34;04 - 00;06;09;00**

**Charles Gies**

My mom started asking me addition problems that she got me all the way up to four or five before I got that one long. So that was eight that from that point on, my mom and dad both work with me on the math. And then the point when I was five years old, I gave my dad this long thing to figure out one of the things that was 76 to the ninth power while my dad worked it up longhand in front of me and 76 the nine powers, 84,590,000,000,000,000.

**00;06;09;00 - 00;06;36;10**

**Charles Gies**

I'm kind of getting it mixed up with another number and I'm getting well, it'll come back to me the rest of it. But anyway, that's where it is anyway in math. So I decided to start counting my 70 sixes in the hopes of reaching that number, and I filled up reams of paper over the next three and a half years, counting by 76, I finally got bored and quit and I got to 3,363,000.

**00;06;36;19 - 00;07;02;11**

**Eileen Lamb**

So that's an interest that you've had since you were a little little child, I assume? My my son Jude is on the spectrum and he's the same way he, you know, it's like long division and long which application. And you can do like mental math in his head, like like it's nothing, you know, he just knows. And the what Andrew was saying is true.

**00;07;02;13 - 00;07;33;20**

**Eileen Lamb**

That's, that's actually, you know, not typical for many autistic people. Like, I can do that. I wish I could, but it's interested. Interesting that you had so many of those I don't want to say obvious, but I want to use the word abuse signs. And yet you were not diagnosed until later in life. So what's what happened after you watched or your daughter watched a movie, Rainman, and she recognized you in the character and then what did you do?

**00;07;34;15 - 00;07;56;14**

**Charles Gies**

She actually began, You need to watch the movie without telling me by the. And finally I was turning on the TV one time and the movie happened to be starting. So I said, Dorothy's been urging me to watch this movie. Let me see it. And it wasn't just the math. It was also other things, like the way he reacted to a catchy commercial jingle.

**00;07;56;29 - 00;08;28;27**

**Charles Gies**

He began wanting to repeat it himself. And that's something I might have done. You know, I'm here is something that the some catchy phrase or jingle or something and I would want to repeat it and, you know, there were things like that. And then, you know, I saw a sign change, you know, how I was crossing the street, changed the walk to don't walk, I would know that you have to finish finish crossing the street all the same.

**00;08;28;27 - 00;08;45;09**

**Charles Gies**

When Raymond stopped in its tracks, when the sign changed and don't walk from walk to don't walk, I understood why he stopped. Even though that's not something I would have done. I would have had enough sense of the purpose of the sign to know that you continue on a cross.

**00;08;45;15 - 00;08;53;28**

**Eileen Lamb**

And how did you get into being a mainstream software engineer? Can you tell us a bit about that now?

**00;08;54;01 - 00;09;18;11**

**Charles Gies**

In college, I majored in math and one term I took a course in the Miracle Analysis. Well, the first day of the class I said, if you have never had Fortran programming, go over into this other class and he'll teach you for training program. Well, they made the mistake of picking the most popular of the three professors that were teaching a class to teach that Fortran programming for the first two weeks.

**00;09;18;11 - 00;09;41;11**

**Charles Gies**

And so a lot of a lot of students who would do it, like the back of their hand, chose to get in that line just so they could be in that class. So other students were asking all these advanced questions and and so finally around midterm, I went to the professor and asked them a series of stupid questions, and he answered them for me.

**00;09;41;11 - 00;10;11;16**

**Charles Gies**

And then I understood that FORTRAN program could get me through the rest of that term. And I after that, I decided, let me take some computer programming courses. That's why I did. I took computer programming courses during my junior and senior years and that's useful because shortly after I graduated there were massive layoffs in the aerospace industry, flooding the job market with experienced mathematicians and scientists.

**00;10;11;16 - 00;10;35;14**

**Charles Gies**

And so all of a sudden, as the math became a little use and the job market, because employers with all of this experience, all was somebody who was fresh out of college. So instead of the computer programming as well, I eventually got me a job. It took a while to get that first job because I didn't have any good interview skills.

**00;10;35;14 - 00;10;46;07**

**Charles Gies**

Finally, one employment agency employment agency sat me down and told me all the things I've been doing wrong in my interviews and then some tips on interviewing. And so that.

**00;10;47;03 - 00;10;48;03**

**Andrew Komarow**

What were some of those tips?

**00;10;48;15 - 00;11;19;12**

**Charles Gies**

Of felt like both the person and the face and the firm handshake and and things about the things not to say an application like I don't need to go into all the into whatever organizations I might have been in in college. There are certain things also I came to realize the question about name the three most valuable courses in college and three courses that are related to the job you're

applying for three least valuable.

Better leave that one because that's going to raise questions and that's just to say, no, I didn't find anything that wasn't valuable.

**00;11;27;26 - 00;11;37;27**

**Eileen Lamb**

Can you share some a struggle you've had in the workplace and some challenges, some challenges you had to overcome and how you overcome those struggles?

**00;11;39;12 - 00;12;01;21**

**Charles Gies**

Not getting to know the different personalities is one job. There was one guy who you had to go back to him and he did a lot of work or I want this done and go back to him and ask you this. What you said and what you really want and get the real story from him, because I'm one one thing.

I just I couldn't make sense out of it. So I had to go back and nothing seemed to make sense. And I did what he said and his boss said it wouldn't accept that said, that's not what we want because you should understand. But we asked for this and this we also want best.

**00;12;15;03 - 00;12;31;00**

**Eileen Lamb**

So not clear, I guess, sending mixed signals. That's something out of this too. I wish people were just just sad as it is instead of just kind of saying it. So yeah, I, I understand that struggle all too well.

**00;12;31;08 - 00;12;57;14**

**Charles Gies**

You know, another thing that's typical is when in life in general, not just at workplaces. Yes, difficult because of our tendency to assume everybody is operating the same set of facts, especially tough when somebody is telling stories about us behind our back to figure that out, because other people are acting in a way that doesn't make sense and you can't make sense out of all of their being told a story.

We didn't know that an idea earlier.

**00;13;00;15 - 00;13;12;03**

**Andrew Komarow**

But I imagine you were pretty good at your job. You did it for 45 years. So once you were hired, I assume the employers liked, you know, that you focused on your work, etc., correct?

**00;13;12;25 - 00;13;42;04**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah. And what's more, you know, once I had somebody who knew what I could do, it was easy of getting the door someplace else. And one once someone knew why, because thanks a lot asked two jobs one I stayed with for 12 years and the one I stayed with for just shy of 24 years. Both of those I, I was invited to interview there by somebody with whom I had previously worked.

**00;13;42;04 - 00;14;03;08**

**Andrew Komarow**

Yeah. And these days, to a lot of companies are recognizing the value of hiring workers on the spectrum. There's a lot of neurodiversity at work, hiring programs. But even if a company doesn't have that, you know, we're seeing more and more, you know, employers start to recognize, you know, that somebody may not interview well, but that doesn't mean they can't do the job very well.

**00;14;03;09 - 00;14;15;16**

**Andrew Komarow**

Do you have any thoughts or, you know, any of those programs or are companies maybe starting to realize that, you know, the person who may not do so well in the interview can, in fact, be a great employee?

**00;14;15;26 - 00;14;46;00**

**Charles Gies**

Well, the last place I worked toward the end, you know, one CEO or like reached out to reach out to a magazine that, you know, is for, you know, disabilities and and, you know, even they interview me, for that matter. I can't remember the name of the magazine now. That's but they but there were efforts to to take advantage of programs that encourage employers to hire people with disabilities.

**00;14;46;00 - 00;14;51;04**

**Charles Gies**

But you got to realize in the time I got that job, I hadn't diagnosed yet.

**00;14;52;19 - 00;14;53;27**

**Andrew Komarow**

When were you diagnosed?

**00;14;54;24 - 00;15;20;07**

**Charles Gies**

I was 49 at the time I was diagnosed, my daughter was a grown woman by that time, and after she encouraged me to watch that movie, my family arrangement first I ran it by my mom and my sister. I talked to my mom. I said, You may. This is going to sound crazy. But then I told her and then she said, It doesn't sound crazy at all to her.

**00;15;20;13 - 00;15;47;03**

**Charles Gies**

It made sense to her. And and I told my sister my sister's reaction was the same pretty much. And then I subsequently read, well, right after watching the movie, I should backtrack and say I looked at the discussion of autism in the Mayo Clinic Family Medical Board, and at the very end of it, the last couple of sentences, it said there is also a milder form of autism.

**00;15;47;03 - 00;16;21;03**

**Charles Gies**

Those main symptoms, social awkwardness, Bingo. And so that then I talked to my mom, my sister, and a couple months later I happened to turn on an NPR station. And actually I was visiting my sister and they were interviewing Temple Grandin about her book "Thinking in Pictures." And so I listened to the interview and then I went picked up the book and the book further added my conviction that, yes, I was on the autism spectrum and and also and Familiarize knew the terminology at the time.

**00;16;21;03 - 00;16;45;02**

**Charles Gies**

Some of the terminology has changed, but now they don't normally say Asperger's syndrome. But I did then. And anyway, then I called the president of the local chapter of the society America, and she put me in touch with a neurologist who specializes in autism. And I just asked me some questions and confirmed the spectrum.

**00;16;45;02 - 00;16;47;08**

**Eileen Lamb**

How did you feel? Was it a relief?

**00;16;48;05 - 00;17;26;18**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah, it was good. And know it's helped me to not only to understand myself better, but to understand better people who have other other issues. So I remember shortly after I was diagnosed that my first wife, Julie, died and now I remember sitting outside at a repast, sitting outside a friend of hers who was hosting the repast and talking to the lady and then a friend of mine for many years and talking at length.

**00;17;26;18 - 00;17;52;17**

**Charles Gies**



I told her about my diagnosis and she told me she had a form of dyslexia and that helped us to understand each other better. She knew there was something different about me knowing that all along. And then as she and I started dating, you know, I had known her daughter many years and I got to observe things about her daughter.

**00;17;52;26 - 00;18;22;15**

**Charles Gies**

Your daughter had a TV. I could see, you know, I could see some things. I did not realize Tim's got A.D.D. and know helped me understand her. Over the years. I've come to understand all this like one lady was in my conversation. I was in Virginia, I was talking with her, listening to some of the things she was saying, and I asked her, Do you have as as a seasonal affective disorder?

**00;18;22;15 - 00;18;25;28**

**Charles Gies**

And she said, Yes, she did.

**00;18;25;28 - 00;18;44;06**

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, I, I get that too. And I'm I'm glad I live in Texas. No, I think that's why one of the reasons why Andrew was poking fun of you get over you guys living in a Connecticut. The weather is a rough.

**00;18;44;06 - 00;18;55;07**

**Charles Gies**

I live in Virginia, one of the first three and then we moved to North Carolina for a couple of years and we got tired of the long summer. We actually like it better here. We have a balance for seasons.

**00;18;57;05 - 00;19;08;04**

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, I missed seasons to living in Texas. The summers here all a terrible like right now it's 205 it's a lot and yeah.

**00;19;08;09 - 00;19;13;19**

**Eileen Lamb**

Well the solution I think metric because in metric that Celsius that just 41.

**00;19;15;20 - 00;19;17;00**

**Eileen Lamb**

French so yeah.

**00;19;17;00 - 00;19;38;28**

**Charles Gies**

That's a good sound so yeah. So you would know that. Yeah. Yeah. I think metric I have everything in my phone, my device is set metric. My, my driving app is the, as a metric of my I, they were measuring my weight, I measured kg I whether I have the temperature in Celsius.

**00;19;40;21 - 00;19;45;29**

**Eileen Lamb**

Interesting. You must be the only American to do that. Yeah.

**00;19;45;29 - 00;19;49;20**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah. From trips to Canada I decided I like metric better.

**00;19;51;00 - 00;20;14;28**

**Eileen Lamb**

And yeah, I feel like Americans are the only one who use something different. When I came here, I was like, so confused with everything. It's been 11 years and I'm still like, not super familiar with whatever you use for like pounds. Okay, But anything like what is it called? Miles and all of that. It's still to me kilometers.

**00;20;15;12 - 00;20;29;20**

**Eileen Lamb**

That's how it's more natural to to my brain. But it's, I guess it's because you're like math that's you're okay with the metric system as an American, how do you like, do the conversion in your head or do you just, like.

**00;20;30;18 - 00;20;31;12**

**Charles Gies**

Take metric.

**00;20;32;21 - 00;20;34;00**

**Eileen Lamb**

So you don't even have to convert.

**00;20;35;28 - 00;20;38;01**

**Charles Gies**

Of not use the thinking metric?

**00;20;38;28 - 00;21;08;02**

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, that's cool. Yeah. I mean for me to like I can on for temperatures at least in weights, I can know in both units what it's what it's like. So you know, religion and autism, some may say it's counterintuitive, but I would love to hear more about your face and yeah, what do you want to

share about that?

**00;21;08;20 - 00;21;39;28**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah. Yeah. Well, one thing I'll mention just to reading Temple Grandin's book that she's met people on the spectrum of all different religions. So now nothing about that. I became one of Jehovah's Witnesses when I was in college. Young lady called our door when I was on summer vacation and I began a Bible study. And then during my senior year, I was baptized and know I've been one of Jehovah's Witnesses ever since.

**00;21;39;28 - 00;22;12;28**

**Charles Gies**

And now I serve as an elder in the congregation. I regularly take take trips in in the Oracle I have. I'm not taking anything this month because I've got other things going on, like visiting my daughter in Maine. And I got a weeklong school for congregation elders. I normally go to twice a month in New York, and we set up the literature cards and by one of the subway stations and, you know, people come by and people come by and show an interest me talk with them.

**00;22;13;24 - 00;22;42;11**

**Charles Gies**

You know, I do that and regularly share going door to door here in New Haven or or we instead of literature cards, various public places here in New Haven. My wife and I do that regularly. Like yesterday morning before our meeting, we set up a cart by an intersection where there's a Dunkin Donuts in New Haven. And then after that we went to the Kingdom Hall where I had a daughter with you that day.

**00;22;43;03 - 00;22;59;22**

**Charles Gies**

Now we have security measures at Kingdom Hall, just like many other places of worship now, Jewish synagogues, they've been doing that for a while now because of the dangers in today's world. So I have to men watching the door at every meeting.

**00;23;00;13 - 00;23;18;09**

**Andrew Komarow**

Going back to computers, something I like to talk about, too. Do you have any tips for anyone who is younger and would like to be a software engineer? I lean probably didn't even know what Fortran is or was still is still used by the insurance companies here in Connecticut. Still use COBOL and etc., as I'm sure you know.

**00;23;18;18 - 00;23;28;10**

**Andrew Komarow**

But what advice would you give to somebody on the spectrum who wants to get into tech tech

coding software development? That seems to be a common suggestion.

**00;23;29;11 - 00;24;10;00**

**Charles Gies**

Well, you know, of course, you know, look for courses in computer programming. The one thing I'll say about the mainframe world is that because the distributed world has been so popular among people wanting to learn programming, you might do well these days to, you know, instead of training in mainframe computer programming COBOL and you know, the the IBM mainframe assembler programming because there's a need last I heard at least there was a need for people in that area.

**00;24;10;20 - 00;24;37;03**

**Charles Gies**

First, maybe best thing talk was some people in the industry and find out what the industry is looking for now because things changed so rapidly that there was a need for yesterday that might not be a big need for today. And you don't necessarily need to go to college to get into computer programming. There are technical schools that that teach computer programming.

**00;24;37;03 - 00;24;39;23**

**Charles Gies**

So there is that option to to keep in mind.

**00;24;39;27 - 00;24;53;22**

**Eileen Lamb**

And I wanted to actually ask you, because you've experienced a great deal of loss in your life since your two wives that passed away. Can you share the grieving and how you you coped? I mean, that's a lot.

**00;24;55;17 - 00;25;15;29**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah. In the case of Judy, we knew for years, you know, she she had problems. She ruined her health over you to do. At one point I was extremely obese. During the last two years of her life, she actually managed to lose quite a bit of that weight. But the damage was done. So, you know, we kind of knew what's coming.

**00;25;15;29 - 00;25;36;10**

**Charles Gies**

And now my daughter and I were a source of comfort to each other. And our faith also is a source of comfort to us, the belief that now she's sleeping and one day she will wake up, you know, there won't be all the problems that we have in the world at present. And everyone, Judy, was on her deathbed.

**00;25;36;10 - 00;26;00;13**

**Charles Gies**

I visit her in the hospital pretty much. She was on her deathbed. She was in a coma. She couldn't have been aware of my presence that morning by her side. We had our meetings and that another time, another combination of working them all morning. But anyway, as I and I grabbed some lunch by our meeting as I walked my car to the kingdom, all they made an announcement about Judy in the morning, made lots of friends.

**00;26;00;13 - 00;26;21;23****Charles Gies**

And that conversation of coming up to me and expressing their condolences as I entered the kingdom, All of Kim, who was in that congregation, intercepted me and told me there was somebody outside waiting to see me. And I knew right away, you know, was her mother, Eloise. So I went out with her to the car and it was sort of we were first met.

**00;26;21;23 - 00;26;47;02****Charles Gies**

Kim later said that America is and she says the electricity between her mom and me, are you right? Things might be going. Sure enough, the next week we had that conversation outside Judy's family's house. And and then they call each other to admire them. And in September, I said I called her up and told her that my company was gone.

And they sent me to a class at their headquarters on Long Island. And they the fourth week of October. And I said, I'd like to come up to New Haven and visit the weekend before that. And now she became determined to talk me out of coming. And so she gave me her mother's number and her work numbers and all I could reach or any time of day.

**00;27;08;16 - 00;27;30;24****Charles Gies**

And we started talking every day. And then two weeks we found ourselves falling in love with each other. And I. I told her I loved her. And the next day I came home from work and she had left a almost on an answering machine. Know, within another couple of weeks we were engaged. We went to meet at our friends, often at his apartment in New York City.

**00;27;30;24 - 00;27;52;04****Charles Gies**

And we went out to dinner and a Broadway show to celebrate our engagement. Then the next six months we spent planning a wedding and we got married the following April and now the grief with her voice is death, on the other hand, came as a surprise. She went into the hospital for a hip surgery. Her general state of health wasn't very good, but still, we thought.

**00;27;52;29 - 00;28;20;05**

**Charles Gies**

The doctor said the surgery went well at that point. You know, one of the things, again, related to autism, once you told me something, put an impression in my mind. It's very difficult to shake that impression so much. She began having different problems after that. Difficult all the keeping food down. They had transferred to the not the ICU, but something, you know, just below that, just below that.

**00;28;20;05 - 00;28;51;16**

**Charles Gies**

In terms of critical care. I still didn't care that that, you know, she had incurred an infection in the O.R. and, you know, and that was developing in the sepsis. And anyway, she died from that. And that was a surprise that Kim had come came by that time and moved to North Carolina that she had come up to to take care of her mom, expecting to take care of them on after she got out of the hospital, out of rehab.

**00;28;51;28 - 00;29;14;06**

**Charles Gies**

But now instead, she was there with me and we were putting the funeral together and she and her son Donavan were there. But Kim and I were a source of comfort to each other. And Dorothy, who had moved to Hawaii by that time, she came and visited us. She came by to be there for the funeral she came to.

**00;29;14;07 - 00;29;39;11**

**Charles Gies**

And so, you know, I had a lot of company that you covered. And again, I had my faith in the service, the comfort of a semi. It wasn't until several months after that I began realizing that this coming home to an empty apartment night after night was getting old fast. And then I began playing about for direction on this, and I eventually settled that severe annoyance and that sentiment.

**00;29;39;11 - 00;30;00;28**

**Charles Gies**

I was first dating him. She and Cindy were good friends. We actually called her up and said, Let's get better acquainted. We started talking every day and soon. Then we find ourselves falling in love. And then I asked her to marry me and she said yes. And we were planning a wedding. From that point on. Got married. In March of 2012.

**00;30;01;06 - 00;30;32;12**

**Speaker 3**

We discovered one one, we have in common a game I learned in college. I learned how to play with. I was in college and it was some years after that. But it got to be actually for people who play the game and Cindy plays the bass. So just just the other day we visited, a friend of hers

invited us over and invited another guy over and and we played and we had a great time back to Sydney.

**00;30;32;12 - 00;30;43;28**

**Charles Gies**

I'm enjoying our life together. The picture this in my bathtub, that was taken one time. We went out to dinner at this restaurant and it's by Long Island in Connecticut.

**00;30;44;04 - 00;30;51;06**

**Eileen Lamb**

And such a nice story for your background. So it's kind of like you're still sitting at this restaurant where you're on. Yeah.

**00;30;51;12 - 00;30;52;27**

**Charles Gies**

Yeah, it is. Yeah.

**00;30;53;11 - 00;31;13;20**

**Eileen Lamb**

That's sweet. Well, I'm glad your support goes. That's a lot for to to go through. And, you know, I know that's what happen when we get older, but I'm sure it was was difficult. I'm going to ask you some quickfire questions now, actually. First, do you want to I know you you're on the on social media a little bit.

**00;31;13;21 - 00;31;17;18**

**Eileen Lamb**

Do you want to share with our listener where they can find you on social media?

**00;31;17;27 - 00;31;40;21**

**Charles Gies**

The way I mostly interact with Facebook, I do Instagram occasionally and Twitter. I use only for this game. I play complex online word game, but I score a bingo investment. You have seven letters, seven of your letters, letter tiles. Then I share that on Twitter. That's the only thing I use Twitter for.

**00;31;40;25 - 00;31;46;16**

**Eileen Lamb**

Okay, so final, final stretch, just a few quickfire questions. Are you ready?

**00;31;47;20 - 00;31;48;01**

**Charles Gies**

Sure.

**00;31;48;26 - 00;31;50;10**

**Eileen Lamb**

What's your favorite animal?

**00;31;50;17 - 00;31;53;25**

**Charles Gies**

I guess maybe my favorite animals. The donkey can ride a donkey.

**00;31;54;01 - 00;31;56;06**

**Eileen Lamb**

What's your favorite? You have on pizza?

**00;31;56;13 - 00;32;25;18**

**Charles Gies**

Well, the ones we've tried, cause the pizza is the. The one I like the best. Now, I recently we were going to order pizza two for our takeout. I try to order from Pepe's Pizza. That's the most famous one on Wall Street. And I try to order one. Sally's Pizza, both of them. And the ordering ordering process. I got to run around and so finally I gave up and all of them cost them, which is good.

**00;32;25;19 - 00;32;27;04**

**Charles Gies**

We like that was like that.

**00;32;27;13 - 00;32;29;19**

**Andrew Komarow**

You forgot my favorite zoo parties.

**00;32;29;25 - 00;32;30;24**

**Charles Gies**

Never heard of that one.

**00;32;31;15 - 00;32;35;05**

**Andrew Komarow**

Yeah. So that's the that's in West Haven. So I don't know if it really counts.

**00;32;35;05 - 00;32;48;06**

**Charles Gies**

But that's why I wouldn't have heard of it, because we're on the east side of New Haven. Yeah. And I should say. And then along State Street. So just a block of ya'll from State Street.

**00;32;48;21 - 00;32;51;19**

**Eileen Lamb**



Who is your favorite actor now?

**00;32;51;19 - 00;33;05;12**

**Charles Gies**

I don't really pay too much attention to actors and actresses and movies, you know, so it's hard to say if I have a favorite one, I guess maybe I would have to take is my favorite one. Andy Griffith.

**00;33;07;07 - 00;33;10;06**

**Eileen Lamb**

Favorite food.

**00;33;10;06 - 00;33;12;01**

**Charles Gies**

My favorite food. Lobster.

**00;33;12;11 - 00;33;13;11**

**Eileen Lamb**

What's your favorite color?

**00;33;14;23 - 00;33;15;06**

**Charles Gies**

Green.

**00;33;15;15 - 00;33;24;03**

**Eileen Lamb**

Well, thank you so much for joining us today. We love you. Yes. Thank you. Sorry. And yeah, thank you so much, Charles. Charlie.

**00;33;25;11 - 00;33;32;25**

**Charles Gies**

It's my pleasure. My pleasure. Call me anything except late for dinner. You all have a good evening.

**00;33;33;06 - 00;33;33;21**

**Eileen Lamb**

You too.

**00;33;33;22 - 00;33;35;02**

**Andrew Komarow**

Thank you.Bye..

