

Voices of Southern Hospitality: An Oral History Project

Queen Quet

Interviewee: Marquette L. Goodwine (Queen Quet)

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Abstract: This interview with Marquette L. Goodwine, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah Geechee Nation, focuses on the preservation of the Gullah culture in the South in the face of rising tourism and development. People of the Gullah Geechee community are ultimately working to preserve, build, but yet share their culture with tourists and outsiders while also keeping their natural resources alive. Throughout this interview you will hear about cultural aspects such as language, food, and natural resources that the Gullah community uses to maintain their identity in such a rapidly shifting, vulnerable, and globalizing world

Biographical Note: Marquette L. Goodwine, also known as Queen Quet, is a published author, computer scientist, lecturer, mathematician, historian, columnist, preservationist, environmental justice advocate, environmentalist, film consultant, and “The Art-ivist.” She is the founder of the advocacy organization for the continuation of Gullah/Geechee culture, the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition.¹ Goodwine is a native of Saint Helena Island, South Carolina.

Project Details: In the summer of 2018, student researchers from the College of Charleston conducted oral histories for the research project, *Voices of Southern Hospitality*. The project documents diverse opinions and stories about southern hospitality in Charleston, South Carolina, but also offers a deeper and more intimate history of a changing community. Over the past thirty years (early-1990s to 2018), the Charleston peninsula and its surrounding islands have experienced rapid economic growth and rapid cultural and ecological changes. The *Voices of Southern Hospitality* project chronicles this profound transformation with the personal histories of Charleston residents. The project was launched in June 2018 with funding from The Committee for Innovative Teaching and Learning in the Liberal Arts and Sciences at the College of Charleston. In addition to documenting important stories, the project was designed to train College of Charleston students in oral history

¹ See <https://www.queenquet.com/>

research methods. Five student researchers and 42 interviewees participated in the first phase of this project (June and July, 2018).

Interview Begin

[Interviewer Initials]: QQ

Interviewee Initials]: SB

SB: So my first question is what was your childhood like?

QQ: (laughter) Why do people love that question so much? Well, I grew up right here on Saint Helena Island in Beaufort County South Cackalacky, so my childhood was interspersed with both Gullah, as I just spoke, and English; having English spoken at school and Gullah usually spoken everywhere else in my life and knowing that people outside of family and community and church did not relate to us very well. So we knew how to code switch so my whole life has been about that code switching. What do you do when you're in town versus on the Island? What do you do when you go off to a school versus when you're at home on the porch? So my life has always had all of that in it. It's been pretty peaceful and pretty blessed. I enjoyed it and I'm still enjoying it.

SB: Wonderful. I'm glad to hear that.

QQ: Yeah

SB: So this is a question I think we talked about briefly earlier, but how has your home area changed since you were young?

QQ: My home area, which is Saint Helena Island, has changed considerably because when I was growing up this island was probably 99% to 100% all Gullah Geechee. I don't even recall usually seeing any Anglo people on the Island. The one or two I heard lived here you know compared to everybody else it's like one or two I don't think there were more than two to three family names that I heard lived here but usually wouldn't see them and when you did see them you knew who they were. So definitely there were maybe now I'm thinking, I'm thinking five Anglo families and everybody else being Gullah Geechee so now it's very odd to go through twelve months of the year and see Anglo people here and see Latin people here and see Asian people coming to visit. It wasn't an international community before. It wasn't all these people that even knew we were here and also seeing traffic increase not just because vehicles increase cause people could afford them but because of the tourism industry increasing. And so people started to drive onto our Island and then that causing difficulty on the island because now where we could leave our doors unlocked and we could sleep with them wide open and just leave your place and go somewhere it was for hours and not worry about it you don't do that anymore because you won't know if some stranger is going to go in your house and take something be hiding in your house and attack you, people's, the children used to just walk and go everywhere together. You could be you know five and six and be with your cousins who were 12, 13 - people don't wanna do that anymore they want to drive their children everywhere because they don't trust the

strangers and they don't trust the people who are both visiting and the people who've moved in, we don't know what their culture is. They're not the same culture as us and they have no accountability that we give to our community so we can't trust that so we've become as much as people say we're isolated, we've become more insulated over my lifetime because of the influx of people because of bridges because of curiosity because of other people being more migratory and we're not. Gullah Geechees are more stationary and so that's because we had a forced migration in the transatlantic slave trade. So once we found a place to be home we locked in to stay home and we place-based and expect our future generations to be place-based and as a result when people saw that there was a quote "Black Majority" endquote as Peter Wood has called it, it seems like some people went on an all out attack to try to dismantle that. An all out attack to suddenly want the land that they didn't want before, that they said was malaria ridden, but now its so pretty its so picturesque oh look at the beaches why can't we live there . . . Why not see it and go back home? (laughter) You know because we don't live on the shore line so I've seen that - where areas will be hunted will be fished or gated off from us now. I've seen areas that were places of baptism, places where people gather sweet grass and healing herbs, get just eradicated. Both by people coming in with bulldozers first and clear cutting blocking things off and paving but now also from the other way from sea level rise, where shore lines used to take us 15 minutes to walk once you got out of your car and get to the ocean, two minutes five minutes and like wait a minute what? Something is wrong. Ya know it can't be because that I'm older my legs are longer. It's like why is this trip so short? And then we're realizing the shore line is gone that we used to know it's eroding away. So I've witnessed a lot of changes. The good change that I've witnessed in the face of all those negative impacts is the unity of the Gullah Geechee community and people taking pride now and saying [in Gullah] **they knew who they done ... and they ain't like the other rest of these people who comin in here we done been here (5:11)** because also as child missionary schools, public schools literally beat us for speaking Gullah and now those are the same institutions that wanna say "oh we think we oughta be able to teach Gullah why don't y'all teach it to us so we can teach it back to you." We don't need you to learn our language.

SB: Mhmm right.

QQ: If you respect us you'd just appreciate us and all that our culture has to offer. So it's wonderful seeing people taking pride in being Gullah Geechee now and not being ashamed of being Gullah Geechee now. So that's been a beautiful thing to witness and I feel that is really divinely ordered so I celebrate that everyday.

SB: Wonderful. That sounds like that's very special.

QQ: It is. It is.

SB: So I have to ask what is your occupation (laughter) and why did you pursue this type of work (QQ laughter) even if I have an idea?

QQ: This is hilarious you said what is my occupation. I've never been asked that question since I left corporate America. My occupation is as Queen and Head of State for the Gullah Geechee Nation.

SB: Right.

QQ: And so my duties entail being a spokesperson, the global spokesperson, for Gullah Geechees world wide. So I do work locally, state level, federal level, and internationally I represent our people at the United Nations so I guess that's what my occupation is.

SB: Wonderful (QQ Laughter) So I would take it you've had some past occupations. What encouraged you to . . .

QQ: . . . do what I'm doing now?

SB: Do what you're doing now right.

QQ: Well God bless it that there were a number of different elders who started saying to me will you start an organization, the Gullah Geechee Sea Island Coalition, and we know you're busy, we know you have a life elsewhere right. But we need you to come home more frequently. We need you to be involved. There are people trying to put us off these islands we gonna need your help. And so I would split my time between here and New York for a long time because there were county council meetings happening that were rezoning areas. There were taxes happening that people needed to raise money for and people were trying to figure out what is going on? We can't afford this. People are not going to be here if this keeps up, and that's what pushed me into what I'm doing now and I've been actually doing this work now almost forty years so I was speaking Gullah presenting on it helping to raise money when people didn't even want to be called Gullah Geechee. People come to my face now and apologize and say "I'm so sorry cause you know you started your organization like a few decades ago" I said "yes", 21 years now the Gullah Geechee Sea Island coalition started, "but we thought you were crazy." Are you serious they were like "yeah we knew you were really smart so we thought you had really like lost it because we were like why does she want to do that? She can just sit somewhere and make \$100,000 as a computer scientist cause that's what my degree is in. Why would she want to speak like that? Why would she want to fight for that? We don't want to be that. They told us it's bad." But now those same people realize by being educated, it was never bad. It was someone else's strategy to move you away from who you were. And now that they have centered themselves and I guess God had a little talkin to do with them too they realized no I've never been crazy (laughter) I'm not crazy. This is just that somebody has to stand up and speak out so I actually love my occupation. I love my occupation as a computer scientist too and I still use it I still use my degrees as a computer scientist and mathematician everyday, but for my community.

SB: Wonderful. That sound like you had a switch and you're, you're glad that you had the past occupation. Do you find that it helps you?

QQ: Oh God yes

Interviewer: Like in your current...

QQ: My education, my life has helped me tremendously um because as a computer scientist you know I'm a person of logic. Mathematicians logic you know and things are definitive to us in the hard sciences so I don't fall for you know word meisting. I can do word meisting myself. So you can't get over on me with it where the general public falls for it. That's why you have PR people. So it works for me because I can assess things and I can deduce things that maybe the general population isn't hearing the same way and then when I repeat it back to my community way I hear it, they go (whispers) "What? You mean that all they tried to slip that in". You know so it's beneficial and I also can use social media, I can use the internet, I can program things so I can get things out to a lot of people that are global and I love being able to do that because I love having the world as a classroom and I love learning. I'm a perpetual student as much as people tell me "you oughta just be a teacher". I'm like I'm both. You know so it's lovely and it helps my, my community so I'm happy and think God's pleased with me.

SB: Wonderful. So my next question kinda dives back into the topic of tourism that we discussed a little earlier is how has tourism affected your present and past occupations?

QQ: Well my past occupation I think tourism has affected computer science in the sense that it has made us become the Jetsons quicker than we thought we would be because you have apps now, you have what we call personal digital assistants before the people call your cell phone now. That's really what it is. You can set up a bot to do a lot of your work and do it quickly so you could be giving a tour while you're also telling another tourist that's inquiring at your office about a tour "I'll get back to you shortly". It's not you but the computer's done it for you. So I think the tourism industry has pushed a lot of people to be on the internet that wouldn't have been because they want to capitalize on the tourism markets, but it has also helped us globally to see how we can link with other places and other communities. Like I'm all about ecotourism and cultural heritage tourism. No matter where it is in the world, have people who are native to that place guide you through it. Don't just run through people's communities. I'm not for that. And so I think that it has helped others who are doing that where they are learn where there's somebody else on the other side of the world doing the same so they know "Oh I'm not crazy this is a great idea someone else is doing it". So then you start to get some comradery through like social media with Twitter and Facebook and Instagram you can see what someone else is doing and we can all kind of be a circle of people that still work for the same thing especially in the face of climate change. So I've seen that. In my current position, it's made my job that much harder because we're fighting to educate people in political positions about Gullah Geechee culture so that when they set laws in place, they don't do things that will displace Gullah Geechee people, they don't do things that will harm Gullah Geechee people because what difficult when the tourism industry hires people just because they're Black and then puts them up to being storytellers and up to being actors and actresses that sell a script that someone else has written for them to say. When you have the cities, the townships, the state promoting these classes for tour operators and they give them scripts that someone other than Gullah Geechee wrote. We never get to vet it and hear what they're actually saying we are and how they're defining us to thousands to millions of people that come to what's called the lowcountry and the Gullah Geechee Nation now. So it makes my job harder because then I have to spend more hours trying to make sure books are written, documentaries are right, responses

to media when they're inaccurate are done, tweeting, emailing, facebook and I mean before I could send out one email blast and I'm good for the day and now you gotta make sure that this stuff goes across all these platforms and gets out to all these people and then you gotta deal with the elders who don't use any of them. Ok and so you still gotta talk to them and calm them when they're upset by something that's been misleading or they see as exploitive or as people are trying to say misappropriated or appropriated. Cultural appropriation is this new terminology that I see only as a new wordmeisting of exploitation. So it makes my job that much harder because where you are looking for allies you found that some people just because they thought they look like you and you embrace them through your southern hospitality feel that this is an opportunity for them financially and they have come in and really disrupted the human rights movement of the Gullah Geechee Nation. So that part is difficult. Also the infrastructure. We talk about climate change, sea level rise, trying to get people really understand, and as I say it, overstand not building all along every sea shore and every shoreline or on the marshline in the marsh, filling in the wetlands. It did not click in their minds. I studied engineering and you tell these people that is not sustainable. They said we are quote "emotional natives" end quote. I'm an emotional native with a degree in this? What are you talking about? You know I am telling you scientifically that it cannot stand, but again being a woman, they again dismiss you. Like you can't know science cause you are a woman so so its like again we don't have to listen and then now that these things are falling in the ocean, they're falling in our waterways, the hurricanes are more intense. They're snatching things out of the way real quick, ok? and the debris that's in the ocean now its like (loud whisper) (sigh) "Oh uh ooops ughhh can we get a sustainability committee?" (laughter) You know I said "Hi I said something twenty years ago remember me?" So that part you know gets taxing. But at the same time, all the mechanisms I mentioned are a plus because I don't have to do it alone you see when I put it out there like today we have 35,000 people following our blog. We have 21,000 or 25,000 following Facebook. I don't know how many is on Twitter, you know? So when you put it out there you just ran went and grabbed up 75 to 100 thousand people real quick that say "I agree now let me tell another 75 thousand 100 thousand people". So it's a good thing because our younger generation of Gullah Geechees are largely on their phones. They're back to that PDA. So they're on there. They're not in the library they're not in the books like I am, but they will look at that Tweet. They will look at that Instagram. They will look at that Facebook message and they'll share it with somebody else whether it's through talking, resharing it or whatever. And then they get excited enough until they go "ohhh we're gonna do something". You know so that's the good thing. It's like keeping knowing that even if I were to die today, there's somebody else that's willing to do something to make sure that my culture is still gonna be here and that right there means everything to me. So it has been a double-edged sword. Good and bad. Tourism has brought in money the Gullah Geechees could use to help pay taxes but it has also caused them to get taxed outta land because somebody else wanted their land to build a hotel, a resort, a gated area, a golf course. So it's a double-edged sword. And most of what I've read the statistics of the quote unquote "low country tourism" not even 1% of the billions of dollars that come through here ever end up with Gullah Geechees. And so that is the reality as a mathematician that I look at that I look to change. And so I'm happy to see all the new Gullah Geechee businesses, there's Naturally Geechee, there's Geechee Gear, there's all these things that are native Gullah Geechee owned businesses and now because of that internet people all the way in other . . . countries can buy stuff from us so . . .

SB: . . . and they are finding out about it too

QQ: Yes.

SB: So I was going to ask you if you could change something about the tourism industry here what would it be but I think you just answered it. So you mentioned southern hospitality earlier so now the next section is kinda about this. So what, in your opinion, does it mean to be hospitable and what makes a good host?

QQ: Hmm very interesting. As a Gullah Geechee, to be a good host or hostess, you usually make sure you got food for people. Ok so you serve 'em some very good food usually some traditional home made food, not go-to-the-store-and-buy-it or bring-in-a-caterer type food. So that's one thing. It also means having your home be comfortable enough that you can welcome people to it. And so having the open arms, having a positive energy and a positive atmosphere, to me is part of that. Because then people can come in and feel relaxed in a space and I feel like the more the people are relaxed the more they share and that's how you really get to know each other. And so I think that's pretty cool to say being a good host and I think southern hospitality has always been about that. That's why half the world knows about our sweet tea and our sharing it with everybody and our swamp water. And the other people round here wanna change the name to and exploit the industry but it is ours. Yes so it's really, I think those are critical pieces to that.

SB: Do you think that southern hospitality has changed or adapted for the present day?

QQ: Hmm, I don't know that southern hospitality has actually changed. I think it still exists. I know what part I think what has changed. I don't know that the southern hospitality has changed but southerners have changed in the sense that we are more discerning about who we share our hospitality with because we've learned that being too hospitable meant these people don't understand you visit my house and you leave. You don't visit my house and you move in. Or you don't visit my house and you move my furniture around and then tell me I'm required to keep it the way you said it ought to look. And so I think we've become more discerning about being so open and that's sad that we have to do that. But I think that's one of the signs of the times. But I don't think that southern hospitality has changed because I still feel it. I still get it. But I think people do it because we can kinda discern who from here and who just come here. (laughter)

SB: Is there a personal story or a time you can relate or tell me about when you felt that southern hospitality was provided to you or a memorable experience when you provided it to someone?

QQ: Well I mean that's too many experiences for your tape to cover. (laughter) I mean cause my family, naturally being southern, that's just something we grew up with that. So I don't have any one particular time that say stands out because I think every time is special. If you have a positive outcome with opening your doors to folks and feeding them, like I said let them sit at your table, and all of that, if you had that every moment is special and it's treasured. So I couldn't pull any one out and say "ohhh this time so and so" no. And I don't think I could do it in the reverse either because anytime people take

the time to share themselves with me I think it's special. I think this moment is special. You know to meet you to know what you're doing. To know about you. To know about your mom. So that to me, that openness is something the world seems like it's losing because of fear and I don't think that's good. So I just think keeping the circle open is a blessing and I just have been blessed to have it so much in my life so I don't wanna let go of that.

SB: I can relate to that as well. Um is there... you spoke about food a couple of times.

QQ: Oh yes.

SB: I know that I have certain things that I like to make when people come visit me. Do you have any favorite things that you like to serve people that represent you?

QQ: Ok ok see now see where you goin at? as we would say. Now let me tell you this. I don't have special things that I like to serve people. But I haved spoiled people so I've stopped serving people that come over to my house because they have the audacity to contact me and tell me what they would like to have.

SB: Really?

QQ: Yes (whispers) "Oh well you made such and such for me before. Would you do this? Are you gonna be cooking so and so this time?" So especially like friends and things like that oh they think they are comfortable enough to tell me what they hope is on the menu when they get to the house so it's like "no". Other people have these specialties of mine that they love but I don't think I have anything in particular that I really think is special. Other than my peanut butter cookies. And my peanut butter cookies I make for me. But everybody once they find out that I'm making my peanut butter cookies (whispers) "oh please give me a tray". And that's where social media has come to bite me because I don't normally take pictures of my food. But when I make food, you know when I go to restaurants I'm not that person that takes pictures over my food, but when I make food I say oh well that's fine they'll know what I'm doing today. You know I'm baking and I'm cooking such and such out of my field. And as soon as I put the picture up "oh yes Queen um I'll be needing some of those. Um can you ship to the following address?". I get all of these kinda remarks you know and I'm like go away or people are like "oh those look very good Queen so we have a meeting tomorrow night you will be bringing some of that with you right". I'm like "no this is for me and my family". You see you see if it's me in the picture. And they're like "oh no no no we know you'll bring us at least a dozen cookies right". (laughter) You know this kinda stuff. So it's really funny, but I think I I enjoy the cookies because when I was a child I started baking them then. And from the time that all my family members knew I could bake that was it. So like I'm a great cook because of my mom and she's a fabulous cook. She's not the baker. Certain things she can bake like pies and stuff. She's great at it. But now with the cookies the cakes and the biscuits and all of that, she's like I'm leaving those to you and she will make everything else right and so I think I love doing the cookies if I had to say it was something I would offer out to people as a gift cause I've even done care packages and baked cookies and shipped them to people. So I think that would be it. But if you let my friends talk, you'll need another 45 minutes. (laughter)

SB: I believe it. Alright I think this . . . we've kinda talked about southern hospitality a bit and the tourism industry in the lowcountry, but do you think there are specific ways that southern hospitality or this idea of being hospitable has influenced the growth and development of tourism in the lowcountry?

QQ: Ab-so-lute-ly. Southern hospitality has not only fueled the growth of the lowcountry but the South in general. To the point where people are reversing the great migration. They are also here influx like birds. That's why there's that term snow bird. Um because where they live in urbanized areas largely people aren't usually that hospitable. I mean unless they get paid to do it. So you go in and the hotel concierge says "hi how are you?" You know that they want a tip. Right? The red cap at the airport wants a tip. But just to say people you walk in the room and someone goes "Hey how you doin?!" You don't see that usually. I travel the world and I have to readjust when I'm traveling. So that's when it dawns on me oh yeah you're not home. You know I'm used to it as being a norm but elsewhere it's not. So I think that caused people when they visited once to go "I wanna go back. Oh my God I gotta take my friends back! Oh I gotta blog about this. The world needs to know. Oh my God this is such a beautiful place the people are so nice". You know look at South Carolina. South Carolina advertises itself as the place of beautiful places and smiling faces. They would've never said smiling faces if we were all grumpy and evil and don't talk to nobody. That southern hospitality fueled that whole marketing campaign. And so when people come here they expect to see and drink some sweet tea, yes? And see the beautiful shore lines. But to meet the people and to see and to taste the food that the people cook. And to sit with them and to hear our different accents. They want all of that. But they especially love the fact that you just say "hi" to somebody sittin on the porch and they just say "hi" and they don't know you. You know you can go in and out of the store and and feel comfortable. You don't feel like I gotta keep watchin my pocketbook. You know because people are so nice. Yeah and so that's the thing I really do believe when people come from other parts of the world they go (whispers) "Wow!" Cause they've said it to me. "Y'all really have something special here". And we just look like "oh yeah"? (laughter)

SB: We just grew up with it so we know it.

QQ: When we're trying to figure out what do they mean? But like when I say you travel yourself then you go "Oh. I see what they mean. Oh these folks just don't give you no grits or nothin you have to buy them" (laughter) you know. Nobody's just gonna say "hi" to you on the street. They look at you crazy when you say "hello, good mornin". They look at you like "what oh you're talking to me"?

SB: I had that experience a lot when I travel because I'm used it's my instinct when I come across the path of someone to smile and wave. And because you just do it here.

QQ: You do it here!

SB: Even when you're turning into a neighborhood you wave at the people.

QQ: Folks look at you like what's wrong. You're like you're an alien. But yeah that's southern hospitality. I think that once people feel it, they wanna keep it.

SB: Mhmm yeah. Do you think that's encouraged development not just of tourism but of people moving here as well?

QQ: Well see they all go together. And we're back to dots that connect because since we're so polite and so hospitable. Charleston has won awards for being the most hospitable city over and over and over again. So then people wanna visit Charleston. They get to Charleston, they see the beautiful homes. They see the water they see the beautiful atmosphere. They're not here during the hurricane. Even some that were here they had fun. They go ahead and they say "wow when I retire, I wanna be in this place. Or you know what I want my kids raised there because it's too violent where I am or the rents are too where what I'm paying for rent somewhere else I could have a home here and go to the beach everyday." So now people come and they stay. But then that adds to then the tourism industry, the chambers of commerce, the parks recreation and tourism folks goin "money ching ching ching ching ching". Not only should we get these taxes on these newly built homes but we oughta get this money from all these tourists so there's a tax. Ok then we can claim that we're putting it back into the community through non profits but now if we're gonna keep these people coming we need places to house them. So now we gotta build housing for them. So now we gotta have more hotels. Oh they want and bed and breakfast? Oh we gotta have those. Oh they want golf? Oh we gotta have that. Oh we have to have recreational areas, then you get places like the Grand Strand in Myrtle Beach that gets overdone. And then people go "EWWW! We don't want that yuck!" So now they start migrating down. And then Folly Beach gets overdone and you go "Oh my God it's too much here!" And then Mount Pleasant is overdone. "Oh no!". You know it's too many, but it has to be balanced, and that's the thing that Gullah Geechees have always done is live in balance with the environment and also host your guest but let you guest know when it's time to go home. And so I think that that is all connected. You cannot pull one without the other. So it's a conundrum. Pulling one side, the other part gets tight.

SB: Alright and my last question you can kinda answer it how you like, but do you have, I'm sure you do, do you have any specific hopes and/or how do you picture and think that area will be like in the future? Do you think it will that this balance will be established? Ever? At a certain breaking point? Or yeah in the future how do you see it?

QQ: I think that there is going to have to be exactly where you said a breaking point for people who don't . . .they're not accustomed to living in balance, but they do destroy area "Ok I'm done here. There's nothing. I move". I'll just migrate somewhere else and do the same thing. I'm still me where I go. So I'm still not changing my mind. I'm not changing my spirit. I'm not opening myself to learning anything new. I just destroy stuff and then I just go somewhere else and do it again. Or I've done it all my life and now I'm old. And now I'm like I don't really care what's going to happen in 50 years because I don't think I'm going to live five years. See that selfishness has to be destroyed. So my thing is, I'm praying against it, but I'm not going to be shocked. If what God is doing, is God is going to have to have a major catastrophe, and we're seeing touches of it already with these last two hurricane seasons. To say "You know what? Y'all won't stop? So I'mma take this foolishness down. I'm gonna put

the water back where I had it. I'm going to have the land go back naturally where trees grow out of it. I didn't give you concrete. I didn't give you asphalt. I didn't give anyone the thought to make those for you to cover all of the blessings I gave you to grow food for your children to eat in the future. So I'm gonna help you. I'm gonna take these buildings down and then after a little while if y'all just be calm" and as the Bible says, "be still and know that I am God" then what you gone see is sand is going to come back in places where it's gone now. Water is gonna go back in places where it looks dry now. You know and then y'all gone see the natural beauty again and people's health is gonna be better. You ain't gone need these indoor treadmills. You're gonna wanna be outside again working and children can feel safe to be outside again. Because it's not gonna be polluted, the water is not gonna be polluted, the air is not polluted in such a way that they can't survive. I think that we are, if we don't control ourselves, then as we say "Mama, mother nature is gonna come in and chastise the children." She already done slapped you on the back of the hand now ok but what does she have to do? Knock you all the way to the floor? So I really think in the future, we are going to finally align ourselves better in North America with the rest of the world that's aligning itself under climate change initiatives and what we're working on at the UN called the Sustainable Development Goals. I feel like there are enough of us who are positive people. There's enough of us that have the right energy, that balance energy. That's willing to be open to learn. I think this new generation isn't about just one or two people being multibillionaires and everybody else being poor and struggling. I think that there is enough energy that we just have to pull it all together and we can reverse the tide literally and figuratively. I think that we will be able to come in alignment with nature. Come in alignment with God and live in balance. You know I truly believe in that scripture about crying out and healing the land and God hearing us and then God doing that and so I think that if we do what we're supposed to do, oh God will be happy with us all, and we'll be here. And so I always say [in Gullah] "must take care the root for heal the tree" We just gotta keep digging deeper to see the root of the problem and then uproot what we don't need. And we'll be alright.

SB: Well I hope so. I love this area as well and I'd love to see it not end up underwater.

QQ: Right! We don't need Atlantis.

SB: No

QQ: No

SB: No

QQ: Atlantis, the most hospitable city in the world. (laughter) And we're lookin like the little squirrel on Spongebob with the things on our heads right? Yeah we don't need that.

SB: Well thank you for doing this interview with me.

QQ: Thank you

SB: I will let you know what comes of this project.

QQ: Thank you

SB: Um and I will I'll keep you in the loop.

QQ: Excellent.