



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Lillian Patterson (Part Two)*

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Interviewer: *Krystn Moon*

Transcriber: *Colleen Mason*

Abstract: *Lillian Patterson discusses Miss Martha Miller's kindergarten in Alexandria. Ms. Patterson talks about how she met her husband Edward Lloyd Patterson, her work for the Girl Scouts in Florida and then returning to Virginia to get married. She talks about her many volunteer roles in organizations ranging from Project Discovery, Alexandria's Human Relations Board, and the League of Women Voters.*

Also present at the interview was Emma Richardson.

This transcript has been edited by the interviewee and may not reflect the audio-recording exactly.

Table of Contents/Index

Minute	Page	Topic
	3	Martha Miller's Kindergarten
	4	Meeting and Marrying Edward Lloyd Patterson
	5	Moving to Florida and Working for the Girl Scouts
	7	Getting Married
	8	Sewing
	11	Cooking and Favorite Foods
	13	Moving to Arlington and later to Alexandria
	15	Jack and Jill Program
	16	Board of Human Relations and Desegregation
	17	League of Women Voters
	19	Project Discovery
	20	The Alexandria Community Y/The Campagna Center

Krystn Moon:	So let's go back to this photo again. [Is it] Mrs. Miller?
Lillian Patterson:	Umhm.
KM:	She ran a kindergarten, is that correct?
Lillian Patterson:	Umhm.
KM:	Can you tell us a little bit more about that?
<i>Martha Miller's Kindergarten</i>	
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah. Some kids started early, like as early as three years old, going to Miss Martha Miller's kindergarten. And the thing about how long you went and what you knew depended also on where you started public school. For example, I lived right across the street. I didn't go all over town, but I remember going long enough so that when I started public school, instead of starting in first level, I started in first half, which meant that, that's why I had to come out in February instead of September. But then, some kids that started, all the way up to the third grade, you had to be six. It didn't say where you started at six but you had to be six in order to enter public school. So some kids started as high as the third grade, which meant they came out of high school at fourteen years old.
KM:	Wow.
Lillian Patterson:	And Reverend Atkins, he was the pastor at Alfred Street Baptist at the time, had a set of twins that started in the third grade. And they came out of high school at fourteen. And of course he wouldn't let them go away to college because they were too young. They went to school in the area
KM:	So how did families pay Mrs. Miller for the kindergarten that she ran?
Lillian Patterson:	They just paid her fifty cents a week.
KM:	Fifty cents a week?
Lillian Patterson:	There were no credit cards then, so they just used cash.
KM:	So how long was the program during the day?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, all day.

KM:	All day?
Lillian Patterson:	I don't remember what time we had to go and what time we got out, but most school back then was 9:00 to 3:00. I think that's what it was.
KM:	Okay. And she only had five-year-olds in the program?
Lillian Patterson:	Like I said, they started as young as three. Three and four years old.
KM:	Can you also talk about who's in the photo?
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah. In this photo, this is my grandmother standing on the outside. And sitting in the car is my father. And in the background is this house where Miss Martha Miller lived. And that car [unclear] Daddy always had a car.
KM:	Did you get to ride in the car?
Lillian Patterson:	All the time. With <i>this</i> car, 'cause I would have remembered that, I think <i>this</i> car was a 1939 car, I think that was it, somebody stole it, I remember that. He went out to go somewhere first thing in the morning, and no car. He never did find it. Must have bought another one.
KM:	Did he report it to the police, or did anything happen, or—?
Lillian Patterson:	I guess so, I don't know. I guess, but I don't really know.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	But I know the car was stolen. [laughs]
KM:	[laughs] Okay. So, I was going to continue with our questions, but of course I wanted to make sure that we had that information about the photo.
Lillian Patterson:	Okay.
<i>Meeting and Marrying Edward Lloyd Patterson</i>	
KM:	So, in 1956 you married Edward Lloyd Patterson.
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm.

KM:	Can you talk a little bit about how you met and the wedding and—?
Lillian Patterson:	<p>You know, actually, he taught me in the ninth grade. But I didn't know him, and he didn't know me. He was just a teacher. He was one of the three that I liked, because they were three nice people. I remember running into him again after I got out of college, and he, he was the band teacher. And here again is a difference. [unclear] In the White schools, the instruments were provided for the students, the uniforms were provided. In the Black schools, people had to get the instruments any way they could. Same thing with the uniforms. And they had this organization that formed to buy uniforms for the band that was called the PG [Parker Gray] campaigners. And one of my friends was in this group. I don't know, well, I do know how she got in 'cause one of our other friends was in it. Anyway, when I came home from, let's see, no, it wasn't that. But she asked me, she said, "Come on, come on, go with me." I said, "No, I don't want to go." She said, "Come on and go, it's fun." Anyway, I went to the meeting with her, and my husband was one of the people in there because he was the band leader and they were trying to buy uniforms for his band. And we got to be friends. After the meetings, he would invite everybody to his house, and we'd go over to his house after the meeting and talk, have fun. And he was a good host. He'd always bring out something to eat and drink and we got to be friends.</p> <p>I remember one time, he said he had a friend who wanted to meet some nice ladies. And he introduced me to this guy, and this fellow and I talked on the phone for a long time. And I was talking to one of my girlfriends that I had gone to college with, this was after college, and I was talking to one of my girlfriends, and I was telling her about this guy that I had met. And she said, "Well, I know him." And I said, "Really? What's he like?" And she described him. I said, "Well, I just told you that." She said, "I'm serious. He's my dance partner." She was taking dance lessons. "He's my dance partner." Anyway, the next time I saw my husband, Pat, I called him, the next time I saw Pat, he said, "You women talk too much." [laughs] Because the conversations had gotten back to each other. And one day he asked me to go out with him, and we went to the theater. And coming out of the theater, the first person we saw [laughing] was this guy that he was trying to set me up with. [laughs] Anyway, one thing led to another, and eventually we got to be good friends. And I moved away, I moved to Florida.</p>
<i>Moving to Florida and Working for the Girl Scouts</i>	
KM:	Can you talk a little bit about why you moved to Florida and what you were doing?

Lillian Patterson:	<p>Okay. I'd been in Girl Scouts since Brownie days, and I always liked scouting. I was a Girl Scout leader. And one day I was looking at the want ads, and I saw one about Girl Scouting. So I called for an interview. And I went over to this office in DC. And I looked around, and I said, "Oh, this is a nice place to work," not realizing what it was all about. Well, after the interview, I realized that this was not to work in this building, it was more than that. They gave me an application to fill out, and I looked at it and I said, "I ain't doing this." And I got a form letter from the New York office, because the interviewer had come from New York, got a form letter talking about my interview. It asked me to send my application in, and it said print, no, type or print in ink. I didn't have a typewriter, and I wasn't about to print all this stuff, so I ignored it. And then they sent me a personal letter asking me for my application, and I said, "Maybe I'll fill it out," so I did. And once I filled that out, then they began to send me job descriptions from all around the country. I remember going to New York one time for an interview. I didn't get that job, but one job, the one that I really got, I got this letter from Florida, Pensacola, Florida. And they asked me if I would come and work for three months in place of an interview. And I did, and I stayed down there a couple of years.</p> <p>Now, had I known, really, really known, what the job involved, I might have taken it, because the success of the job depended on my meeting people. And back in those days I was so shy, uh, you know, the kind of shyness [unclear] "get out of my way." And I had to make speeches, because my job was to develop Girl Scouting among African—Negroes, we were—among Negroes in the Northwest Florida area. And that meant you had to go out, meet people, make speeches, and then create Girl Scout troops, training leaders and all that kind of thing. And if I had realized that it was like that, I felt I was too shy to do that, I wouldn't have taken it. But I did. And one person, one person said to me one time, "You certainly meet people easily," and I said, "Oh, my god" to myself. [laughs] I had grown. But I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Girl Scouts in Florida.</p>
KM:	Was Florida very different from Alexandria?
Lillian Patterson:	It was very much like Alexandria. It's a small town. It was about the same size at that time.
KM:	That's Pensacola?
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm. About the same size. And, uh, people were nice. I had a good time, really good time. But I left so that, I felt it would give Pat the chance to decide what he wanted to do, okay.

KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	He claimed he let me go so I could decide what we wanted to do, and I'm thinking, well, we wasted two years. [laughs] But it was a good two years. I enjoyed it. So I decided, you know, I decided to get married. We decided.
KM:	So you've got married after working in Florida Is that—?
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah.
KM:	I'm just trying to place the chronology.
<i>Getting Married</i>	
Lillian Patterson:	I stayed in Florida. I came back to get married.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	I did all the planning from down there. With my mother's help. I did the planning from down there. I came back on a Sunday and the wedding was on Wednesday. And I had planned the wedding for a few days earlier. And he said, "You know what?" You know, I was coming home on Sunday and the wedding was on Sunday. He said, "You might want to give yourself a little more time than that." So I moved it from Sunday to Wednesday, and I'm glad I did. Back then you had to have a blood test before you could get a license, and then it would take three days, at least three days after that, before you could get the license. But I also found out I could have the blood test done down there and they would accept it up here. And the person that was giving me the blood test evidently didn't know what she was doing because she just kept sticking and sticking before she found blood. She said, "Making you think about getting married the next time," and I said, "Making me think about getting married <i>this</i> time." [laughs] Anyway—.
KM:	So why were they taking blood? Can you talk a little bit about why they did a blood sample before you got married?
Lillian Patterson:	Why did they take a blood sample? They wanted to make sure you didn't have a venereal disease, they said. But I got the results back, and I mailed them to my mother. This was a month before the wedding. I mailed them home to her. And when I got home on Sunday, I said, "Give me my blood test results." She said, "Your blood test?" I said, "Yeah, I mailed

	<p>them to you a month ago!” She didn’t know anything about it. She didn’t have them. Which meant, this was Sunday, and the wedding was on Wednesday, three days before we could get it, and I called Pat and I said, “Mama can’t find my blood test.” So, he called our doctor, and he came over, because he lived in DC, but he had an office here. He called the doctor, he came over on Sunday and gave me a blood test and rushed it through so we could get a license. But blood tests after that have always been something that I [unclear]. [laughs] Now they have to get the blood out of my hands, you know, and I always say, “You can’t get the blood there.” And I always give them a chance to play around, and if you can’t get it the first time, I <i>might</i> let you get it the second time. But that’s all! But Florida was good. I thoroughly enjoyed it. And I came home, and we got married. The wedding was at my house. We didn’t have a church wedding.</p>
KM:	<p>Okay. Why did you choose not to do a church wedding and have it at the house?</p>
Lillian Patterson:	<p>He didn’t want to do that. He didn’t want to have that.</p>
<p><i>Sewing</i></p>	
KM:	<p>Okay. I just thought I'd ask. So, I read your Living Legends bio [https://alexandrialegends.org/lillian-stanton-patterson] and one of the things you talk about is how much you liked making clothes for yourself and your family. Can you talk a little bit more about that?</p>
Lillian Patterson:	<p>Yeah, I like to sew. My grandmother—I had sewing in high school, if you want to call it that. So, I didn’t feel like I really learned to sew there.</p>
KM:	<p>Okay. Who taught you how to sew, for real?</p>
Lillian Patterson:	<p>My grandmother. My grandmother. And I sewed. I made a few things. And then one time I wanted to make something that I thought was kind of difficult, so I went, I took a sewing class. They had a sewing class at a store called Landsberg's, which was in Shirlington. And I went there, and I took, I think it was called a Bishop’s Neckline, and I took sewing. I think I learned to make a coat, and I needed to know how. So, I took sewing there. But you had to take Basic Bishop before you could get into tailoring. And then I decided, well, since you’re going to sew, you need to know about fabrics, and so I began to learn about fabrics. And one of the things I realized was that no matter what fabric you worked on, it</p>

	would take the same amount of time. So instead of buying cheap fabrics, I would buy good fabrics, because I could buy fabric for fifty cents a yard and I would have a cheap garment, cheap blouse, or I could pay four or five dollars and have a better garment, and it would still take me the same amount of time to do it. And I also learned how to make the garments look better, like, press as you go along instead of pressing when you finish. So, I enjoyed sewing. And I made all of my formal clothes. And I didn't do a lot of sewing for my kids, but I did make things for them. But I sewed many for myself. And I think I liked to sew because I felt like I was saving money, making things for me. With my kids, I didn't feel like I was saving any money because quantity for them at that time was more important than quality.
KM:	Right.
Lillian Patterson:	I didn't want to have to wash clothes every day because they didn't have but a few pieces. So, I could buy stuff, I could buy cheap stuff, that was okay. When they got older, then I began to buy better clothes for them. But most of the sewing, I did for myself. And then I taught them how to sew, and what to look for when they were buying garments, and I used to teach sewing.
KM:	Really?
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm, at Hopkins House, I taught sewing to young girls, young teens.
KM:	Were you doing hand sewing with them, or machines?
Lillian Patterson:	Machines.
KM:	Did you have a pattern company that you liked?
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah, I used to buy Vogue patterns and McCalls and Butterick.
KM:	The Vogue ones are hard.
Lillian Patterson:	I was hesitant at first about buying Vogue patterns. But they had good patterns, and I could work with them.
KM:	Yeah.

Lillian Patterson:	And I also learned how to take a couple of patterns and put them together to get a style that I wanted.
KM:	Where, where would you buy your fabric here in Alexandria?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, I didn't buy it here in Alexandria. There was, well, yes I did. There was a fabric shop and dry goods.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	<p>And then there was Lansburgh's in Shirlington. Those were the two that I—</p> <div data-bbox="753 730 1122 1205" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Lansburgh's Ad 1962. Image from Arlington Blu Book 1962, Arlington County Public Library, Center for Local History Archives</i></p>
KM:	Lansburgh's in Shirlington?
Lillian Patterson:	Lansburgh's was in Shirlington, and then there was another little fabric shop down there. I can't remember the name of either one of them now.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	The one in Shirlington or the dry goods. But that's where I used to buy fabrics.
KM:	Okay. [problems with the recorder]
Lillian Patterson:	So what do we do now?

KM:	So I think we have two options. We could do just the recording, which is what we normally do for oral history, [unclear] or we could return to these questions. So what do you want to do? Do you want to keep on going, or do you want to—?
Lillian Patterson:	Well, we have the picture.
KM:	Yeah. You have video for the June team, so she is set for the June team thing that Audrey's putting together. But it would just be for the remaining questions that wouldn't be used for that event. If you would like that to possibly be on video.
Lillian Patterson:	Are they going to be written up or—?
KM:	We'll transfer together as well.
Lillian Patterson:	So if they're going to be written up, we can just keep on talking, right?
KM:	Absolutely.
Lillian Patterson:	Okay. That's fine with me.
KM:	You might want to [unclear]. So I wanted to ask, you brought up turtle soup, so I thought I would also ask you about cooking, and your cooking. Did you make turtle soup, or what sort of meals did you make after you got married? Because like, did you do cooking before you were married?
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah, I sure had to.
<i>Cooking and Favorite Foods</i>	
KM:	You're not the first to say that. [laughs] So what did you—who taught you how to cook? What sort of meals did you like to make?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, who taught me how to cook? I don't know that I was <i>taught</i> to cook, I was, sometimes I watched, uh, we would help. We would help in some way. For example, we would, like, we would peel the potatoes and we saw what was being done with the potatoes. For example, we would string the beans, and we, we saw what was going on because we might have to do something minimal to help.

KM:	Who primarily cooked when you were a kid? Was it your grandmother who cooked? Your grandmother, your mother?
Lillian Patterson:	Both of them. My two grandmothers—Daddy’s mother was a good cook. She was a cook. She worked for, uh, a family in DC, and then she also cooked at Mount Vernon. Uh, so she was a cook, so, you worked. But I don’t remember standing at the stove doing things.
KM:	Did you have a favorite dish that your mom and your grandmothers made when you were a kid?
Lillian Patterson:	They were all good. [laughs] They were all good.
KM:	What did they usually cook for, like, a Sunday dinner?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, it would be a chicken, a roast, roast beef or roast pork, fried chicken or baked chicken, and vegetables, uh, we always had greens, like kale, spinach, cabbage. Not much spinach, but collard greens, and white potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, the good things. Uh, corn on the cob seemed to be a treat. If there were things that we didn’t like, there were seven of us, we weren’t forced to eat, but we might fix it for ourselves. For example, eggplant. Beans. And squash. Most of us didn’t like it. They would fix some for themselves, but they didn’t force us to eat it.
KM:	Did you cook like your mom and your grandmothers cooked when you had your kids?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, my husband could cook. [laughs]
KM:	Oh, okay! That’s great!
Lillian Patterson:	He could cook! But I did things, I would try a recipe. If I, if we had company, I could tell. My husband wasn’t big on compliments, you know, he just gave me a look. If we had company, he would suggest something, and that would be something that he felt I was doing pretty good. I remember one dish that he would say, “You don’t have to do that again.” [laughs]
KM:	What dish was that?

Lillian Patterson:	A lady had told me about lima beans and short ribs cooked together. And I cooked it, and he said, "You don't have to do that again!" [laughs] But other than that, he liked all the things that I made. There were things that he liked, and he would tell me how he wanted them.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	But he was, he was really good. He was really good. I judged men by him. It may not be fair, but I did. I had two good men in my life, my husband and my father, who taught me how women ought to be treated by men, how men were the treatment. We knew our brothers would protect us so we let guys know ahead of time, "My father [unclear] if you do." And my husband, my husband was a gentleman. So, yeah, they were just good men.
KM:	So, you lived with him on Columbus Street? Is that correct?
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm, 313. That's the first year that we got married. And then during the second year we bought a house in Arlington.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	And we lived in Arlington for about eight years. Then we moved back to Alexandria.
KM:	So where did you live when you moved back to Alexandria?
Lillian Patterson:	Where I live now. Woods Place, which is right behind T. C. Williams [High School, now called Alexandria City High School].
KM:	Okay. So about what year would that have been?
Lillian Patterson:	[Nineteen] sixty-five.
<i>Moving to Arlington and later to Alexandria</i>	
KM:	Sixty-five? So can you talk, we're sort of jumping around but that's okay, can you talk about why you decided to move over to Woods Place in the 60s?

Lillian Patterson:	Um hm. Colonel Johnson lived in that area. And he was the architect that designed that neighborhood. And my husband said to him one day, “I hear you’re building some housing out there.” And he said, “Yeah, you want one?” And my husband said “Yes,” and that’s how we got it.
KM:	Okay. Was there a reason why you actually left Alexandria in the first place?
Lillian Patterson:	Because that’s where we found a house.
KM:	Because that’s where you found a house, in Arlington? Was it hard finding a house in the fifties and sixties?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh no. We had, we had a real estate agent. I remember, we had somebody that took us around looking at various houses. And the house that we bought in Arlington was next door to a guy that worked with my husband. And, uh, so we bought that house right next door to him. Up on 23rd Street. It was just on the fringe of Arlington, right off where [Interstate] 395 is.
KM:	Was that Green Valley?
Lillian Patterson:	That was the Green Valley section, yeah.
KM:	So really close to Shirlington, too.
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm. But 395 was just a block and a half away.
KM:	So how did your husband know Colonel Johnsen?
Lillian Patterson:	I don’t know. I don’t know how they met, but they were in a group together called the Secret [unclear].
KM:	And so they were working on things for the—?
Lillian Patterson:	They were working on various things. But he was an architect, and he lived there, so our house was directly behind his house.
KM:	The Johnson house?

Lillian Patterson:	Yeah. His daughter sold their house. And she has passed since then. Last year. And another person moved in. I don't remember when they moved in. But they had a huge fire. And she still hasn't moved back in.
KM:	I saw the fire—.
Lillian Patterson:	You saw?
KM:	I texted Audrey to make sure it wasn't your house.
Lillian Patterson:	No, it wasn't my house, it was the Johnson house.
KM:	I couldn't get very close to it, so I wasn't sure.
Lillian Patterson:	Yeah.
KM:	So did you like living in the Seminary neighborhood on Woods Place?
Lillian Patterson:	People were so friendly in that neighborhood. There were so many people in that neighborhood that were related to each other. I was an outsider. But most of the people in that neighborhood I think there were about five houses that were not bought by people there [unclear]. And you drive along, when you go in the street, you'd drive one hand on the steering wheel and the other hand waving at the people, like that. Everybody, <i>everybody</i> , knew everybody else. But the neighborhood has changed because several houses have been sold, and of all the houses that have been sold, only one African-American family has moved in. So, it has changed from the little black enclave it was.
KM:	Yeah. So, speaking of this, sort of 1960s moment, I wanted to ask you about the Jack and Jill of America Program. You became involved in it in the 1950s. Can you tell us what Jack and Jill was, and then why you decided to get involved with the program?
<i>Jack and Jill Program</i>	
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, Jack and Jill is a national organization. And it's essentially—but it's the mother that holds the membership. Only mothers can join. Now, if the mother passes, then the father can take over, because we had that happen in our chapter. You can go in when your children are as young as three,

	<p>and you stay until the last one comes out of high school. And then you have to leave. Although if you want to stay, there's an associates' group, but the parents, the mothers, the children, are in groups, eight age-related groups, and each month, you do an activity with the children. There are all kinds of activities. The children also do community service. You have fundraisers, and you give back to the community in some kind of way. But this is a way for the children to meet other children and learn. And I was—my two daughters are ten years apart, which put me in a longer period of time. I went in when I, when I moved back to Alexandria. The chapter was just beginning. The first two years are what they call provisional years, and then after that, there's an induction into the national organization. With the first two years, it's called a Mother's Club, and after that it's called Jack and Jill, when you officially are inducted into the national organization. So, I came in during the second year of the provisional. So when they were initiated into the National, I was a child mother, and my daughter was eight. And she came out of high school at sixteen also, because she skipped the eleventh grade. But by that time, my second daughter came along, which gave me some more years in Jack and Jill.</p>
<p><i>Board of Human Relations and Desegregation</i></p>	
<p>KM:</p>	<p>Um, you're actually involved in a lot of organizations, starting in the 1960s. You also were involved with the Board of Human Relations. Can you talk a little bit about what that organization was about?</p>
<p>Lillian Patterson:</p>	<p>Yeah. During those integrating years, this was at the beginning of integration. This organization was from the Human Relations Council, was formed to try to ease desegregating. And one of the things that this group did was to have tutoring sessions. So I was in charge of tutoring, and we used the seminarians from across the street as tutors. And they would tutor the kids, just to be sure that they got what they wanted, because White people always thought they were a lot smarter than Black people, and we needed children. So—.</p>
<p>KM:</p>	<p>So you worked on the tutoring for the Board of Human Relations?</p>
<p>Lillian Patterson:</p>	<p>I didn't tutor. I got tutors, in places willing to tutor.</p>
<p>KM:</p>	<p>Were there a lot of women involved in the program?</p>

Lillian Patterson:	Women?
KM:	Yeah, women.
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm. There were a lot of men and women, Black and White.
KM:	Okay. So, it was integrated?
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm, it was integrated. There were two of us that went all over the city wherever the kids were.
KM:	Okay. Did the Board only focus on education, or did they also address other issues?
Lillian Patterson:	It was mainly about education.
<i>League of Women Voters</i>	
KM:	Okay. So you also joined the League of Women Voters. Tell me about that.
Lillian Patterson:	One of the things that I had, that most of my friends didn't have, was time during the day, because I was a housewife, a homemaker. Today, they call it stay-at-home mom. But I didn't, I didn't work outside the home.
KM:	Right.
Lillian Patterson:	I was unsalaried. [laughs] I worked—.
KM:	Uncompensated. [laughs] I understand.
Lillian Patterson:	So I had time during the day when most of these organizations were meeting. And the League of Women Voters also had what they called associate members, that were men.
KM:	Okay.

Lillian Patterson:	And this friend of my husband's got him to be an associate member. And he said [unclear]. And he paid associate dues for a while, and then he suggested that we go in. And that's how I got to go in.
KM:	So what issues was the League working on when you got involved with the League?
Lillian Patterson:	Um, they worked on education. They worked on legislation, obviously. What they did was to gather the information and put it out there, and then you do with it as you chose. One of the things that I did was with legislation. I used to, I used to write in the newsletter column about what was going on in the state legislature. And I used to also call, get legislators to come together so that people could talk to them, the forums, the same kind of thing that they do now. And we had the candidates together. I used to get the candidates together to talk. And the League of Women Voters also had sessions where people would come in to listen to what they had to say. And that's what we used to do.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	But they talked about whatever was current and—.
KM:	So, they worked on voter registration, particularly for African-American voters or for everybody?
Lillian Patterson:	For everybody. For everybody.
KM:	Okay. And then you said education—.
Lillian Patterson:	Education, they would talk about what was going on in the schools and how to address school issues.
KM:	Okay. Did they work on housing or anything like that?
Lillian Patterson:	They talked about housing, but I didn't work on that committee.
KM:	Okay. So. you were very active in the 1960s, and in many ways—.
Lillian Patterson:	Well, that wasn't [19]50s, this was after I got married.

KM:	No, I meant 1960s.
Lillian Patterson:	I know.
KM:	I know, so your activism reflects what's going on in Alexandria, but also the nation. What are some of the things that are going on in Alexandria that you sort of are getting involved in and active in the city in the 1960s?
Lillian Patterson:	In the 1960s, 70s, 80s. Fifties, I didn't do anything.
KM:	Right. No, 1960s onward.
<i>Project Discovery</i>	
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm. I also worked on, I began to work with Project Discovery.
KM:	Okay.
Lillian Patterson:	Project Discovery is a college-oriented program. Are you familiar with it?
KM:	No.
Lillian Patterson:	The organization—I was on the board, I came off the board a year or so ago, before [20]20. I came off the board, and I put my grandson on the board.
KM:	Nice!
Lillian Patterson:	That was my replacement. But what Project Discovery is we have clubs at the schools, at T.C. Williams High School. And they meet every week, they talk about what college is, how you get in, what you do after you get there. The students that go into Project Discovery are first-time college students in their families. And they're also of lower income. And the board of Project Discovery helps to raise money to fund the program. It's also supported by the city, because it comes under the Youth Department of the Department of Health and Human Services. And Project Discovery also takes the kids on college trips so that they can see what it's like. We also give a book scholarship. I don't think kids realize how expensive books have become. But, uh, we give book scholarships. I was talking to

	my grandson last night because this is his first year of working with the Scholarship Committee. I was on the Scholarship Committee, so when I came off, they put him on in my place.
KM:	Do you know when Project Discovery was started? Were you part of its establishment?
Lillian Patterson:	Uh, I forgot what year. I didn't go in then, but I was on the board for about twenty years. That's a long time to be on anybody's board. [laughs]
KM:	Yeah, it's a long time.
Lillian Patterson:	That's a long time. But I liked, I liked what Project Discovery does. We also have a walk-a-thon every year. Of course, we didn't have it last year, and I don't think they're gonna have it this time [because of COVID-19]. No, they aren't. They didn't. Because it usually comes in April. But they have a walk-a-thon, and they also have, well, they started off calling it a tea, in the fall. We had people who come in to do book readings, forums, things like that. That's a fundraiser. And the walk-a-thon is a fundraiser. But the kids get to go to visit colleges, and at their weekly meetings, they have people to come in and talk about the various career options, and they have people to come in to talk about how to apply for all of the things you need. Project Discovery also pays for kids to apply to college, and they pay for SATs, and they pay for the college trips. So that's why they need to raise money.
KM:	I have one more question for this session.
Lillian Patterson:	Um hm.
<i>The Alexandria Community Y/The Campagna Center</i>	
KM:	And again, it's about all the activities you were involved in. You were also, you were involved in the Alexandria Community Y, starting in the 1970s? Is that right? Well, it becomes Campagna Center. Can you talk a little bit about the YWCA?
Lillian Patterson:	It, it wasn't the YWCA. For some reason, the YWCA program in Alexandria, something about that Alexandria had a problem with it, so they pulled out. And instead of being called the Alexandria YWCA, it became the Alexandria Community Y. And one of the directors was

	<p>Elizabeth Anne Campagna. And when she passed, they renamed the Y after her. And I used to be on the Y Board. [laughs] Yeah, I was on another board! I was on the Y Board when they were at 602 Cameron Street. And, uh, I remember the early days of the Christmas Walk [Christmas Parade and activities done yearly to raise money for the Campagna Center.]</p>
KM:	<p>What responsibilities did you have for the Christmas Walk?</p>
Lillian Patterson:	<p>Uh, they also had a sale, and one time I was chairman of the Heather Sale. They still have the Heather Sale. But they had spread out to taking, to selling more and more greenery. Uh, they also used to have a tea. I forgot what that tea was all about. But I remember working on the tea. Pouring tea seemed a big thing for people, you know, that was quite a great honor to pour the tea [laughs]. Uh, I don't remember doing that much tea pouring, [laughs], but I did work on the tea. I worked with various things that they used to do.</p>
KM:	<p>Well, we'll end there, because I know you need to go do your next one, Audrey needs to do her next one. We almost finished our questions, I have a few more, mostly about your volunteering with Black History Month.</p>
	<p>END OF TAPE 2</p>