Interview with Linda Byrne
Conducted by Janet Tener for the
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective

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Janet: Good afternoon it's Friday October 29th and I am Janet Tener and I am here with Linda F. Byrne of Oakton, Virginia and also sitting in on the interview is Frank Gregorsky. I want to interview Linda because for the Providence District History Project, which is a part of a larger Fairfax County wide initiative to record the oral history of our community before we get to the point where we can't remember what it was like when we were growing up and even beyond that period of time, and Linda is a long time residence of Fairfax County and of this community in particular. She is actually a native of Washington, D.C. was born and raised there. Her father owned a number of movie theaters so I am sure she has some very interesting stories to tell at that time in Washington, D.C. I understand you also learned how to ride horses when you were growing up is that right?

Linda: Yes.

Janet: And where did you guys keep horses because that does lead back in to the Oakton story at some point?

Linda: Well I started riding in D.C. at my grandparents' place in southeast Washington. They had horses and ponies back in the [19]40s and [19]50s but when we moved to Oakton as a married couple we lived on Courthouse Road. It drove us to find something where we could have horses. We both met horseback riding fell in love, got married and we each had a horse so where would we keep them and boarding them is so much more expensive than keeping them on your own property. So we found a home in Oakton on Courthouse Road, 9800 Courthouse Road, and two acres of land. So we moved there, and then later we bought two acres a little further out. Two miles out on Hunters Valley Road out near Hunter Mill Road and became a

part of a horseback riding association there which maintains twenty-five acres or twenty-five miles of bridle path and a jumping ring dressage arena for the community of I would say now there are probably hundred two-three horses within a mile radius.

Janet: That's amazing. I don't think a lot of people in the community are aware of that. About what time was it when you did move back to the area and began building your second home was that in the [19]70s or [19]80s?

Linda: That was in the [19]80s, the early [19]80s. We moved back and found– we had lived in California for three years and found that in that three years the Oakton area had just grown so much that the two acres of ground we had on Courthouse Road was surrounded by development and there was no place to ride any longer. We use to ride where 66 has now gone in and there was still farm areas of open space so we didn't have those so we bought two acres of ground on Hunters Valley Road and built a house there and moved in 1985.

Janet: And about how old were your children at this point of time?

Linda: (Laughter) That's an interesting story in itself. Our daughter was eleven and our son was six months old.

Janet: Oh wow.

Linda: So we finally say we had our own grandchild when we were a little older when we had our son and he's delight of our life.

Janet: And was your daughter a horse enthusiast as well?

Linda: Yes, she was. She grew up–

Janet: And this was Elizabeth right?

Linda: Elizabeth yes. She grew up riding though she was never dedicated to it as I had been, she still loves riding occasionally.

Janet: And what about Jack your son?

Linda: No, riding was not something that he ever picked up on. He liked soccer and Taekwondo.

Janet: And I understand he likes cars quite well too?

Linda: (Laughter) You're right, yes.

Janet: Tell me a little bit about what the community was like as an equestrian community? How did it bind people together? How was Oakton different say maybe from Vienna?

Linda: There is an intersection on Hunter Mill Road at Wickens [Road] which is if you were leaving the little village of Oakton and going Hunter Mill Road is approximately two miles out, and there was a family, the Wickens family who had owned six-hundred acres in that area. They purchased the land in the [19]20s and [19]30s we're told on the courthouse steps for back taxes much of it. Mr. Wickens was from Montana and he believed that horses and riding was something that was very good for people. So when they started sub-dividing the six-hundred acres, they had much of it in at least two acres lots and he dedicated bridle paths all through the property.

Janet: That is very far-reaching and far-seeing, far-sighted on his part to dedicate bridle trails.

Linda: Yes, when we moved to the area in 1985 roughly there was still twenty acres. Mrs. Wickens was still living at that time and she let the riding club, the Hunters Valley Riding Club, use that twenty acres for horse shows, events, combined training. It was the glue that more or less held the community together with weekend events where kids and parents would go and picnic and watch people riding and competing.

Janet: And this is– I know I have seen a riding ring right down sort of at the bottom of very near your old home, your prior home, was that open just to that community or was it open to the broader public?

Linda: No, mainly the community. We did have people who would join the riding club and pay a fee of I think back then it was like $35 a year and they could trailer in and bring their horses in and ride.

Janet: And what remains as far as you know of the bridle trails that were originally there when you first moved in?

Linda: All of them are still there.

Janet: Oh that's amazing. How can that be with all the development that has taken place?

Linda: It's really amazing. The people who move in like to see the horses going through. They don't mind that the riding club comes through several times a year to maintain the trails of trees fall or whatever. There are easements for most of the property that–

Janet: So they're pre-existing?

Linda: Yes.

Janet: And so when people move in or buy something they realize that that's part of the package.

Linda: Exactly.

Janet: What about the rest of Oakton? I mean you were in a very, at an area that I would say in some ways is still fairly well preserved because if you travel down any of the side roads on Hunter Mill you'll see that there's still open vistas and lots of paddocks and pasture land, but what was

Oakton like up in the village area as opposed to the little bit further out where you lived?

Linda: Well we had at the corner of 123 and Hunter Mill Road Appalachian Outfitters which had been at one time a school. Later it became I believe it was a hardware store and then it became Appalachian Outfitters where you could buy things for camping and hiking, et cetera. Recently it has been sold, that property, and there is a bank there now. However, the school was moved just maybe a tenth of a mile, an eighth of a mile down the road into Oakton Park which the county has purchased there, the Fairfax County Park Authority, ten acres of land and preserved the schoolhouse at that site. Oakton also back in that time back before they widened 123 there had at one time been an oak tree, a large oak tree, at that intersection where you had to drive either to the right or the left to get around that large oak tree, but the tree itself died with the development. We still do have the other large oak.

Janet: About how old is that oak tree about to be?

Linda: I've heard 200 to 250 years old, so it's got a quite a history if it could only talk.

Janet: You also talk about history. It makes me think about the work you have done with the Hunter Mill Defense League in trying to establish the Hunter Mill corridor, which I think it's around seven miles long, as an historic district and to identify the historic sites along that corridor. Can you tell me a little more about that, and how that came to be and what some of the work was that you did?

Linda: The Hunter Mill Defense League is an organization which all of the civic associations or most of them– all of them I know exist up and down the seven miles, 7.2 miles of Hunter Mill Road, belong to this organization and the organization comes forward to help you if there is a need civically or however in your particular area of the road. They have a history committee which Jody Bennett has chaired for many years and they have

worked very hard with a group of us helping them whenever we could to research and find out what is along Hunter Mill Road and then to present it in the proper places in order to have that established as a scenic byway and I believe Senator Jeannemarie Devolites when she was serving was very instrumental on making that happen.

Janet: And what are some of the historic sites that you've all discovered or documented?

Linda: Let's see, if you go out Hunter Mill Road from the intersection of 123 traveling toward Reston on the righthand side beyond the intersection of Lawyers Road, there is a farm which is a horse farm. It's kind of down in a valley and you go over a bridge there, there were ten thousand Union solders that were encamped there during the Civil War. Mosby's Raiders were back and forth in this area during that time as well. And there is a video which has been done also sponsored by the Hunter Mill Defense League which talks about danger between the lines.

Janet: I think I recently saw that that was presented on PBS.

Linda: It was, yes, and that too is another group of local citizens who are very much into the history of the area who provided information and produced this video.

Janet: And why was Hunter Mill Road the subject of so much contention during the Civil War?

Linda: I think that the area kept changing. There were people who were on both sides. You had the south and the north. It was so close and then you'd have the armies moving through. It was one of the major thoroughfares at the time.

Janet: So it does go back a long time.

Linda: It goes back to– it was an Indian path I'm told at one time and moving forward it eventually became a road, which that makes sense because if it had been a trail at one time it does have a lot of twists and turns.

Janet: And then there actually was a Hunter Mill, I guess.

Linda: Yes, that's discovered, documented that there was. Yes, yes.

Janet: And more recently the moving of the school house and the creation of Oakton Park, can you back up a little bit and tell me how did the park come to be because I know when I moved here in 1998 there was no park? The school house of course have not been preserved and was incorporated into Appalachian Outfitters and there was no library at that point of time, so I understand you played a pivotal role in all of those things. Can you sort of tell me, give me a narrative on how that came to be and how all those things are related to one another?

Linda: I think that it all revolves from the wonderful citizens who live in our area and as we see opportunities we gather together and kind of moved projects forward. The library moved forward starting in probably the mid to late [19]90s with Sam Clay, who's the director of Fairfax County Public Library, coming to talk to the Oakton Women's Club and it was around that time that they found that the library in Vienna, the Patrick Henry Library, and the main branch of the public library in Fairfax were both over crowded, over used and so the library department had conducted a study where they decided that another library was needed within a square mile of a certain area. So it just happen that the land I believe it was nineteen acres in Oakton was being put together as, parceled together for a development that the citizens in the area had banded together and decided that they didn't quite like the way that development was going.

Janet: And I think the density was an issue as I recall.

Linda: Yes, I think it was ninety houses by the time they put in the additional housing for affordable housing it was– what do they call it?

Janet: More like sixty.

Linda: It was like one-hundred and twenty houses and town houses or something at one time.

Janet: Oh right. Right.

Linda: At any rate, the developer that was working on it eventually worked back to a lesser number of houses and the Oakton Women's Club found out that another group that had formed in Oakton called Options for Oakton formed an alliance and we brought out some think like eighty people to a hearing before the Board of Supervisors and said we don't want this in our community, we would rather see a library. So it worked out that the private government and everyone worked together. I believe it was Gerry Connolly who was our supervisor at that time, and he heard eighty of us. You were there Janet testifying that this was not needed in the village of Oakton but we did need a library. So the developer's proposal was denied by the Board of Supervisors and Gerry Connolly often tells the story of he got a phone call the next day from the attorney of the developer and said, what can we do to put this back on track? And then Supervisor Connolly said, well I think you heard the citizens of Oakton saying they want a library, if you can give them a library that would be wonderful. So several days later a phone call comes in to Supervisor Connolly and the lawyer says, you have it, and Connolly said we have what? And he said you have the land for the library, and they gave us the three acres of land for the library and I think they increased it another half an acre so there's a little bit of land behind the library that is like a park.

Janet: And that whole effort really was a coalition, as you pointed out, of different groups and you were a member of several of them. You had been in a leadership position at the Oakton Women's Club right?

Linda: Yes.

Janet: And at what point did they sort of embrace this notion that a library would be one of the driving things that they would focus on over the next several years? I mean was it after Sam had come to speak to them or was it–

Linda: Yes, it was. Sam had come to speak to us and the Oakton Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which has over 300,000 members nationwide. So when we would speak we felt like we had some weight because we had the Federation behind us and women's clubs have been responsible for starting over 70% of the libraries in the United States.

Janet: I don't think people realize that.

Linda: I don't either.

Janet: It's amazing.

Linda: So they've been very involved. It was really something near and dear to our hearts and to everyone on up the line General Federation or down the line from the top down through the state organization to the regional organization to ours.

Janet: And you also played a role as I recall, sort of fast tracking the construction schedule because I believe looking at how the bond process works in Fairfax County that our supervisor told us very frankly that it could be as far out as ten years before the library would've been built and you know we thought gee whiz you know. I know that the community had been through a great deal at that point and had put a lot of emotion and energy into the whole issue and at that point you got involved in forming a nonprofit to help get the library jump started.

Linda: Well here is where I would have to turn the interview toward the interviewer (laughter) because it was a partnership I think that you and I forged to make this move forward and you were then I think Chair of the–

Janet: Yes, I was working with the Library Foundation.

Linda: That's right. That must've been in the very early [19]90s and then as a result of your effort to work with other groups in the county that had an interest in getting libraries in their areas and so forth, you put a really good coalition that got the word out to the public about the bond issue upcoming and then in the meantime the Friends of Oakton Library had been created to develop a core of local support to push forward on the construction and all the stars strangely aligned over that period of about twelve or fifteen months and the money was available. The bond issued got put on the ballot early and so forth and so as the result of that the library opened in September of 2007, if that's right.

Janet: Yes, yes. Now I want to go back up and also ask your women's club was recognized nationally for this initiative is that correct?

Linda: Yes.

Janet: When was that and what was the recognition?

Linda: Let's see, I think that was around 2000-2001 and as a matter of fact just recently the General Federation puts out a magazine and we were just featured in the magazine for having worked– they were going back and looking at labors of the heart and they asked our club if we would send in some pictures and information about the library which is now there.

Janet: And you were president of the club. You've been president more than once? You've served more than one time.

Linda: It's interesting how we recycle one another (laughter). There were two of us Linda Sherrange and Linda Byrne and we seemed to take turns

being president and we've don't it so often and she's wonderful about going to the out of state meetings and all of these things, and so when I'm president I don't have to do that. When she's president, I do the local things.

Janet: That's really nice the way that that club has persisted over the years and been such a good force in the community. One of the outcomes of the whole discussion about whether to create a library or a park and so forth, was that Supervisor Connolly? Was he Chairman Connolly at that point in time I can't remember?

Linda: No.

Janet: Did see an opportunity to not only give Oakton a library but also a park and do you know anything? I don't know how that actually came about?

Linda: That was a very interesting story. Yes. At one point we had hoped to establish a park and a library on that land. However, it couldn't because of county regulations et cetera, et cetera. It would've all had to be totally a park and we would've had to tax ourselves in the area and that got to be– at any rate it didn't happen.

Janet: It's too complicated. (Laughter)

Linda: It didn't happen. And so Chairman Connolly, who was then Providence District Supervisor, Congressman Connolly at that time, kind of understood that the Oaktonites wanted a park. We really wanted to establish the village of Oakton and a park would more or less complete it. Now we have our library and we'll have a place for public meetings and gatherings and a park would really be wonderful. So I believe it was Bob Adams, who is an Oakton resident, who found out that the family that lived on Ten Acres right here in Oakton was going to be selling that piece of property and Bob Adams and George Lehnigk another Oakton resident went and talked with the family to see if there was some way that they

could forge something possibly with the county to partially donate, partially purchase and so then they got together with Supervisor Connolly and the Park Authority to see how much money would be available and how they could arrange this and it did work out.

Janet: And then more recently, the Oakton schoolhouse, which was again as you pointed out Appalachian Outfitters, was restored through some initiative of Supervisor Lynda Smith who succeeded Supervisor Connolly in office.

Linda: Yes, yes.

Janet: And tell me a little bit about what she did to bring that very interesting group of people to the table to get them to not only restore it but move it to the parkland and open it for public use?

Linda: Yes, I believe it was the Couch family that owned the land that Appalachian Outfitters was on and Lila Johns who had been leasing it went out of business and had been leasing the business, went out of business and so they decided to sell the property. A bank came in and had a contract to buy the property. During that time the Hunter Mill Defense League was very active as was Bob Adams. They formed a group called Friends of the– what was it?

Janet: Oakton Schoolhouse.

Linda: Oakton Schoolhouse. Yes, yes. And were you on that committee for a while at least?

Janet: Mhmm, mhmm. Yeah, I'm still on the document somewhere. (Laughter)

Linda: And I think they asked for the county to do some kinds of studies or the bank to do a study because it would've been nicer to leave the school where it was historically and to have that property and to make that corner

a park but it didn't happen. And so the next best thing was to keep the group together to promote moving the schoolhouse to the park which was just down the road and I watched it as they loaded it onto this huge trailer (Laughter). The supports that they put under it and then slowly one Saturday morning I believe it was–

Janet: Around 5 a.m. or something like that.

Linda: Yes, yes.

Janet: It was really early. And they had to take– didn't they have to take a stop light down? Or something.

Linda: The power lines.

Janet: The power lines, right.

Linda: Yes, yes. To be able to move it.

Janet: So, we had Chevy Chase bank involved in that, and was it West Group involved–

Linda: Yes.

Janet: In bringing together the historical subcontractors who knew how to work with historic buildings and all that.

Linda: Yes, and then Supervisor Smyth kind of put together, because of her position as supervisor, proffered money and the bank came through with a large amount of money.

Janet: Yeah I think it was over $300,000.

Linda: Yeah, I remember something like that also.

Janet: Maybe even $500,000, I can't remember.

Linda: Yeah, yeah. To move it and restore it.

Janet: Then about a year ago Supervisor Smyth presided over the ribbon cutting and the community was able to go in and look at it. It's an amazing and very accurate restoration based on the research that had been done. Her office conducted a lot of that or oversaw it. It's quite an amazing accomplishment. So in that decade or roughly it's been a decade since the Oakton Park and the Oakton Library initiative really got under way. In that time Oakton has gone from being just a loosely configured group of residents to a real community would you say?

Linda: Yes, I would say definitely. I think that we now really are working toward the village of Oakton and it's a reality once we get the roundabout at the new park. There's a proposed roundabout to go there that will be a good piece as you go from Oakton into Hunter Mill Road and out through the historic area and then coming back the other way into Oakton. You have–

Janet: One of the things that has been interesting about the park and the library too, I think is that the community– it's enabled outreach to the different groups that are in the community. There are several schools that are active with the library and then the senior retired living facility by Sunrise and then I believe there is a daycare center that's had some interaction with the library as well, so it's really brought a bunch of groups that sort of were loosely configured little satellites of activity but that never had any connections together. And as a result of all these things coming together in the last decade, part through your leadership, we now have a real community where people are talking to one another and across the street to see one another. I think it is very interesting to see you have a very modern design for the library with the atrium and the steel girders and the glass and then you catty corner from across the street you look over at this 19th century one room schoolhouse with the little bell tower on it and it's

quite I think nicely captures the old Oakton and the new Oakton, the modern Oakton. Very interesting.

Linda: Yes.

Janet: When you– partly as a result I would guess, and correct me if I'm wrong, of your leadership on all of these initiatives, you were tapped to come and work for Supervisor Smyth, is that right?

Linda: Yes.

Janet: At her office. When did you start helping her with her outreach to the community?

Linda: It was about 2007, so I've been there I think it's almost two years now.

Janet: Why do you think she seems to be as interested in Oakton? The Providence District is a large district with lots of different kinds of neighborhood and some of it almost urban in some areas and then in other areas you have little suburban neighborhoods and then you have places like Oakton. Why has she shown an interest in Oakton?

Linda: She has her doctorate in history and I think the history that's represented here is near and dear to her heart. She has me working on a project called the Providence Perspective History Project which is an oral history project which we're now going to put it online very soon and within– we hope to get it up in the next six to nine months. But the history of the area is– we're going to have– let's see I think it's around mid-November where we have on Hunter Mill Road down where the W&OD Trail crosses, they will have five plaques, historic plaques that are going to be put up there and there'll be a ceremony and so fourth which she's been asked to be at.

Janet: So we've been very fortunate to have someone who has the background in American history that she has and has an awareness of how quickly I suppose a lot of this is vanishing, things change, and an interest in helping preserve some of it in her own district.

Linda: Yes.

Janet: Tell me a little bit about the development of the Democratic Party in this part of Fairfax County and then the county in general cause I know you've been active not only in Providence District but also in the county organization? Tell me about how the county– when you first became active in it, how has the party changed, how has the county changed, how has the party changed to reflect how the county changed?

Linda: Oh, that's a tough one. (Laughter) Let's see, I would say as a Democrat there were very few of us in the neighborhoods in which we lived here in Providence District. Well we actually we were in Sully District where we were two miles down the road in the [19]90s, late [19]80s, early [19]90s. And it's just like anything you find more people by going out and going to meetings or volunteering or finding a project or a particular person that you think would make a good candidate and put us forward as a county. By doing that we form alliances and larger groups. I think the Democratic Party right now is the majority on the Board of Supervisors. I think that we have three Republicans and the rest are Democrats, but what I like is putting people together that work well together and crossing over the party lines because I think that you find ideas, initiatives. For instance in our community in Oakton it's not important whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or an Independent it's important that you care about the community and the initiative that you are putting forward there. The Democratic Party has become stronger since the [19]90s here in Fairfax County.

Janet: Well do you think part of that is because they've invested in making an effort to reach out to groups and communicate with them and find out what's going on in the community and reaching out to whether there's been

a lot of growth in the diversity of the community from the economic point of view as well as an ethnic point of view and do you think that part of the party's success has been a part of how they operate is to go to the community and bring people together and sit down and solve the issues together?

Linda: Yes, yes. I think you hit the head of the nail there. That's basically why I was attracted to that group initially, yeah, yeah. To look at the basics, the grass roots of what's needed there and try to work your way up.

Janet: For you to dialogue and get people to–

Linda: Exactly.

Janet: Agree on what some of the solutions are because if we do face some interesting challenges, every community does, and the ability to have or the– I would say the gift that we have is that we do have leaders who seem able to bring people together and I always think back again to the whole issue of the formation initially of the library. There were some dividing lines where people saying, I don't want this at all and I don't want that, and then saying with the movement of the whole idea of restoring that Oakton schoolhouse. I mean it was in very bad disrepair and there were people saying, oh why bother to waste the time and effort with it and then people who came to the table with Supervisor Smyth and she pressed them to look deeper to see. Is it possible to restore this? Is it worth restoring it? What would be involved to do it? And asking people to look deeper into the issue that almost generated the buy ad because once people started investing the time into examining the question, I think it began to stimulate their spirit of I wonder if we can do this and I see this very much as part of the way our community is operated and I would certainly say and I have said when people have asked me from time to time that you have played an important role in that respect and you were recently in fact officially recognized for that role and will you tell me not be modest. Tell me a little bit about the award that you received in March? I can tell you're blushing. (Laughter)

Linda: This was a good year for awards for Linda Byrne. I actually received three.

Janet: Oh, tell me about them.

Linda: Two from the Democratic Party and one from the Federation of Civic Associations in the county and it was a merit award from the Federation for the work with the library predominantly. But I think my key role in all of this is that I love people and I like to find people that are talented and kind of get behind them and say, yeah you can do it and do you need this little piece because maybe I can supply that to get you where we should be going. One of the things–

Janet: What were the other awards?

Linda: One was the Lynda Robb Award for– let's see what was it? Grassroots volunteering. That's given every year and the other one was– I've forgotten what they called it, but it was a nice little silver cup which is sitting in the cabinet which is nice. But awards aside, I think it's just really neat to meet the people that you meet especially in this community. I've lived in other community and people are always active but in this community you find people that have really wonderful talents. When I think of you as a friend nominated me to be on the board for Volunteer Fairfax and when I think of these yearly award breakfast where there has been as many as 800 people there. And–

Janet: Hundreds of nominees too for awards.

Linda: Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. And then one of the things that I miss most is since you have moved on to other things and you're no doing the awards– you did such a fabulous job–

Janet: MCing.

Linda: Yes, MCing it and going through and that was– you were one of the most moving speech writers I think I've ever encountered and those were always, they would bring everyone to tears when you talked about what volunteers have done and why were they chosen for their particular award. Really interesting.

Janet: If I can circle back to the early days when you were growing up in Washington and you went to American University I recall, and you also received advanced training at, was it George Mason University?

Linda: Let's see. Actually, I went to the University of Florida first.

Janet: Oh, okay. Okay.

Linda: And then I ended up getting my degree, yes, from American University and just took some language courses at George Mason.

Janet: And then you started out as classroom teacher, is that right?

Linda: I did. I did. Actually, I– let's see I also worked– I've had so many different jobs. I started out teaching at Fairfax Elementary School which is no longer there. It was a Gold's Gym. I'm not sure what it is now but it was a lovely, lovely old school.

Janet: That's a pretty old building on 236. Main Street. It's a beautiful building.

Linda: Yes, yes. And then we moved to Silver Spring and I taught in Prince Georges County, Maryland and then when we were transferred to Denver, I got into real estate and other things. But came back to substitute teaching and a little bit of that when we lived in California.

Janet: And you were very active in your children's schools as well. Where did they, which schools did they go to?

Linda: Let's see our daughter had started at El Portel, California in a school that had kindergarten through eighth grade in one school only ninety-two kids. I said it's the only place in the United States where every single child in that school was reading above grade level because the town was so small that all the mothers– there weren't jobs for people. All the mothers would volunteer at the school and so every child had someone there to help them with whatever skill they didn't– wasn't up to a grade level or above. It was a wonderful place. But we moved back here and our daughter went to Oakton and our son went to Oakton Elementary, Thoreau Middle School and both of them graduated from Madison High School.

Janet: Madison High School not Oakton High School?

Linda: No, no. Well we weren't living here.

Janet: Oh, I see.

Linda: We were just two miles from the edge of Oakton and Sully District.

Janet: Right, okay.

Linda: So they both went to–

Janet: And have you had any luck in getting either one of them to come back and make a home here?

Linda: Yeah. Well our son just got an apartment in Arlington and he's working for Rolls Royce. Our daughter I think will be in Boston for a long time. Both she and her husband live and work there.

Janet: And she works in the museum world, right?

Linda: Yes, she does.

Janet: In the conservator–

Linda: Yes, uhuh, yes.

Janet: Well those are all the questions I have for today and if there is anything else you would like to add, I would love to hear it.

Linda: Well when you were talking about the Friends of Oakton Library, I remember very vividly some wonderful evenings at your house around your dining room table with there were always good cookies. (Laughter).

Janet: Yes, my one claim to fame.

Linda: And forming the Friends of Oakton Library and putting that forward and your husband Ralph doing the legal work that was necessary for that. I just–

Janet: Well that did give me some feeling of reality to our desire to have– once the land was there and we had the organization to speak– officially represent the views of the community and yes we put our heads together and decided that would be, you and I, that that would a good way to move forward and it did seem to help. We were very fortunate.

Linda: Well I think that was a first. The Oakton Library, let's see has two or three firsts, doesn't it?

Janet: Mhmm.

Linda: It was the first library where land was donated by a developer in Fairfax County for the building of the library. It was the first library to have a friends' group before it was built and I think it was the first LEEDs library to be completed.

Janet: Yes.

Linda: And it's a Silver LEEDs building.

Janet: Yes, a green building. Well thank you very much Linda for your time.

Linda: Oh, thank you, Janet.

Janet: It's been wonderful.

Linda: It's always a pleasure.

[end of transcription]

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