

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

1 INTVWR: Okay. This is James Binks, a researcher at Burnaby Village Museum. Today is
2 November 7th, 2023. I'm currently sitting in the archives of the Burnaby Village Museum across
3 from -

4 LP: Elisa Alice Lizette Pappas.

5 INTVWR: Okay.

6 LP: And that has a story to go with it.

7 INTVWR: We'll get into the story. Yeah, So, thank you for joining me today and sharing your
8 stories. So, you've lived in Burnaby for over 55 years. I know along the way you've been a
9 teacher and you've been very involved with different Greek community organizations locally
10 here in British Columbia and around Burnaby. And you're originally from Greece, so why don't
11 we start there? So, where are you originally from in Greece?

12 LP: My family is from the island of Naxos. Apeiranthos, the name of the city, the village, not
13 city. And at this point, it is one of the most **00:01:00** what do they call it, when original city, uh
14 villages. In other words, they have kept the way it was, say, even 50 or 100 years ago. They have
15 maintained their origins. If you go into many of the households in Apeiranthos, you will find that
16 they still display a lot of the copper work of copper, you know pots and pans all displayed on top
17 of the fireplaces that they have or hanging on the walls. They have pictures, of course, of all their
18 ancestors, grandparents, great-grandparents, brothers, and sisters who have left or who have
19 remained. And also, of course, all the handiwork. You can see their beds all laid out with
20 **00:02:00** the beautiful loom, the handicrafts that they had made on the loom. And it's interesting
21 in Naxos that every village had their own particular, their own particular pattern that they made
22 on the loom. And as a matter of fact, some of the, some of the families had their own particular
23 pattern, very much like in Scotland with the tartans and that very similar to that idea. Anyway,
24 that's where I'm from. So, if you ever go to Apeiranthos, you might, or to Naxos, you must visit
25 Apeiranthos. It's quite an eye-opener. Yeah, it's very, very nice.

26 INTVWR: And you lived there for just a few years?

27 LP: Right, I was 7 and my family immigrated to Canada. **00:03:00** My mother was quite a, quite
28 a writer. My father and mother only went to school. My father, I believe, went only to grade
29 three and my mother to grade six but they were, my father was quite a storyteller, and my mother
30 was quite a writer. She and even till the day she died, the poems she wrote – you know, there's in
31 Naxos, they have little couplets that they make up when you die or when somebody gets married,
32 you know, you say these little poems, about, anyways – And so, she had an uncle in Penticton,
33 British Columbia and she had this vision that she wanted to leave the village. Remember in the
34 1950s, right after the war, things were **00:04:00** very hard all over Greece. And so, she had that
35 vision, that, that energy in her that she needed to leave. We had three kids, she had three children
36 at the time, two boys and me, at the um... And so, she wrote to her uncle and the uncle reading
37 these letters or actually not the uncle because the uncle was illiterate, but his wife who was from
38 Constantinople, would read the letters and they felt for the family and they said, "Okay, we'll
39 bring you to Canada."

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

40 INTVWR: Do you remember what, this is your great uncle then, do you remember what his
41 name was?

42 LP: Oh yeah, John, John Love, Love was his last name. In Greek was Agapitos and Agapi means
43 love. So, he changed his **00:05:00** name, as of course, many people who came or entered into
44 Canada or the United States or wherever they went, their name had been changed. And, and so,
45 John Love with his wife, [inaudible] who was from, who was from Constantinople, and she was,
46 also they came, my aunt or great aunt, she had left in 1921 and was brought over by her uncle to
47 Edmonton. So, there's quite a history there. Incredible, what these people went through. So, they
48 brought us, and they sponsored us. And so, we arrived in Halifax by boat, and then from Halifax
49 we took the train and came across, but apparently, they made a mistake. **00:06:00** And instead of
50 getting compartments, you know sleeping compartments, we got just seats. And so, when my
51 mother, oh my gosh, it was just like yesterday and this was 1956. My mother, I remember as we
52 passed the Rockies, can you imagine, you know, the trellises that you would go? She would be
53 on her hands and knees praying to God, you know, that they would get safely to wherever they
54 were going because you know, the train would just... So anyways and she said, "I'll do anything.
55 I'll do everything as long as you take us safely to our destination." Which they did. And it was
56 quite nice. My aunt and uncle had a small little house for us. There were five of us, but it was a
57 one-bedroom house. So, you can imagine what it was living in a one-bedroom house **00:07:00**
58 with three kids, my mom, and dad. But you know, they had this, my mom had this, like I said,
59 this yearning. One of the reasons they came, of course, was for education, to educate her children
60 because she could see in those days that the children didn't have much of a future except toiling
61 the soil in this rocky – you know, you've been to Naxos, how, how rocky and how mountainous
62 the island is, so it was a hard life. A very hard life in in Naxos.

63 INTVWR: So, do you remember, do you have a particular memory from Naxos of sort of what it
64 was like? I mean, you were very, very young but remember you were kind of working or playing
65 in the fields, sitting on your lap, or anything?

66 LP: Yes, absolutely. My father, especially, was very loving. And I remember him **00:08:00** when
67 he would go to the square as many men do. And they played cards, but not poker or anything like
68 that, no just simple little games they would play. And whoever would be the winner, they would
69 be offered a loukoumi. A loukoumi is like a Turkish sweet. And so of course, did he eat it? No,
70 he brought it to his, to his young daughter, me. And ever since then, my favorite thing in the
71 world are loukoumia. That's the only thing I bring back from Greece, loukoumia. So that's a very
72 vivid memory. And also, for the fact that our, our homes, I remember there was an earthquake at
73 one time. And I remember people. Now, you've been to Naxos, and you've seen some of the
74 homes, the homes are one set and right, **00:09:00** right beside one another. They're attached,
75 right. And of course, Apeiranthos is more so than any other village. And it was high up in the,
76 very high, it was one of the highest villages in Naxos, in altitude that is. And one of the reasons
77 is you can't drive in Apeiranthos, you have to leave your car down below, and then, and the
78 passageways or the alleys between the houses are just enough to fit a donkey and the person
79 beside the donkey, right that's as wide as. So, I remember during this time of the, of the
80 earthquake, there were very few windows in homes, because of course, the houses being

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

81 attached, you only have the front **00:10:00** that might have had a window or two. And you could
82 see now all these people coming out, and screaming, and yelling. And nobody would, during this
83 earthquake, everybody got scared to be in the house. So, all they, they came out of their houses
84 and we were all kind of camping on the, in these alleyways or in these passageways or whatever.
85 I also remember Sundays now, on Sundays, all the women would prepare their dinners in these
86 big, beautiful aluminum round pans. And they would make chicken with potatoes, or lamb with
87 potatoes, or orzo, or whatever. And they would carry these, and they would carry these now to
88 the local baker. And in the, once the baker had completed **00:11:00** the bread baking for the day,
89 because of course, they even had it on Sunday, then all the women would bring their, their big
90 pans of food and the baker would cook, would cook them. And the women, after a certain time,
91 would come pick them up and take them home for this, of course, special Sunday, Sunday
92 dinner. So, I remember going with my mother always and I would carry the bread or whatever.
93 But in Apeiranthos there were nothing but stairs, my goodness. No wonder they lived to be a
94 hundred, just climbing these stairs every day would give you the best exercise in the world. They
95 say Icaria is one of the islands where they lived to be 100, but Naxos was very, very similar.
96 Even today, if you go **00:12:00** to Apeiranthos, you can see some of the gentleman or the older
97 men still wearing the traditional, the traditional wear that they wore, which was you know, these
98 big flouncy pantaloons if you want to call them, and their vests. Because I remember my
99 grandfather when we went back, he was still wearing them. And that was in the, in the '80s, the
100 '90s and he was a hundred-something. So, I had good experience in the fact that, boy, people do
101 live a long life in Apeiranthos. But anyway, back to Penticton. So, we lived, we lived, it was
102 hard, it was a hard life, not maybe as hard as the life we had in Greece. But the fact that, you
103 know people, I'm going to get emotional **00:13:00** now - you know, you left your home, your
104 relatives, your language, your church, everything that you held dear. You left that all behind.
105 And the resilience of these people was just unbelievable. How they put up with this, they
106 couldn't speak, you know, they couldn't, they had no control, whatever. My mom and dad totally
107 relied on my aunt and uncle. And my aunt and uncle who brought us, they expected repayment,
108 repayment for whatever they had, whatever they had paid. So, my mom went to work in the
109 cannery, because Aylmer cannery **00:14:00** in Penticton, because it's the Okanagan. Every fruit
110 you can imagine except the citrus was available there, right. And so, I remember we learned how
111 to put up canning. We canned everything that you can possibly imagine. And all of us kids
112 would help peeling the pears, or skinning the peaches, and preserving them for the winter. That
113 was something new, of course, you know, that we did not have. In Greece, what they do is they
114 make all these fruits into sweets. And you always have you know, the spoon sweets that we call
115 them, but not really the jams or the um... And so, even to this day, I still make preserves because
116 my grandchildren and children grew up on these, these jars **00:15:00** of peaches and cherries, of
117 course. And I still make the spoon sweets, of course. We should not be eating them. But
118 anyways, life was hard. Life was, was difficult. But my mother's passion was, again, to educate
119 her children. And even though it was really hard, I remember my father in the early years, poor
120 guy. You know, what could he do? So, he was a ditch digger for one of the companies in
121 Penticton who was a, who was a, whatchamacallit, a contractor building houses. And I mean,
122 some of the abuse that they had to, that, that he had to undergo, was you know, so. Would tell

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

123 him, now, it's funny, of course. They would tell him, "Go and ask somebody." 00:16:00 I mean,
124 of course, he couldn't speak. "Go and tell somebody to bring me something." So, they would
125 show him, you know, the hammer. And so, he said, "This is the word." And so, he would go and
126 tell the person the word. But of course, it wasn't the word for the hammer, it was a swear word,
127 right.

128 INTVWR: Oh.

129 LP: (laughing) Something quite. Now, it's funny, right, but you know, it's some of the things. But
130 we met many, many, many wonderful people, helpful people, whatever. So, my mother's and
131 father's passion, my mother would work at nights because, of course, in the restaurant you work
132 washing dishes. That was the busy times. Boy, was Penticton busy, the restaurants in those days,
133 so busy because it was the, it was the beaches in 00:17:00 Penticton. You know, everyone would
134 flock to Penticton. Even still today, the only thing that they have in Penticton are motels and
135 restaurants, right still and for the seniors. But anyways, but the education - my mother worked as
136 I said, at night. And what was my father going to do now, with four children? Because my
137 mother got pregnant and had a fourth child. So, what was he going to do all night with us kids?
138 He would sit there in a circle with us, they would tell us stories, wonderful, wonderful stories
139 about life in Greece. About his childhood, about myths, myths, the Greek myths and of course,
140 we continued on with the Greek language teaching us. Even though he didn't know he could
141 read, he could read and write somewhat. So, whatever little 00:18:00 he knew, he would
142 continue to teach us. Because, of course, there were no Greek schools or churches. Or there were
143 some other Greeks from Crete, many of them or all the rest of the Greeks in Penticton were from
144 Crete.

145 INTVWR: Right.

146 LP: Anyways, and so we were all educated. I, my brother who was the eldest, he went to
147 computer school, if you can believe that way back in 1960 in '66. Do you remember that what
148 was it that, Pitman, college or Pitman School. That there was on Broadway and Granville – oh
149 you're too young to remember any of that. Well, that's where he went, and he was learning about
150 computers. Unfortunately, it didn't work out. And he came back and my mother thought, "Okay.
151 What 00:19:00 in God's name are we going to do now with him?" We were still in, in high
152 school. So, finally, after much consideration, they bought a restaurant because my mother went
153 from dishwasher, working in the cannery, and at night working in the, in the restaurants. Of
154 course, what was it? Their dream was to have your own restaurant. My father was getting on as
155 well. So, we found a little greasy spoon in Penticton right on Main Street. And they bought it.
156 Again, with payments, you know, but if you wanted to get ahead in life, you didn't be frivolous
157 with your money. You kept your money. And even the boys, I remember, the boys would do
158 yard work 00:20:00 around the neighborhood, you know, cutting grass, a dollar for cutting grass,
159 they delivered newspapers. They too, worked in restaurants when they were 16, 15, 16. They
160 also worked in a restaurant. I worked in a, this has not a lot to do with Burnaby, does it? I'm
161 sorry. I think I'm taking too much...[inaudible]

162 INTVWR: No, that's all right. It's fascinating. Well, this is the path to Burnaby.

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

- 163 LP: The path to Burnaby is right. Okay so -
- 164 INTVWR: So, what was the restaurant called in Penticton?
- 165 LP: The Sportsman's.
- 166 INTVWR: The Sportsman's.
- 167 LP: The Sportsman's restaurant. And we worked very hard. There were no holidays for us as
168 kids. We didn't have that luxury. We worked before they bought the restaurant. Of course, my
169 mum and dad, and the boys would go and collect, pick fruit, whether it was cherries and apples
170 **00:21:00**, and peaches. And it was a dollar a box to pick these fruit. So that added to the coffers,
171 if you understand, yah if you don't spend. But we ate very, very well. We ate very well, and were
172 very social with the other, with the other Greeks. Very social. Anyways so -
- 173 INTVWR: This is the late '60s that the restaurant was bought...
- 174 LP: That's right. We bought it in '60, in '68, the restaurant.
- 175 INTVWR: Okay. And all your, so you have three -
- 176 LP: Two brothers.
- 177 INTVWR: Two brothers.
- 178 LP: And then me, and my sister...
- 179 INTVWR: Your sister.
- 180 LP: 10 years younger than me.
- 181 INTVWR: Right.
- 182 LP: Because she was born in Penticton.
- 183 INTVWR: And you all went to, did you all finish or complete high school in Penticton?
- 184 LP: Completed high school in Penticton, Pen High and Penticton High School. And, my brother,
185 as I said, my mother went and got him from **00:22:00** from this schooling that he wasn't being
186 very successful at and opened the restaurant. That's when we opened the restaurant because he
187 had to be put somewhere, right. And then, my brother, my second brother, he went to university
188 and then I followed suit, he, both of us went into teaching. And then my sister, of course, when
189 she finished high school again from Penticton, she went into, into teaching. Unfortunately, I was
190 the only one who continued with my education, with teaching career. Only because we built
191 restaurants in Penticton and my brother went back to Penticton and worked in the restaurants.
192 But at the same time, at **00:23:00** university, it was very interesting because we kept up with all
193 the traditions. Of course, me being a girl, I could not go out. I could, so my brother, wherever I
194 went, my brother came along with me. We were the, the two of us would go and do whatever.
195 And that's where we got involved in the Hellenic community at the time. The church was on
196 Vine.
- 197 INTVWR: So this is, so sorry, so you went to University of British Columbia?

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

198 LP: Yes, UBC.

199 INTVWR: Okay, and now, it's starting in the...

200 LP: So now, we're in 1972.

201 INTVWR: Okay. So, you and your brother are both at University of British Columbia.

202 LP: That's right.

203 INTVWR: Okay.

204 LP: He graduated as well. He went back to Penticton. I stayed in Vancouver. I got a job in
205 Vancouver, and I started **00:24:00** teaching. Now, in the meantime, when my brother and I were
206 still at university. You know what the Greeks say? "If you want a husband, go to church." Right?
207 That's without, and so one, at this one particular time, a friend of ours from Penticton, they were
208 being godparents to another couple here in Vancouver. And, and so we were invited to the
209 baptism, and I was the one taking pictures of the baptism now. And it happened that my husband,
210 my now husband's friends, and he were also there. And they, and his friends had been bugging
211 him, "You know, you have to find a wife, blah, blah, blah." **00:25:00** And my husband said to
212 his friends, "Well, if you can find me someone like that." And he pointing to me, "Unfortunately,
213 she's married. But if you can find somebody that, then I'll marry her." So, the friend said, "Who
214 are you talking about?" They said, "That girl over there who was taking pictures." She said,
215 "She's not married." "Well, who's the guy beside her?" "That's her brother."

216 INTVWR: (laughs)

217 LP: So, the story begins with my husband and that's where we met, and, in church. (laughs)

218 INTVWR: The one on Vine Street?

219 LP: On Vine Street, that's correct. Yeah, yeah.

220 INTVWR: Wow.

221 LP: So, that's where we met. And then he came and asked for my hand in marriage to my
222 parents. I had not quite finished university at the time. So, I said, "I wanted to go further than
223 my, than my degree." **00:26:00** So, we waited and we got married in 1975. In the meantime, my
224 husband came from Greece in 1966. Again, the prospects in Greece were very, very limited. He
225 went into the army as a, not as a volunteer, as, you know how you can get –

226 INTVWR: Conscript?

227 LP: No, he was not drafted, or - the men in Greece have to serve 2 years.

228 INTVWR: Mandatory military.

229 LP: Mandatory military, that's right. But because he had no prospects, he felt okay because he
230 came from a very poor village – like man-, like all of us did, from poor villages all over Greece.
231 And he went to school, he finished high school. But you know, to go to university **00:27:00** in
232 Greece, as you know, was very hard because you need to be tutored, then you have to take exams

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

233 to be able to go into, and the government appoints you to a certain university. But he wasn't
234 being tutored, so how could he compete with all these kids that you had to pay tutoring? And still
235 goes on in Greece, which is a crazy system, but there it is. And so, he went into the, into the
236 army, as a, what do they call it now, not as a volunteer, but as a person who wants to serve. And
237 it's a 5-year period because he knew that they would train him at the same time. So, he was
238 trained as an electrical engineer kind of thing. So, when he came out, things were very bad in
239 Greece. Extremely **00:28:00** bad. So, he said, "What do I do now?" So, he applied, a friend of his
240 said, "Let's apply to go to Canada or Australia." So, they put in their applications, and sure
241 enough after he finished the, his army stint of 5 years, Canada, he was sent a letter from Canada,
242 you know, "Come to the Canadian embassy in Athens and we'll talk about your application." So,
243 he went, and they accepted him. And so, he came to Canada. Where and, the funny thing is his
244 dream was to go to Australia. As soon as he accepted to go to Canada, the Australians sent him a
245 letter saying, "Come and talk over about coming to Australia." But he had already made up his
246 mind to go to Canada. So he landed in Toronto **00:29:00** and he –

247 INTVWR: In 1966?

248 LP: In 1966. So, now finding jobs. So, he got a job fixing transistor radios. In those days, if you
249 remember transistor and I still have mine. My aunt, God rest her soul, had given me. I still have
250 it. But anyways, he's fixing transistor radios. He got a night job. I'm going, oh this was funny.
251 Going at night with one of those miner's caps with a light at the end, walking in fields, collecting
252 worms, you know for, as bait, you know, for fishing or whatever, he didn't last too long in that
253 job. And so, he had a friend and they said, "You know something? There's good prospects in
254 B.C. There's **00:30:00** the aluminum, the aluminum factory, Al, Almac, something was called up
255 in Prince Rupert. We should go up there and see." So they came to Vancouver, he made his way
256 up, got a job there, worked for a month, excellent pay. And he was fired because they it had gone
257 downhill. The aluminum apparently had gone down and they had to downsize. Whatever's the
258 first in, the first out, right. He got another job in Stewart, B.C. working as what they call a 'bull
259 cook' in one of the camps. While he was there, he was walking out in the fields out there, and he
260 saw some surveyors. And by the way, he was learning English. He was in Toronto. He **00:31:00**
261 was a night man at one of the hotels. And he had bought himself books, which we still have, on
262 learning, on learning English. And he had taken the bus, of course, you had to take the bus to go
263 to work or wherever, and he would make himself vocabulary lists. And on the bus, he would
264 learn five words a day, review the five words the following days, and then keep going on like
265 that. So he, his English was really improving. So, he saw a surveyor and he said what are you
266 doing? He was having difficulty and he said well, "Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah." My husband
267 said, "Let me show you." So, he showed him what he had to do. And it just so happened that one
268 of, I guess, **00:32:00** the managers or the foreman, whatever they're called. And he says, "What
269 are you doing?" And he said, "Oh, okay. Well would you like to work for this?" And he said,
270 "Sure." So he was working in the summer as a surveyor. But of course, one of the reasons he
271 came again for him, was education. He wanted to go to university. But of course, to get into
272 university, you needed money, you needed this, you needed that. Even though he was saving, so
273 he applied to VBC and BCIT. And luckily for him, he got into BCIT, the surveying job. At that

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

274 time, they were building the Alaskan, the Alaskan highway up north. He was asked if he would
275 like to continue working and he had just received **00:33:00** his acceptance into BCIT and he
276 said, "No, I'm going to school." So, he came here to Burnaby. And that's how, he came into
277 Burnaby. And he was in an apartment very close to where we live now. And he stayed there, of
278 course, for 2 years and got his electrical technician diploma. And before he finished in 1970
279 when he finished, even before he finished, BC Tel offered him a job. And what happened was
280 that the B.C. Government offered him a job as well. They kept in contact with him these years.
281 They offered him a job and he was ready to take that job. He went in, but **00:34:00** at the end he
282 said, "You've got the job." And he said, "Oh, there's just one little more item", he said. "I need to
283 see your Canadian citizenship card." He said, "I haven't got it yet." Because he wasn't - in those
284 days, you had to be here 5 years to get your Canadian citizenship. So, he wasn't able to take the
285 job that the government had offered him. So, he accepted the job at BCIT. And he's worked there
286 forever and a day. And then he met me in 1972. And by the time we got married, he had bought a
287 house in, in Burnaby very close to Brentwood Centre - a nice little home, two two-bedroom
288 house. And that's where we went when we got married. Now, our church **00:35:00** was out on
289 the West side, as you know. And it was quite a ways, well, in those days it wasn't that long. It
290 was maybe 20 minutes, 15 to 20 minutes to get from, say, Willingdon to the West Side. We had
291 no problem with the church, community, and so on. Now, it takes 45 minutes and an hour to get
292 out there. But he, we didn't, so when we bought our home that we are in now, we didn't want to
293 move anywhere in the West Side, only because we felt that - first of all, the properties were so
294 much larger in Burnaby here, you know, instead of living in 33ft by 120 and the house just isn't
295 - And my husband loved gardening and I loved gardening **00:36:00** with flowers and that. Why
296 move to a 33ft lot and not being able to have a garden and that? So, we just kept on and in
297 Burnaby. And, my husband felt, "You know what? Let's keep ourselves together here." There
298 were a lot of things on the West Side with the Greek community on Broadway that were not the
299 best of the best. So, we said, "We're okay here." Not on our own, because of course, we visited
300 there and they visited us in Burnaby, but everything was close. We had Brentwood Mall, we had
301 Lougheed Mall, school was across the street for our children. They were going to French
302 Immersion. What more could we ask for? You know, there was, the bus was right outside. Our
303 **00:37:00** our home, we had friends in the surrounding areas close to me working in, in
304 Vancouver. I was teaching on 57th and Ontario, Sexsmith school - wonderful school, loved,
305 loved teaching. The children were, my daughter and son went to Moscrop, then they went to
306 Burnaby Central. Wonderful, wonderful schools. They blossomed in those schools. My daughter
307 was in the choir, which she eventually went on to become an opera singer. Many times, she
308 performed here at the Shadbolt. They had many performances **00:38:00** and whatever. She met
309 her husband, who was also from Burnaby, and he had gone to Central and they did very well at
310 school. My son is a lawyer, and my son-in-law is a lawyer, all from, all from the schooling that
311 they had here. And I do, and, and we are in debt to the schools here in Burnaby. They were
312 everything that a school should be. Excellent teachers, they participated in many of the
313 extracurricular activities the school had to offer. The music programs were both my son and
314 daughter in the band in the choirs. And whatever excellent teachers. What more? Why would we
315 move? Later on as they grew older, **00:39:00** you know, we wanted more for the kids, the Greek

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

316 school, and whatever. But why leave a community you knew and loved, and go and go elsewhere
317 where, you know, you didn't know the schools? Our children had Greek friends, had English
318 friends. And many of the Greek kids back in on the West side really stuck with their, with their,
319 with just Greek, with just the Greek families, which we did not see that as being very, what is the
320 thing...was not to their well-being, to stick just with one set of friends. You had to. So here, they
321 made friends **00:40:00** with you know, with all nationalities and all ethnic groups. You know
322 whatever. So, it was a wonderful place to live. Everything was right at your fingertips. We didn't
323 have to go far to do our shopping, or, yeah, to go to church, or go to Greek school for the kids.
324 Yeah, it was a little bit of a drive. And then they built the one on Boundary, which because I was
325 more known on the west side, that was our first church and community, we just stuck with it and
326 we just kept going, we just kept going there. You know so. Yeah, it, was - My husband kept
327 working with BC Tel at the boot, so it was close. It was close to work **00:41:00** as well. And so,
328 why move? Why, why not - In the years we left, we also moved back to Penticton. And again,
329 my mother and father had a property in Penticton right on Main Street. So, they wanted to
330 develop it into a restaurant, so my mother came and the boys and my brother, my brother came.
331 And my brother Nick was also, was also here in Vancouver at the time, working in Maple Ridge
332 with his wife and his wife they were living here in Vancouver. They, they came and, my mom
333 and dad, and my older brother came and said, "Listen, we're opening a restaurant. We're
334 thinking. Why don't you guys **00:42:00** come in and we'll start the business?" And at that time, it
335 just so happened that B.C. Town was on strike. And they were on strike for 2 months. And you
336 can imagine the hardship, right.

337 INTVWR: Right.

338 LP: That cost. I went back because the kids were young at the time. This was now 1980, 1979,
339 the end of '79, beginning of '80. And they said, and so my husband said, "Let's, let's think about
340 this." Because I was subbing when he went to, when he was on strike, I went subbing and he
341 took care of the kids. They were quite young; they were 2 and 3 years old at the time. So, we
342 said, you know, "Maybe this is, maybe just so happened. This is something to **00:43:00** let us
343 know that maybe it's time to make a move." And so we did. And we opened up two restaurants, a
344 nightclub. We worked like dogs.

345 INTVWR: In Penticton?

346 LP: In Penticton.

347 INTVWR: With your parents?

348 LP: With parents and the siblings and their wives, and us. I don't recommend it. (laughs together
349 with INTVWR). I don't recommend it if you're trying to get into business with so many, so many
350 different personalities. So many different- My mom and dad, or my mom, actually my mom,
351 remember, she's the energetic. She worked like a dog all her life. God bless her, may God rest
352 her soul. But she was a workaholic. Therefore, being a workaholic, you expect others around you
353 **00:44:00** to be workaholics. And we just couldn't. We, we missed our children. We missed the
354 experiences with our children. I didn't have that. When I was growing up, we worked as young

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

355 kids. We didn't have much of a, much of a, childhood because we were working. Yes, our
356 children were not working because they were still young but I didn't want my children to grow
357 up with babysitters. And basically, that's what they were doing because we were working. I was
358 also teaching and working in the restaurant. And we decided after 8 years. We never saw my
359 husband, he worked from, you know, from 8:00 in the morning until 12 at night. That's the
360 restaurant business, **00:45:00** you know, you're married to our restaurant. That's why I admire all
361 these restaurateurs. You know what kind of a life it is? If you want to make success out of it, you
362 have to work it yourself. Yes. It's great to have waitresses, and waiters, and all the rest of it. But
363 in those days, you could not leave your restaurant to a manager or whatever. And you know the
364 reasons. I'm sure, you understand the reasons why. You cannot leave them for weeks at a time,
365 because first of all, many of the restaurants were small restaurants. They weren't these, you
366 know, big conglomerates as they have them now and whatever. You had to work hard to make a
367 success of it. And many of the, of the restaurateurs, they were also the cooks. They were the
368 cooks, like my **00:46:00** husband, he said, "We were opened." Right. We had dishwashers, we
369 had bartenders, we had waiters, we had waitresses, we had cleaners. What happens when your
370 dishwasher doesn't show up? What do you do? You go wash dishes. What happens when your
371 bartender doesn't show up? Or your cleaner doesn't show up? Or the waiter doesn't show up? Or
372 your cook? You have to do it all. Right so, that's what we were doing. And you know,
373 unfortunately, working as a, as a dishwasher is not the, a job that everybody is willing to work at.
374 And it's minimum pay. You know, you don't pay **00:47:00** the dishwashers or whoever, oodles
375 and oodles of money, right. So, to keep them, a waiter makes tips, a bartender can make tips as
376 well. And they're actually well-paid. But if they don't show up, what do you do? You do it all,
377 you've got to know it all, so you have to be there. You know, many a time, I was called when it
378 was my night off because as, as us girls, we were, we also were waitressing. But we were
379 actually, the many times, were supposed to be the receptionists. But if a waitress doesn't come in,
380 you become a waitress. And so, I was called many a time, you know "Somebody didn't show up.
381 You've got to come." Where do I leave my kids? We had so many issues **00:48:00** like that. But
382 not only us, I'm talking about everybody, right.

383 INTVWR: Yeah, it's the industry.

384 LP: It's the type of industry it is. It's not like this nowadays because a lot of Greek men, I'll tell
385 you, you know, they didn't want their wives to work. They were there, many of the women of
386 course, many of the gentlemen in those days would go to Greece and find wives and bring them
387 back and, of course, yet they could help but they weren't able to help in all areas of the industry
388 of a restaurant. So, a lot of them stayed at home and their job was to raise children. But the
389 restaurant business is difficult.

390 INTVWR: So, what kind of food did you, what kind of food was served at this restaurant in
391 Penticton?

392 LP: Well, I'll tell you. The first restaurant called **00:49:00** the 'Vine Keg' that we had in
393 Penticton. It was Greek, very basically Greek. But of course, you can't just serve Greek because
394 there was another Greek restaurant, totally Greek, just up the street. So, you can't compete. So,

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

395 we decided, "Okay, we would offer the Greek food which we were very familiar with. However,
396 we needed other items as well. Steak and lobster, you know, the more traditional." In those days,
397 you know, what was the epitome of the nicest meal you could have in a restaurant was steak and
398 lobster, right with all the trimmings. So, that's what's also included in the restaurant. So, to find
399 the cooks now, where do you find cooks that were able to cook the Greek way? 00:50:00 It was
400 not that easy, you know, right. And so, we ended up, not we, we did a lot of the, you know, the
401 preparation, women, my sister-in-law and I did a lot of the preparation. We did a lot of the
402 spanakopitas – you know, making spanakopitas, the little triangles or spinach pies. The tiropitas,
403 we would make the hummus, we would make – But in those days, hummus was not something
404 that everybody, it wasn't something that had come into the vocabulary in a, as we know it.
405 Today, squid was a very common feature, orzo with lamb. Lamb was, of course, very, very
406 popular even then. So, we offered many times. And then along with that thing, we decided to
407 open another 00:51:00 restaurant, another piece of property, another built of a restaurant. And
408 so, this was very, you know, I don't know, what do you call it, very traditional in those days.
409 You know, nachos were common with iced tea, drinks of iced tea and margaritas. They were
410 really coming into fashion in those days with regular kind of Canadian foods. A lot of salads
411 because they were coming into - this was not the late 1980s was a big hit. A really, really big hit
412 in Penticton, especially in the summer months when a lot of the, a lot of young people just
413 herded into Penticton. 00:52:00 And so, now, we had the two restaurants, and we also had a
414 nightclub.

415 INTVWR: What was the second restaurant called?

416 LP: Cappuccinos.

417 INTVWR: Cappuccinos. So, that one was not a Greek? [inaudible] the trends of the day --

418 LP: No, no. Oh, we offered spanakopitas and things like that, not typically, not typically Greek.

419 INTVWR: What do people say about some of the Greek food? Like were people very familiar
420 with it by that point or were people kind of like, "Oh what's this?" Or people – so how did you
421 have to adjust it maybe for the -?

422 LP: No, right now, I don't know if you've been to some of the newer Greek restaurants, what they
423 call now, 'fusion Greek'. There's still the essence of the Greek, but definitely you would not find
424 these Greek items, you know, in the villages of Greece, or – (laughing) The funny thing, isn't
425 this, the funniest thing I'm going to tell you. You know the way we serve Greek salads 00:53:00
426 here in Canada or in North America, or wherever. That's not the way Greek salads were served in
427 Greece. But if you go to Greece now, they are served exactly the way we serve them here. They
428 were not served, we had to, you know, anglicise some of the cooking. In those days, remember,
429 olive oil was not a common thing. People were not into, you know, extra virgin olive oil, cold
430 pressed, first cold pressed. Anyways, you know, it was not like that. Fish was not something that
431 a lot of the people were accustomed to in those days. Whereas now everybody, of course, is
432 "Fish, fish, fish." Squid was quite a novelty, you know 00:54:00 or chicken livers was quite a
433 novelty in those, in those days in a Greek, in a Greek restaurant. So, when you had some, for

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

434 example, in Penticton, it was a seniors' town. A lot of seniors, so, you know, a lot of seniors
435 coming in and seeing, you know, livers, you know, prepared the way they were, or squid, or
436 squid, or whatever, well it was a little traumatic for them. So, a lot of the times in Penticton, we
437 depended on the summer months from, say, May to October. These were the months that were
438 the tourist months. There wasn't much to do in the winter in Penticton, other than going to Apex
439 for, for skiing, or whatever. But of course, there were so many other areas to go to for skiing.

440 **00:55:00** And remember Penticton in those days, what was Penticton was the hub, not like now
441 where Kelowna has taken over and it has become 250,000 people. Whereas Penticton, when we
442 came in '56, it was 5,000 people. To this last census, it was 35,000. So, there wasn't, there's not
443 much of a growth, growth there. So you know, to, to teach people, this kind of, that's why you
444 had to offer different kinds as well. It wasn't like here in Vancouver or in Toronto where you
445 have so many Greek restaurants. Because first of all, there were so many, so many Greeks that
446 were, that would come. And I'll tell you another thing, I don't know if this or not, but in Greece,
447 the **00:56:00** Greeks do not expect to profit a lot from the tourists. The tourists will come, and
448 they will order a Greek salad for the four or the five of them, and maybe order another little dish
449 to share. That's it. Well, you can't make it on that kind of a, on those kind of customers.

450 However, the Greeks, they don't fool around. They don't fool around. You know for the four of
451 them, they'll order two Greek salads then they'll go to the different appetizers that we have to
452 share. And then they'll also order. You don't order in Greece, a plate of individual plates. They
453 order everything to share. So, they don't order paidakia, which are lamb chops, they don't order
454 that per person. **00:57:00** They'll order 2 kilos of paidakia or a kilo of some kind of fish, or
455 whatever. So, when you want customers, you want Greeks in a Greek restaurant because they
456 know how to how to eat. (INTVWR laughing softly in background) So, this is really interesting,
457 isn't it? In the way that, you know, how they're viewed in Greece, who gives them or leaves
458 behind the most, the most money.

459 INTVWR: Was that the case in Penticton at the restaurant too? Like, the Greeks? Whether
460 they're from Penticton or maybe they're a Greek tourist?

461 LP: Oh, absolutely.

462 INTVWR: Who are coming to Penticton, they would be the best customers?

463 LP: Absolutely. But in those days too, I remember in the early '80s, a lot of the Greeks didn't
464 vacation a lot of the time because many of them, as you probably are aware, had restaurants. But
465 certainly, the Greeks, they looked for Greek restaurants. **00:58:00** Absolutely, they looked for
466 Greek... Many, of course, from Vancouver and elsewhere - young people looked for Greek
467 restaurants, especially from bigger areas where there was a big Greek population and they had
468 become familiar with the, with the Greek food. But that's why pizzas became, became popular
469 too in the Greek restaurants because you cannot make it on Greek food alone or just steaks. Pizza
470 was, and I'll tell you, Olympia pizza. Oh, my God. Olympia Pizza was the best pizza. In the
471 years that I was going to university, my brother and I would often, on a Saturday, we would go to
472 Olympia Pizza. **00:59:00** (phone ringing) Whoops. In those days. Can I just turn this off?

473 INTVWR: Yeah of course.

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

474 LP: (phone ringing) Okay. Okay. Maybe I should just turn it off. Anyways, yeah, in those days,
475 it was, --

476 INTVWR: The best pizza, [inaudible] pizza.

477 LP: that's why pizza became very popular. And in our restaurant, in our little greasy spoon that I
478 was telling you, we were the first restaurant to have pizza. My mother was quite, remember what
479 I said? Quite a businesswoman. But we didn't know the formula, we didn't know the formula for
480 the pizza dough, and it's the pizza dough that is important. Everything else, everybody else can
481 slop whatever they want and the cheese, of course, but it's the pizza dough that is. And so, these
482 restaurateurs had to find out the formula or the recipe **01:00:00** for the pizza, the good pizza
483 dough. And thy, this was a secret. You don't go around telling, you know telling other
484 restaurateurs your secrets of fine, fine pizza dough. So, my mother, I remember, she, she, we had
485 a friend here in Vancouver who was very kind and we stayed behind in their restaurant when the
486 pizza dough maker would come. Very unobtrusively, she saw what he was putting in and was
487 able to, kind of, replicate the, the pizza dough. But you see, restaurants, you can't just have
488 simply, you know, Greek food. You have to have options for the many different, for the palates
489 that you had **01:01:00** coming into your restaurant. But Greek became very popular because it
490 was healthy and there was plenty of food on your plate. It's not like when you go to these fine
491 dining places and they give you a huge plate, like a platter, and then you have a little, something,
492 a little ball of something in the middle of it. And that's the fine cuisine. No. In the Greek plate
493 that you were offered, you know, you had your meat, you had your vegetable, you had the rice,
494 you had the potatoes, you had the pita bread. You had, blah, blah, blah, blah, so were filled by
495 the time you left the restaurant, right. And it was quite inexp -, not inexpensive, but it was
496 reasonable. And so, many of the Greek restaurants were able to prosper because of that, number
497 one. **01:02:00** And number two, because they had family working in the restaurant. That's what
498 we did in our little greasy spoon. It was us. We would come back from university, when in those
499 days when we opened up the restaurant in '68. And I went to university, we would come back for
500 Thanksgiving. Well, we didn't have Thanksgiving. We were working in the restaurant. It was the
501 time for my older brother to have 2-days break, you know from, from him working. And
502 summer, where are we going to go in the summer? You know, it was, this is the busy time. So,
503 university, you go and you work in the restaurant, right. But we didn't, you know we didn't,
504 what's, what's the word I'm looking for, we didn't mind it, we didn't mind it at all. **01:03:00** We
505 were a family and a very closely knit family. We celebrated our own ways at Christmas. We
506 would open at Christmas in the restaurant, but we would have our breakfast as a family together
507 and celebrate that way or we would close a little bit earlier and have our dinner that way. So, we
508 found other ways to celebrate and to be together, in a, even though you had the restaurant. It's a
509 tough life. But you know, if you're willing, there's - you can. I don't know if you can say 'you
510 make do' because you, there's other things you miss. But all in all, it, it, it's good. **01:04:00** It's
511 good. I had a wonderful life and here living in Burnaby has certainly been a wonderful place to
512 raise your children and to be here, you know, really and truly. So, being Greek has always made
513 me feel proud because of our past and that's important. You know, we can hold our head up high
514 as Greeks because of our past. It's not, many other maybe ethnic groups, that their past was not

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

515 as proud as ours. So as Greeks, by the other, you know the, other, other people, we've been
516 viewed as higher up in whatever, in whatever we do. **01:05:00** And the Hellenic community is
517 unfortunately not as thriving as it once was because in the past, when the Greeks first arrived in
518 Vancouver way back in the 1920s, they had, they became very Canadianized. The Greeks who
519 came in the '50s, '60s, and the '70s, they had a need to have their church, to have a community,
520 they needed to have their friends close by. Because that's why a lot of the older Greek ladies
521 today on the West side, still, their English is very poor. They didn't get out of their homes. They
522 were there **01:06:00** to, to raise their children. They were there, their church was right there,
523 there were restaurants, Greek restaurants, there were some grocery stores, Greek grocery stores,
524 you did not need to, to go to the, to elsewhere to buy. Of course, they learned to go to Safeway
525 and all of these other places, but there was no need. You've got, why was the Greek community
526 thriving? Why were there many Greek food festivals? Because the women gathered together,
527 they could talk their language, cook their food, practice their religion which was right beside the
528 community center. And so, they were one family. Our children today, they speak 3 or 4 **01:07:00**
529 languages. Correct? They, they have made so many friends from their schooling, their university
530 days. Yes, they have Greek friends, but they have Canadian friends, they have, you know, East
531 Indian friends, they, they have friends from all walks in life. They don't need the church; they
532 don't need the community center. They are proud of their Greek. Like my daughter and son say,
533 "We're proud that we're Greek, mom." But do I need the community center? Yes. I take my, my
534 grandkids. "Go to Greek school." And they're learning Greek, which I'm very proud of. But my
535 children, unfortunately, don't go as often as I go to the church and to the community. I'm
536 president of the Philoptochos **01:08:00** Group, the women's auxiliary. Philoptochos, means
537 friend of the poor. So, we are women's auxiliary group that help those in need. And we're a group
538 of about 17 women, but about 10 of us are the actual ones. The young girls, it's hard time to
539 bring them in. They work. A lot of these mothers in the past who are now in their '80s and '90s
540 didn't work. They were able to come in and do the jobs that we do now. Whereas these young
541 ladies, they work now. They have young families to raise. They're not in-tuned to all the things
542 being Greek as. As their parents were. **01:09:00** So, to draw in young people, and I don't think
543 it's just us who is having this problem, I think it's worldwide that is. Or anyways, Canadian-wide
544 because everyone is suffering like that. You know, young kids don't have the time. And I mean,
545 young kids - kids in their '40s and '50s. Well, to me they're young. (laughing) Yeah, they don't
546 have a need, they don't have a need for the church, they don't have a need for the community.
547 Yes, they go to the Greek dances. Yes, they go to the concerts. You know, we used to bring in all
548 the famous Greek singers in days gone by and we would all flock to them. You know, Greek,
549 they would, at the Queen E, Nana Mouskouri, I'm sure many of you have heard of Nana
550 Mouskouri. She also became an ambassador, **01:10:00** children's ambassador to the, what was
551 it? UNICEF? Or? Whatever, I can't remember.

552 INTVWR: Melina Mercouri?

553 LP: Not Melina.

554 INTVWR: Okay.

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

555 LP: Nana Mouskouri. Melina Mercouri too, she was quite a, quite an idol up there. But you
556 know like a, Dalaras, George Dalaras, famous singers came to Vancouver, and they would go to
557 the, they would perform at the Queen E or at the Orpheum. We would all flock to them. And our
558 kids, if they came today, they would flock to them too, you know. So, but they don't have that
559 everyday need, like our parents would have had the need to do that. They had the need of
560 community; we don't have that.

561 INTVWR: And that's something that you're, a part, like, you've been part of this back to our
562 roots group?

563 LP: Yeah.

564 INTVWR: I think as well, like, isn't that something that you're working on **01:11:00** or that's
565 something you're interested in, right, is continuing some of these traditions. We've been talking
566 about food, religion, and festivals. Right, that's something that you're sort of involved in and
567 trying to help.

568 LP: I'm trying so hard. I felt that this was one way to bring in the younger generation. Now, I'm
569 not talking about 20s. I don't know, sweetie how old you are, but you don't look very old. Are
570 you 30 yet? (laughing)

571 INTVWR: Almost.

572 LP: Almost. (laughing) Yeah, right. I thought that was one way to interest the kids or the '30s,
573 the 40-year-olds, the '50s.

574 INTVWR: The 50-year-old kids.

575 LP: (laughing) The kids. To become more involved and I thought of this back to our roots. And
576 so, I started out with making spanakopitas, you know **01:12:00** because that's, even though they
577 don't want the community, they still yearn for spanakopitas. Even though you know, they have
578 spanakopitas in every store today, you know. Wherever you go, there is spanakopitas, and
579 tiropitas - or some form of spanakopitas, spinach pies and cheese pies and baklava, and all the
580 rest of them. But they still yearn the original that their grandparents made, you know. They still
581 are in that, "I'm looking for what my grandmother made, you know the recipe that my
582 grandmother had." So, I thought, "This is one way to entice them and interest them to come
583 back." So, I started with spanakopita and tiropitas, and then I took it. And then we, of course, all
584 made them. But there's a difference here because now, when, **01:13:00** when I got married, my
585 husband's mother came for our wedding, and she stayed 6 months with us when she came. And
586 so, she taught me how to make the real spanakopitas and tiropitas, which is not with this phyllo
587 that you buy at the store, but the real phyllo, how she made the phyllo. And, and she made it by
588 hand, by using a great, you know, a rod that was about a meter and a half, I guess, very narrow,
589 and maybe an inch in width, a round rod, I called it. And she taught me how to make from a little
590 golf ball of dough, how to open it up and make a circle that **01:14:00** would be thinner than
591 paper. And that's the kind of spanakopitas these gals or guys are looking for because their
592 grandmothers made those kind of spanakopitas. And as a matter of fact, we're having a, what do
593 they call it, a bazaar, a bake sale and bazaar at the Hellenic community, December the 3rd on

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

594 Arbutus there. And so, now, we're in the mode of preparation for this. And what are they looking
595 for? The women or the young people who come to buy, they're not looking for the spanakopitas
596 with a, with a bought, store-bought phyllo. They're looking for the phyllo, the homemade phyllo
597 spanakopitas. But we have very few women who are still able to do that. **01:15:00** There's only
598 nine in our, in our group, there's two, well counting me, there's three women that still make the
599 homemade phyllo and open it up, it's not, you know using a rolling pin. No, because you've got
600 to make it, I mean, thinner than, thinner than paper that you have to. But who comes to buy? It's
601 all these young, the 40 and 50-year-olds. That's what they're looking for, right. So, and that's
602 what we're offering and we're going to make, you know, so many. But how can we make, how
603 many can, you know, these three women make, you know because it takes, it takes time? So
604 that's one way. The other one that I did was making tsoureki, the sweet bread at Easter. Oh, they
605 loved that. 40 of them came and we made tsoureki, which **01:16:00** is like, what do they call it
606 in, in, in a, oh come on, the sweet bread that the Jewish people have. Um, chall- Anyways, I can't
607 remember. Yeah, and they came, and they learned, and now we're enticing some of them, "Come
608 to the Philoptochos." But it's hard for them. It's hard for them to, to bring them in. And from, and
609 one of the things that, I don't know why, a lot of the young people wanted, was how to make
610 koliva. Koliva is wheat, boiled wheat that you add almonds, walnuts, pomegranates, raisins,
611 cinnamon, cloves. You mix that all together. It's a beautiful, it's a wonderful cereal morning
612 cereal. **01:17:00** As a matter of fact, some of the Greek restaurants had that as breakfast. And we
613 do that for memorials. You know, once someone has passed, we always hold the memorial forty
614 days, 3 months, 6 months and a year, and 3 years. So that's what we pass out to the congregation
615 upon, upon the memorials. And that's what we've, the Philoptochos group, does for the church.
616 We do the call. They were interested in how to make koliva and the history behind the koliva,
617 what every item that you add has a history or a reason why you, you add that. The same thing
618 with making of the tsoureki. We didn't only show them how to make the tsoureki, but we talked
619 about the **01:18:00** Greek Easter traditions. What did we do at, what do we do at Easter? What
620 are some of the tra -, other than coming to church on Saturday night at 12:00 to say, "Christos
621 Anesti, Christ is risen." That's not Easter. And then, you know making the lamb on the spit the
622 next day, that's, that's not Easter. You know, there are so many traditions that you, you have to
623 follow, you know, the week prior to Easter, 2 weeks before Easter, or a month before Easter.
624 And so, they were very interested in that, a lot of them have forgotten about it. Many of the
625 parents, when I was new and I was going at university, I remember I used to go to church with
626 my brother. We would go to church and there was some **01:19:00** kind of, a special day, a
627 celebratory day. And I would ask, they would have something to offer at the end of that, the
628 church service. And I would ask the women, "You know, why are you offering this?" or "Why
629 do you do this?" Well, I don't know. This is what my mother taught me. And I thought, "Why is
630 it, you know, that some of our women didn't know what we were doing?" And even to this day
631 today, the older women, "Well why did why do we do this? Well, because my mothers taught us
632 this." And that's why we follow what our mothers did, which was very interesting. Of course,
633 this is what you were, that's what you were taught, right. The other interesting fact was my
634 mother was, all her life, she worked. So, I had **01:20:00** very little, little of that in my growing up
635 years, I really had, because she was always in the restaurant working. So, as far as Easter went –

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

636 okay, we didn't have a church in Penticton, we didn't have any of that, so we didn't really
637 celebrate. We tried to follow, you know, the fasting. That was one thing we did know. But all the
638 other things, they were unknown to us. We grew up like that because we didn't, we didn't have
639 it. So, when I came here to Vancouver and started participating in the church, everything was so
640 new to me. That's why I kept asking those questions. But of course, we didn't have iPhones or
641 computers to Google everything and find out about these things. And books, yes, books. But
642 again, books were not **01:21:00** on certain things - why we do and what we do, you know they
643 weren't readily available either. You know, and a lot of the books that were written were
644 theological books, more to do with the religion than all the other things that we do or that we
645 practice. And so, it was a learning experience and I loved it. And I loved learning about that. And
646 that's why I feel it's good for us, for these younger people to find out their heritage, to, to find out
647 what makes up a Greek, and why we do what we do, and why we did it. And I think a lot of the
648 kids, or, kids, ha ha, keep saying kids. But you know, people who came really were fascinated,
649 were fascinated by, by it because it was new to them. It was new to them, as well **01:22:00** and
650 all of a sudden, they said, "Oh, that's why my grandmother did and what she did." "Oh, that's
651 why my mother continues to do what she's doing." And you know, their, unfortunately, there's
652 not a lot of talk between, I think, the older generation and the new generation. There wasn't a lot
653 of - now there is, now there is I believe. But in the past, there wasn't a lot of that in the, in that
654 generation. Whatever, and I think, this, this generation, I think are more in tune to maybe
655 involving. You know like my grandchildren, I don't see my daughter-in-law or daughter doing
656 this, but I'm trying to kind of pass on some of these. I don't know if they're interested, **01:23:00** I
657 don't know, I don't know, but if I can't get my kids to get interested in this - you know what
658 hope do we have in teaching it to, to the-? I don't know. I'm trying, let's just put it that way. You
659 know and I'm hoping somewhere along the line, they, they will not have a need for it, not have a
660 need for it, but to feel interested in, interested in the background of why we do what we do and
661 so on. You know and it's, I know a lot of the younger kids today, you know, they don't have the
662 firm belief that we, we the older generation, have. They're more of course, they're more schooled
663 and they don't believe a lot of things that they hear. And unfortunately, and I'm sorry, I'm going
664 to say this. If anybody **01:24:00** hears this, I apologize. But you know, our priests and that are
665 not schooled how to talk to the younger generation what to say. Now, the Catholic system has
666 changed somewhat. You know, they've turned to English and our priests do, do try to hold
667 services in both Greek and English, but that's time-consuming. You know, they start the service
668 at 8:30 and it goes until 12 sometimes. Where do you come in? You know, there has to be
669 something. There's got to be some changes. You know, an hour, and hour and a half, they've got
670 to have changes. They've got to put people in there, teach them. Because as you know priests
671 today, **01:25:00** or were also, and I think today, they had to be psychologists, they had to be
672 counselors, they had to be healers, they had to be many different things. And I think one of the
673 things that we are lacking today in our priests is that you know they're not tuned to what
674 everybody has - things that people need and what they're looking for. And to be able to draw in,
675 you know the, the newer generation. I don't know, I'm just saying what I feel or my opinion or
676 what my opinion is, but I, I believe all denominations and or all churches are having the same
677 difficulties as we are having. And you know, so, I'm hoping that somehow or other, **01:26:00**

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

678 that, will they become more involved, this new generation. Maybe in a different way, not in the
679 old way. Not in the old way. But you know, how many organizations out there, that are there to
680 help the needy? Well, so are we. We, we are involved with that. Maybe, we're not offering what
681 they're seeking or what they need either. So maybe, I don't know, but I don't know what else to
682 do.

683 INTVWR: Right. Well, you're doing a lot, you're doing a lot, though. I mean, that's a lot of work
684 and time. And time's changes, hard to, you can't stop the march of time. And things are always
685 transforming. Like you're saying, it's real interesting to hear how, you know, the first folks from
686 Greece just talk about Greece, but all the other communities too. But folks from Greece coming
687 in the 1920s and '30s, you know how they kind of came in a certain way **01:27:00** and integrated
688 in a certain way with the rest of Canada, and with the rest of the Greek community – And that
689 kind of, your generation or the '50s, '60s, '70s, who came over and then, you know, the more
690 recent generations. And then, not just people coming from Greece, but of course, the second or
691 third generation kids and grandkids who everyone interacts with, with both their Greek identity
692 in a certain way, and with the rest of Canada, and a certain way in their Canadian identity.

693 LP: Remember in the 1920s, and '30s, and '40s, it was the melting pot, very similar to what the
694 United States had. Until Trudeau with the multiculturalism, that's where it took off. I remember
695 when we were at university, my brother and I, were at university, the, the, what do they call ah,
696 the school of, they had, the building that they had for, for all the different ethnic groups **01:28:00**

697 INTVWR: At the university?

698 LP: Ah, what's it called? At the university, you know the – Oh my god. Anyways, the club that
699 they had for all ethnic groups.

700 INTVER: Interfaith -

701 LP: No, no, it wasn't religious. No, no, no. It was different ethnic groups. Oh my god, isn't this
702 incredible I can't remember the name of it. Anyways, we belonged to that group. They had a
703 building. So, so a lot of the, the students said, "Well, why don't we have a Greek night?" Of
704 course, being new to the university from Penticton, I didn't know anything or anybody, but we
705 knew of the church, on a, the Greek church. So, one Sunday I went there, and I said, "Excuse
706 us." But after church, they gathered down there for coffee and whatever. And I said, "Who can I
707 speak to, regarding?" **01:29:00** International House! International House, that's the name of the a
708 – Okay, so anyways, so I said, "Who can help us?" And they said, "What are you looking for?"
709 And I said, "You know, I belong to this organization with my brother, of course, we belong to
710 this organization, and we want to set up a Greek night." Well, if everybody just, well here, this is
711 our president of the Philoptochos at the time, which is my [Greek] today, which is my brother's
712 mother-in-law. So, she kind of, took over. And we, at the International House, they gave us all
713 souvlakia. We made souvlakia. My brother and I are avid. Oh, we love dancing, we do a lot of
714 Greek dancing, even today. And so, they came. My gosh, you should **01:30:00** have seen, you
715 have seen the number of Greeks and the number of people from, students from the university,
716 that came. We had a full house. And as I said, they donated the food and people brought beer,

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

717 brought, you know - At that time, Retsina and Ouzo and -. Now, of course, the retsina is gone
718 out. But yeah, ouzo and the retsina, and beer. It was an incredible night. So then, they asked
719 since we got to know other people at the church, you know. "Can you guys teach our children
720 Greek dancing?" We said, "Sure." So, we set up the first dance group at the Hellenic
721 Community. Of course, there was no Hellenic community **01:31:00** at the time, but we
722 organized, and we formed a Greek group. And here was a gentleman who loved Greece, what the
723 heck was his name... See, as you get older, you forget things. There was a gentleman from
724 Austria, Switzerland or Austria who became very interested in what we were doing. And he
725 came and he learned all the Greek dances. But he took it a step further and he went to Greece,
726 and recorded music - over the years, of course, I'm talking about now. Recorded the Greek music
727 from all regions of Greece, and he began to teach non-Greeks or Greeks, whoever wanted to, go
728 and teach them Greek dancing. That became, in all the, in all the festivals, they always
729 performed at these, this group. Wonderful. They bought **01:32:00** the costumes. They bought,
730 you should have seen them, absolutely unbelievable. But again, you know, you just kind of
731 spread your Greekness. And that's the beauty about this right, is that we do something, you
732 spread it out, and somebody else takes the ball and runs with it and does something else. And
733 then another Greek, Dimitri, he has taken it over and he has done wonders with dancing, Greek
734 dancing. And he performs with his group everywhere again. But again, you know, a lot of the
735 young people, it's a lot of older people like myself who still belong to the group and not a lot of
736 younger people are coming. You know so, and that, now, we're still teaching our grandchildren.
737 Of course, they go to Greek dancing, they go to Greek school. They, but - I'm just saying that,
738 boy, how **01:33:00** things just kind of blossom and they spread out. Yeah so, it's wonderful being
739 Greek, but I don't know how we're going to continue on. And the good thing is, I think is,
740 because of our ancient Greek history. And we just had Oxi Day, October 28th, which of course
741 we, in New York, in Toronto, Montreal. They still hold parades. March the 25th, Independence
742 Day. New York shuts down and they have March 25th parades in honor of the Greeks and their
743 independence. Who gave them, of course, democracy. We're still, we're still flying on those
744 laurels.

745 INTVWR: Over 2000 years later.

746 LP: Over 2000 years later, you know and we're still celebrating what mind you, "Okay, this is
747 modern history. The **01:34:00** Oxi Day and all the rest of it." But I wish we could do something
748 a little bit more for ourselves, you know here. One of the good things that they had was the 2004
749 Olympic Games in Greece, that was, that was wonderful. That was very, very nice, very, very
750 nice. So, it brought back some of the history. And the, and the first day, the first day of the
751 Olympic Games where they have the show, we bought it and it still fascinates us. The opening
752 ceremonies and the closing ceremonies, incredible, beautiful, beautiful. Well, well done. And
753 that's something we certainly are proud of. And many other things, of course, we have to be
754 proud of. In Greece, we have a fantastic prime minister right now, you know- Mitsotakis, he's -
755 **01:35:00** And my son, as a matter of fact, when he heard Mitsotakis speaking in English, he
756 couldn't believe it. But a lot of them you know, were schooled at Harvard.

757 INTVWR: Yeah, I think he went to Harvard.

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

758 LP: Yes, he did. As a matter of fact, my daughter-in-law's sister, she was going to Boston
759 College, which is university in colleges, their university. And his son was attending Boston
760 College. And when they graduated, she, you know, he was there, and she had become good
761 friends with his son. And so, they took pictures for, you know, during that occasion, the
762 graduation occasion. So, that was quite a thrill, you know, to see our Ava beside the Mitsotakis,
763 our prime minister. So that was quite, that was quite **01:36:00** interesting too. I don't know what
764 else you want me to say, I've been talking and talking and talking and I don't know what else,
765 you-.

766 INTVWR: And you haven't even had a drink of wine.

767 LP: (laughing) You see, I'm a talker.

768 INTVWR: No. I mean, it's amazing to hear all the stories. It gives me a lot to think about as well,
769 actually. And I mean, without me even asking the questions, you basically covered everywhere I
770 wanted to go and more. So, no I'm, that's, that's great from my end. And if there's any other
771 thing, you'd like to share then you can.

772 LP: Oh, gosh. There's so many things. You know, where do you begin? It's been a wonderful
773 life, I have to say, being Greek. And I was always proud of the fact that I was Greek. At
774 university, my wall was always with pictures of Greece, and you know, different places in
775 Greece that we had. As I said before, the first trip I ever had was **01:37:00** here in Vancouver
776 when I was, how old was I? Just before I graduated. Oh, one of the things I wanted to tell you
777 when we went to Penticton and I was 7, my next brother was 8 and my older brother was 9. Of
778 course, there were no ESL classes. There was nothing. So, we were just put back to grade one.
779 So, my brother, who was 8 and I who was 7, went into grade one. My brother, who was 9, was
780 put into grade two. And of course, you know, we were so much older than, than the other kids.
781 But then, they had to do something. So, in grade four, no in grade three, my older brother, who
782 was in grade three then was bumped up to grade five. **01:38:00** And you can imagine, you know,
783 what you've missed from going to, from grade three to grade to grade five. And that's why he's
784 the world's worst speller. But I'd like to tell you that he was the mayor of Penticton for four, for
785 four years. He was a councillor for many, many years. He was mayor of Penticton from, let's see
786 we're in '23 so he was from '18 to '22.

787 INTVWR: 2018 to 2022?

788 LP: Yeah. For 4 years, he was the mayor of Penticton.

789 INTVWR: Wow.

790 LP: Yeah. So, my mother, my mother's vision of - In the meantime, of course, my brothers and
791 that certainly did a lot of, a lot of buying and selling in Penticton. So, they owned quite a bit
792 **01:39:00** of property in Penticton. Once we left, we left. So, we left because, as I told you
793 before, because of, those 8 years that we spent, we wanted a family life. And my, my other
794 siblings just stayed, just stayed there. But there was no ESL, so we learned by whatever we heard
795 and whatever. So then, my older brother was, as I said, went to grade five. My, my other brother
796 went from grade, from grade four to grade six. And then they left me, which meant I was two

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

797 years, I was two years older, well actually, a year and a half, no I guess a year older, than most of
798 the other kids. much older, than – You'd never know it by my stature, because I was quite short.
799 So, I didn't **01:40:00** make much of a difference. But yeah, we had to learn on our own. And
800 whatever my parents learned, you know, they had, they could speak pretty good English. My
801 mother just passed away, in 20 -, in 19-, no 20 -, in 1920. She passed away she was 92 years old.

802 INTVWR: 2020.

803 LP: In 2020. Yeah, yeah, 2020. She passed away at 92. And her English, she lived at home by
804 herself, and you know, hard work. She still believed in hard work. I remember many times when
805 I was up there visiting and my brother still had the, that nightclub, she would phone the nightclub
806 at 10'clock in the morning. "How many people are in there? Is it full yet?" (laughing) **01:41:00**
807 And then she would phone early in the morning, "How much money did you make last night?"
808 (laughing) Always the businesswoman. You know, "What did you do? How much did you
809 make? What did you buy now? You buy that?" But I think she did very well. She educated, you
810 know, graduated from university, three kids, they became businesspeople, quite businesspeople
811 in Penticton and a mayor in Penticton. You know, all came from roots of little village, in a little,
812 on a little island. You know, in those days, Naxos was a nothing. You know, my dad worked as
813 a, as a, what do they call it, in Naxos, they had ebony. They mined ebony, is it called ebony?
814 You know, when you, what is **01:42:00** it when you, nail files? They had, but, but ebony is a, is,
815 is a rock and it is, it is a rock that is almost as, as strong as di-, as our diamonds. So, they had a
816 mine in Naxos of ebony. And that's where he worked. And of course, he had the fields. And the
817 fields, they had terraced fields made out of rock. And they, that's where they planted away from
818 the village. They had to walk, or their donkey or their mule. And yeah, they did very well for
819 themselves. They worked very, very hard. I believe, **01:43:00** they, they made, they made good.
820 Their, their dream was and, I believe also, my husband came for a reason. And I think he made
821 good, or we made good. And our dream was always for our kids, it's not if you go to university,
822 when you go, I mean, going to university. So, I mean, we have lawyers, quite well – Oh, my son-
823 in-law, Nick Preovolos, he's a judge now. He's done very well for himself as well. And my son is
824 quite a distinguished lawyer from, a big, he was working in New York for eight years as a
825 lawyer. And then he, wine and dine and brought him to Calgary with Bennett and Jones. And
826 then there was an opening here in Vancouver and he came here **01:44:00** and he's an arbitrator.
827 And so, he goes worldwide, you know, for trials and representing different companies. So, I
828 believe we've done well as well. We're hoping our grandchildren, our four grandchildren, will do
829 equally as well in life. Just from the origins of that, my mother and father, and from his family.
830 I've got to tell you this about my husband - a very poor village up in Thessaly, up in the
831 mountains about 20 minutes from Karditsa by car. He didn't have much of a childhood because,
832 of course, to make ends meet, the kids had to work. **01:45:00** And what did they work at? You
833 know what? They had fields and they had animals, goats, they had goats. And so, while the
834 father was tending, the, oh he was working in the fields along with the mother. Well, who is
835 going to take care of the goats? You know, herd them up to the grass and bring them back down,
836 and so on. And so, it was the children had to do that. And so, when he was with the goats up on
837 the mountains and the sheep, in the village, there would be music playing. People were

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

838 celebrating. They were enjoying. Well, where was he? You know, he was up there with the goats
839 and the sheep. So, very little. Again, hard, hard life. What did they do to make extra money?
840 **01:46:00** He would, his father would take the donkey, cut branches of trees, load up the donkey
841 with these branches or these pieces of wood, whatever they found, and they would take, it would
842 take him an hour and a half by donkey, and take this wood down to Karditsa to a place where
843 they would burn the wood and make coal. Whether they made coal or whether they made, I don't
844 know, whatever they made this charcoal, whatever, which would burn longer. Right. And he
845 would tell a story how, one day - I mean, he's a little kid, 10 years old. He was taking the donkey
846 down to Karditsa one morning and the load fell off **01:47:00** the donkey. How do you then take a
847 little kid of 10 years old, take that load to put it back onto the donkey? And he said he tried and
848 tried. And thank God - he doesn't believe much in God, but I don't know about then, certainly not
849 now, but he would take the load and thank God he kept saying, then that, "A man walked by and
850 helped him to tie the load back onto the donkey so he could proceed on his way." So, you know,
851 life was hard. Then his father died at 52, so that left his mum with four kids. So, he couldn't go
852 off to university or I mean to any schooling. That's why he also had to go for, he enrolled for the
853 five years, at, in the Army. **01:48:00** Because at least, he was paid a certain amount, and he
854 could help out the family. And that's another thing. And you've got to give credit to a lot of these,
855 the immigrants who came James. You know, they worked and some of their money would be
856 sent back to Greece. I know it's not the only, of course, the only ethnic group that did that. Of
857 course, many, many did. But even the few pennies that they made. Because like my husband
858 said, "I was making \$0.30 an hour." When he was working with a radio transistor in Toronto,
859 one of his first jobs, he said, "I still had to save some and to send back to my mom." Who still
860 had, he was, there were five kids and he had **01:49:00** to send some money to his, to his mother,
861 to, to raise the five children. Again, it was not an easy life. Life was hard for them. And they
862 persevered and they did well. If you look at a lot of the Greek families today down on the west
863 side, of course, they were likely to go to the West side. You know, they've done well. We can
864 only hope that our children persevere and do as well as the rest of us have done in those difficult
865 times. Yes, it's more difficult. Let's be honest, it's not the same in those days when we were
866 growing up. If you worked hard, you can make it. Today, it's not like that. It doesn't matter how
867 many jobs you have, you're not, **01:50:00** you're not going to have to be able to buy a \$2 million
868 house and still have money left over to live. It's not the same. And so, I feel for a lot of this
869 younger, but a lot of our Greek generation, kids who are in their 40s and that, you know, own a
870 debt to their parents for having worked so hard and being able to help them to have these homes
871 that they have in today because of the good fortune of their parents. Many, many families are not
872 that fortunate. You know, so, whoever came in the '60s or the '70s, and, because after the '80s not
873 too many Greeks came because things were much better in Greece, so why leave? Why leave
874 your language? Why leave your home? Why leave your family? **01:51:00** Why leave when
875 things were doing better? When were things going well for the Greeks. And now, there isn't that
876 much of an interest to immigrate. Whether it's to Canada, or to the States, or anywhere. They do
877 well, the Greeks did do well. You know, I mean, they're constant complainers, constant
878 complainers. You go to Greece, "Oh you guys have". But that was the other thing about the
879 Greeks in Greece. You know one of the things is that, oh you know, you walk, that was the thing,

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

880 that the stories that were told. You know the Greeks said that there was money to be picked up
881 off the roads.

882 INTVWR: (laughing quietly in response)

883 LP: You know, they didn't realize, they didn't realize the work **01:52:00** that these people had to
884 put in to have the money that they were sending their parents and their siblings, and some of the
885 other relatives. And even to this day, you know, they look at us as being millionaires, that we can
886 well afford to give them. And we're the lowly man on the totem poles here. Whoops, oh I
887 shouldn't be saying that. But we're the, you know we don't have anything, but you guys have
888 everything. You know so, you know it's, it's been difficult. You know to go, and we would go to
889 Greece in the early years when we went to visit with suitcases and suitcases. In those days, of
890 course, you were allowed to bring two suitcases per person with fifty pounds each. They were all
891 gifts to bring. **01:53:00** Oh but they were, but when you had 50 people to buy for, you couldn't
892 bring them the Eiffel Tower. And you know, anyways, but those were the, that's the mentality
893 that the Greeks had of the people, of the people here. But the life in Greece is different than here.
894 You know and that was one of the reasons, I think, the restaurant Cappuccinos in Penticton did
895 so well because we had a courtyard, an outside courtyard. And of course, the weather in
896 Penticton during the summer is so beautiful. It very rarely rains, but it gives you that feeling of
897 being outdoors. And that's what life is like in Greece. And that's why when we have relatives
898 visiting, they hate it here. They absolutely hate it. Because everywhere you go, you have to
899 drive. To visit friends, you **01:54:00** have to drive. A lot of people, you know your Greek
900 friends, you have to drive to go there. Whereas there, they have them next door, they have them
901 down the street. You go into the square in the platia that you have there, and all your friends are
902 there. You can go there for a cup of coffee, and you'll meet three or four of your friends, you can
903 spend an afternoon together. We don't have that here, especially in Vancouver or this area
904 because of the weather, but because also of the restrictions that the city imposes upon
905 restaurants. It was only because of COVID that people were able to, you kind of put a little bit,
906 you know a little bit of a balcony kind of thing on the outside on the sidewalk so people could go
907 outside. Yeah, but that's the way it is in Greece. It's not inside, it's only **01:55:00** in the deep cold
908 of winter. That, you had that. So maybe, we have to start rethinking also of how our restaurants
909 here should be or places where people can gather instead of expecting to -I like the community,
910 the community feeling. So communities should have areas that people can gather, people
911 meeting neighbours. We are very lucky we have lovely neighbours, and we know the people
912 across the alley, we have people we know our neighbours. But beyond that, we know people
913 because we've lived here in the same house for the past, you know 48 years. We've lived in that
914 same house, except, thank God, we didn't sell our house when we left for Penticton. We've, we
915 rented it. **01:56:00** But in that house that we've lived in for 48 years, you know, we know a
916 handful of people. And you know, I'm a very sociable person. I'm not the type to sit in the house
917 and crochet, which I don't know how to do. (laughing) My mother didn't taught me well, she was
918 too busy working. Yeah, yeah, but yeah, you know we have to rethink how we build our cities
919 and how we do things.

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

920 INTVWR: Well, Brentwood has seen a lot of development. And you're saying you've been living
921 in the Brentwood area, now from that time.

922 LP: Right, yes.

923 INTVWR: And now, Brentwood is completely transformed.

924 LP: Changed, absolutely. Well, look at the skyscrapers going. You don't recognize Brentwood
925 anymore or Loughheed for that matter. Look what's happening.

926 INTVWR: So in Brentwood, do you think they, because they have a bit of the new amazing
927 Brentwood development. **01:57:00** Do you think that that satisfies this element of having a sort
928 of an outdoor space? A square-ish area next to the Skytrain station at the new entrance to the
929 mall and that area?

930 LP: Well, the number of people that are going to be living there. Have you gone to Brent-? Isn't
931 all that big, you know. I mean, it's a lot of buildings but, well it's better than it was, right. It's
932 better than it was, but they're still building.

933 INTVWR: Yeah. I mean, it's a very, a village of 500 people in Greece will have a square that
934 big.

935 LP: Yeah, that's right.

936 INTVWR: Tens of thousands.

937 LP: Because every little, every little area has its own square. And you know the restaurants for
938 over there, but the square serves all the restaurants. You can sit in this table here in the restaurant
939 just behind. They'll serve you and there'll be more tables over there, it's another restaurant
940 **01:58:00** which will serve you. Or you can go or you can order whatever from any place and sit
941 wherever, right. But that's the thing, we have to get to know our neighbors. That's how you build
942 the community. Right, it's not just going to Metro – I mean to, to Brentwood that they have these
943 squares and hoping people are going to you know, mingle, congregate there, and meet your
944 neighbor. We have to have things to be able for people to meet. Maybe, they need to do
945 something in these big skyscrapers. I know they have community rooms, and they have all these
946 other facilities. I don't know what the answer is. I don't know. I don't know. It's a big city,
947 Burnaby has become a big city. As everywhere else, never mind **01:59:00** Burnaby. Everywhere,
948 big cities, you know. Yeah.

949 INTVWR: Yeah, there's lots of changes then that you've seen in all kinds of ways.

950 LP: Haven't we, though. Lots of big, lots and lots of changes. When my husband was attending
951 BCIT, there was still mud. He was, they had put planks down to go from building to building at
952 that time because they were just finishing, not even finishing, but they were still, they were still
953 building. So he graduated, I believe, in 1970, four years after, four years after he came.

954 INTVWR: Wow.

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

955 LP: You know, so, so, he did well. He, he achieved, and many others did not because many
956 others came for that reason, to, for education. **02:00:00** And many didn't make it - many got into
957 the restaurants, or whatever. And that's where they ended up.

958 INTVWR: Right.

959 LP: You know, so there's very few educated people, my, my husband, well my husband is now
960 81. Or if you look at the 81-year-olds that are still alive in Vancouver or the Greek community,
961 you don't have a lot of educated people in there. I can say very, very, very few 81-year-olds.
962 Some have, yes, but they were educated in Greece and came with that job in hand or that
963 knowledge in hand. And until very recently, not a lot of young of children were going to
964 university either. It's this generation. Like my **02:01:00** my children's generation, that has gone
965 to university. My generation, I can tell you when I graduated in '72 and '73, when I went further.
966 It was my brother and I, and one other student - Greek student from North Vancouver, that were
967 Greek and attending UBC.

968 INTVWR: Wow.

969 LP: So, you can imagine, you know. My age, I don't have any of my friends, any of our friends
970 because most of them all came from Greece. They, some of them have not gone past grade six,
971 some of the ladies were lucky enough to have finished, have finished high school, and many of
972 them have not. That's why it was hard for them to learn English. Once you don't know your own
973 language, how then **02:02:00** can you learn a second, a second language? And it was hard, but
974 you've got to admire these women too, who came, and you know. And I give all these parents
975 credit. They were, they were incredible. They were incredible, raising their children, sending
976 them to school, and doing whatever. Yeah, yeah. But unfortunately, I have to tell you. Some of
977 the kids, you know when you have everything given to you, James, it's not a good thing. It's not
978 a good thing James. And I see my brother, my eldest brother was really bad for that. Number
979 one, he gave his, his children never really worked or anything. And his grandchildren, **02:03:00**
980 there isn't anything they don't have. There isn't anything they don't have. Which is, in a way, it's
981 a pity because you don't build up a work ethic or something to respect. When everything is being
982 given to you, you don't have much respect for anything. And that's, that's what was happening in
983 many cases on the West side. And we've had quite a few tragedies on the West Side because of
984 this, because you know, fast cars, too much money. Yeah. But I guess, they're doing much better,
985 I think they're doing much better in this newer generation, they're doing much better.

986 INTVWR: That's good. There is just one thing that you mentioned at the very beginning when
987 you introduced yourself by your name.

988 LP: Oh. (laughing)

989 INTVWR: **02:04:00** And you said there was another story to that. So just for the last thing and
990 then we'll end this there. Because you introduced yourself not just as Lizette. So is there a story
991 to your name that you wanted to?

992 LP: Okay. So, I was baptized Elisa which is, of course, my grandmother's name. Because in
993 many regions of Greece when, when the children are born, the father gets the first two children,

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

994 father and mother. So, they're named after his parents. But of course, that was great because in
995 Greece, you know, they had 12 children, right. So, it doesn't matter. Sure, I'll name them
996 whatever, right. Whereas nowadays, whereas nowadays of course, it's a little different. But
997 anyways, whereas, so, in Greece, in Naxos, **02:05:00** and in many of the other islands, there was
998 a, there is a different tradition. The first boy goes to the father, of course, but the first girl goes to
999 the mother's mother. So, that's quite different from many other regions of Greece, especially
1000 Mainland Greece. So, of course, excuse me, I was named after my mother's mother. My
1001 grandmother, Elisa, that was my name. So when we, (clears throat) excuse me, when we left for
1002 Greece, they had to put, you know how they changed the names? So, in the Canadian citizenship
1003 papers, I was 'Alice' because that was 'Elisa'. They thought, "Okay, that's pretty close to Alice."
1004 So, in my Canadian citizenship papers, **02:06:00** I was called, was 'Alice'. So, after 5 years when
1005 we became citizens, it had to be Alice because that was the name from our original certificate.
1006 But when we came to Penticton, my aunt never bothered looking at the certificate that we had
1007 under what name. So, Elisa, everyone of course, everybody was calling me Elisa. My aunt says,
1008 "Oh, no, no. That won't do. We have to change your name because it sounds very foreign." In
1009 those days, of course, there weren't many foreigners anywhere. "No, let's do it. Let's call you
1010 Lizette." So, she enrolled me in school as a Lizette, or. Now, why **02:07:00** did she choose
1011 Lizette? Remember what I told you? She was from Constantinople. And they speak French. The
1012 very higher-up people spoke French. So, I guess, I don't know, maybe she heard the word Lizette
1013 somewhere. And, actually her mother said, give me that name. "Let's call her Lizette." So, I
1014 became a Lizette. So, in all my papers, I'm a Lizette. But when I went to change my driver's
1015 license last time, which was 4 years ago, and I brought my old driver's license and whatever.
1016 And I said, "Okay, here it is." "Well, can we see your Canadian citizenship paper?" "Oh" I said,
1017 "Sure, no problem." So, I took them my Canadian citizenship papers and they said, "Oh, it's
1018 Alice." **02:08:00** I said, "No, no, no, that's the name they gave me when I came to Greece, but
1019 my name is not Alice. Nobody has ever called me Alice. It's Lizette." "No, no, no, it has to be
1020 Alice." So, now in all my government papers, I'm an Alice. All my owned papers, I'm a Lizette.
1021 Elisa now doesn't exist anywhere. But Alice and that's what the government is doing. You've got
1022 to go by your legal name. And a lot of the Chinese people were having the same difficulty I was
1023 having because their name was different in their, in their citizenship papers. And so, now, they
1024 have to have that name - not the name they gave themselves, like the English name. And of
1025 course, our name is Pappas. Now, there are many Pappas out there. It's like a Smith. This is our
1026 real name. But **02:09:00** a lot of names out there were 'Papanikolopoulos'. So how, what do you
1027 do? Pappus, right. So, a lot of the Greek names are now, had been shortened. Like, a Pappas
1028 from the whatever [**Greek**] or whatever.

1029 INTVWR: Anyway, and Pappus, is that your maiden name or is that your...

1030 LP: No, that's my, my husband's name, of course. Where I was just going to finish off this about
1031 the last names. Now the new generation of Greek kids, they're going by their real names. So,
1032 now, you find a Doctor Panagiotopoulos. They didn't like their parents were called Panayi, but as
1033 their last names. But now these, these, the newer people, **02:10:00** the new generation, they're
1034 going back to their original names - not the names that had been altered in the past. So, I was a

Transcription: BV023.16.20

Interview with Lizette Pappas

Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3

Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)

Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)

Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

1035 Vassilakakis. So, of course, I took on my, my husband's name. Whereas my daughter keeps, still
1036 keeps her Pappas name. So she's Lambroula. Well, that was another problem we had. So, when
1037 my daughter was born, we had a kerfuffle with my husband. "What are we going to do? My
1038 mother was expecting me to call her after her, Paraskevi, which is Friday." Heavy. (laughing)
1039 My husband, of course, wanted to call Lambroula after his father, which was Lambrous. Now,
1040 what do we do? **02:11:00** So we went, sorry, sorry his mother, his mother was Theodora. His
1041 mother is Theodora. My mother was a Paraskevi. Now in his part of the world, the name goes to
1042 the dad. In my part of the world, the name goes to the mother. What do we do now? So, what did
1043 we do? We called her after his father, who had passed away long time ago. Which was
1044 Lambrous. So, we called her Lambroula, Lambroula Maria Pappas. You should Google her. And
1045 my mother was very upset, I have to tell you. Yeah, she didn't take it lightly. She didn't talk to
1046 us.

1047 INTVWR: She didn't sound the kind of person who would take it lightly.

1048 LP: No. She didn't talk to us for 6 months. You know, **02:12:00** so that's the kind of woman she
1049 was. Yeah. So, she took it like that, unfortunately. But whereas now, kids today then, like my
1050 children. Yes, they're keeping to the, to the tradition. So, Lambroula's and my son-in-law's Nick,
1051 son was born and named it after his father, John. So, my grandson is John, after my son-in-law's
1052 father. Now, Lambroula came along. I mean, so the daughter came along. What do we call? So,
1053 she wanted to call her Elisa, but it sounded not the best. She called her Alessia. Also, a version of
1054 Elisa. Now, I didn't care if they called it after me **02:13:00** or not but they felt they would like to
1055 continue the tradition. My son now, first daughter was a girl, so, they wanted to name her after. I
1056 said, "No, don't call her Elisa or Lizette." Why don't you call her [Elisávet]? Elisávet is actually
1057 the real name for Elisa or even Lizette, Liz, right. Why don't you call her? And I told them, "Call
1058 her Elizávet." So, they called her Elisávet which continued the tradition, but in a different form.
1059 And then the second daughter was born, so, they called the second daughter after her father,
1060 which was 'Dionysios'. So, they called her 'Dionysia' and called her 'Sia'. But yeah, so we've kept
1061 up. She's from Zakynthos, so of course, the patron **02:14:00** saint of Zakynthos is Dionysios. So
1062 we took a little bit of all of our traditions and we kind of amalgamated them all together, which is
1063 just as it should be. Right, we're in a new place, a new thing. We're starting a new family, go for
1064 it. You know, so, that's great. And now today's new generation, they're naming their kids
1065 anything they want. Some get a little upset because, of course, a lot of the parents are my age.
1066 Some of them get a little upset and others, "Hey, go for it." They accept it once it's done. When
1067 you hold that baby in your arms, "Who the heck cares what they name it." Right? So, that's, so
1068 that's how names first how they happened.

Transcription: BV023.16.20
Interview with Lizette Pappas
Audio Recording: 2023_0016_0020_004.mp3
Interviewer: James Binks (INTVWR)
Interviewee: Lizette Pappas (LP)
Date of Interview: November 7, 2023

1069 INTVWR: Right. I don't know if we got your father's name.
1070 LP: Oh, my father's name.
1071 INTVWR: Niko or I... I remember someone else that you were **02:15:00** talking about.
1072 LP: My father, okay, so, my daughter, we called her Lambroula, my son was born next. Alright.
1073 So, what do I do? Call him Lambros? Because after my husband and I said, "Well, what are we
1074 going to call him? Lambros? After his father?" We were going to have a Lambroula and a
1075 Lambrous as if there were no other names in the world. So, my dad, we could have named him
1076 after my dad, but his name was Florio. I didn't like that name. Florio, no. Florio. You know, in
1077 Greek, Florios means gay. In in Greek, when you say that you're a floros, a floros or something,
1078 it means gay. That's what I've been told. Apparently, it means gay. I didn't want my kid to be
1079 going to Greece and be called **02:16:00** whatever. I didn't like that name, anyways. So, I said,
1080 "No, let's not. What else do we call him then?" I can't bear my mother thinking again of another
1081 year of names or not talking to us. So, we called him after my husband, Vasily. We gave him the
1082 real name, Vasily. Because here, he was called Bill, Basil, he was called whatever. So, we gave
1083 him Vasily Junior. And that's how we gave him his name. Yeah, so interesting history there.
1084 (laughing)
1085 INTVWR: Yeah, wow.
1086 LP: Yeah.
1087 INTVWR: All right. Well, on that.
1088 LP: On that note.
1089 INTVWR: Now we've got all the family tree down. No, thanks much for sharing all your, all the
1090 stories. I mean, there's a lot of great stories in there for sure. So, thank you so much.
1091 LP: Oh, thank you for having me. I don't know what you're going to do with all of this stuff
1092 **02:17:00** but good luck. But at one point, I would love to hear it too whatever you do. I would
1093 love to see what you do with it.
1094 INTVWR: All right. Well, thanks for coming and sharing your story.
1095 LP: You're more than welcome. It is a pleasure. **02:17:14**