

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



Project Name: TWIG Oral History Project

**Title:** *Interview with Candace Beane*,

Date of Interview: January 26, 2021

**Location of Interview:** *Interview conducted via Zoom.* 

**Interviewer:** *MaryAnne Beatty* 

Transcriber: Meia Cacho

**Abstract:** Candace Beane moved to Alexandria in 1978 and has been a member of TWIG for twenty-one years. She talks about how moving to Alexandria and being a TWIG member has helped her form meaningful relationships with other members. During the interview, she recalls the many TWIG projects she was involved in and shares her plans for TWIG moving forward as the organization's president.

Also present during the interview was Janet Hawkins.

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

## **Table of Contents/Index**

Minute	Page	Торіс
00:00	3	Introductions
01:21	3	Life Before Moving to Alexandria
06:33	5	Joining Twig
08:49	6	Being an Active Twig Member
13:52	7	Serving as President of Twig
16:30	8	Special Connections and Friendships Formed
18:41	9	Significant Projects
23:22	10	Twig's Contributions to the Community
26:25	11	Twig, Moving Forward
32:37	13	What Makes Alexandria Hospital Special
33:46	13	Twig Career

INTRODUCTIONS 00:00		
MaryAnne Beatty:	Hello there. My name is MaryAnne Beatty, and I serve as a member of the Twig's Historic Preservation Ad Hoc Committee. I'm working with my colleague Janet Hawkins, and we're doing oral history on some of our Twig members. And we are so pleased today to have our current President, Candace Withers Beane, with us. Today is January 26, 2021. We're going to talk to Candace today about some of her background and how she got to Alexandria, and her work in the community, especially her work with the Twig. Thank you, Candace, for joining us today.	
Candace Beane:	I'm pleased to be here, very pleased to be here.	
MB:	Oh, good. Thank you. Before I get started, I looked at your resume, and you have a very interesting background. You hail from Pennsylvania, and you came to the Washington DC area and met your future husband and raised your family. We'd like to hear more about that. So, we'll just start off with your background, and you can tell us how you got to Washington. And I noticed you had a federal career and how that all happened.	
LIFE BEFORE M	OVING TO ALEXANDRIA 01:21	
Candace Beane:	Well, I was born and raised in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Berks County, and went to a small liberal arts college not too far away from home, an hour away, Lebanon Valley College. And from there, when I graduated, after majoring in history, you know, what do you do if you don't want to teach in those days? It was different times. So you took the civil service exam. And I did. And I started getting job offers. I ended up going to work with the Naval Supply Systems Command in field activity in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, New Harrisburg. I was there for a few years and knew that's not what I wanted to do.  I will say this. Growing up, my best friend's mother lived life large.	
	Her world was bigger than our little world of Pennsylvania Dutch communities. She went to Philadelphia to get her haircut. Oh, my! And she was an artist. She collected antiques. And she really opened my eyes to a bigger world out there. I'm happy to say that in recent years, I had a chance to catch up with her at my mother's funeral and tell her how much she had influenced me. That's just a little aside, but anyway, I ended up coming to Washington continuing with the Navy as a civilian employee, came to a headquarters position, and did that for fifteen years.	
	I think that satisfied my urge to live in a big city of sorts, but	

	Washington DC is much different than a Philadelphia or a Boston, or a Pittsburgh. It's not a gritty, industrial metropolis. It is a very sanitized suburban city from my perspective. And so it seems to be the right fit for me. And I'm still torn between living in a city versus living in the country, so we'll see where that leads someday. But at any rate, I worked for the Navy for fifteen years in total and never really liked it. I felt I had something more in me, so while I was working, I went to landscape design school at George Washington University. Much to my husband's dismay, I quit my job as a civil servant and became a landscape designer and did that for about fifteen years and loved most of it. Loved working with plants and design, and that sort of thing.
	It was very hard for me to stay focused working out of my home, so I longed for an office to go to. So I became an office manager for a preschool and just sort of followed down that path. Now, I do the same for an architect in Old Town. I work part-time now, a few hours a week and suits me. I'm mostly retired and have time to do this and that and dabble in a lot of things. So how's that for background?
MB:	I think that sounds very interesting. And I think that's probably what a lot of us do. We just start in one path and then go into another one. So you moved into—when did you move into Alexandria?
Candace Beane:	Uh, 1978.
MB:	Okay. All right. And you have a daughter?
Candace Beane:	We have a daughter.
MB:	Elizabeth.
Candace Beane:	Uh-huh. My husband passed away six years ago.
MB:	I'm sorry. And she was raised in Alexandria and went through St. Agnes?
Candace Beane:	She went there. Yes, she went through St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School and has her roots here. She went to Clemson [University in South Carolina.] So she's back and forth between here and South Carolina trying figure things out.
MB:	Is she living in South Carolina?
Candace Beane:	She's living with me, but she's planning on moving down there with her boyfriend.
MB:	Yes, yeah. I know Janet and I have talked about this. I moved here when my dad was in the military. And I went to Hayfield [School in

	Alexandria], and then I went to Mary Washington [College in Fredericksburg, Virginia], but I always remember St. Stephen's and St. Agnes as St. Agnes because that's what it was back then. [laughs] I'm sorry. I always get that. Like, I always have to remember. Yeah.
Candace Beane:	It's a complicated name, St. Stephen's with an apostrophe S and St. Agnes without an apostrophe.
JOINING TWIG	06:33
MB:	Right. [laughs] So then you joined the Twig. And when did you join the Twig and who sponsored you? And how did that come about?
Candace Beane:	Well, Janet will like this part because we've told this story many times. So Janet and I, we were both volunteers at <u>Gadsby's Tavern Museum</u> working on a museum exhibit project. I had been a member—I was a member at the time of the Junior League of Northern Virginia. So I invited Janet to join that organization. And we both were involved in that for several years. And then we were out house-hunting one day and found a nice house. It wasn't suited for us, but Janet and Dave were house-hunting, too, so we told them about that house. And they bought that house. And then two years later, they called us and said the lady on their street, two houses up, just passed away and the house is going to sold privately, "Would you like to buy it?" And we said, "Well, yes, we would." [laughs] And once I was here, then we both joined Twig at the same time. When was that, Janet? 1990 or '91?
Janet Hawkins:	It was actually the year my dad died, so it was 1999. And I think we became active in—.
Candace Beane:	That's right. That's right. I joined Junior League in 1990. Okay, I'm just off a decade, 1999. That's coming up to twenty years, twenty-one years of active service.
MB:	Wow! And did you have the same sponsor?
Candace Beane:	Did we? I don't remember. Was it Hope Rhoads?
Janet Hawkins:	We did. We did. Hope Rhoads was our sponsor. And in those days, the sponsorship was a little bit looser than it is today, shall we say?
Candace Beane:	I also think at that time, the membership was down. And I think they were anxious for whatever people they can get into the organization.
MB:	Yeah.
Janet Hawkins:	Yeah. I think three of us left from that class. I'm the only sustainer, but Kathy Hirsch also joined the same year that we did.

Candace Beane:	That's right. There were four of us.	
BEING AN ACTIVE TWIG MEMBER 08:49		
MB:	And then what committees and what groups did you tackle and what assignments did you have along the way before you became—?	
Candace Beane:	Well, you know, the first couple of years, it's a little hard, MaryAnne, I'm sure you know, to be a new person in Twig because there are long-lasting relationships and that sort of thing. And Janet and I would tag-team each other initially. I think we served on the cookbook committee one year, and then we moved to the shop [the thrift store] and were weekly chairs. And then Janet chaired the shop and I think I was the weekly chair for her. I can't remember. It's been a long time.	
Janet Hawkins:	That's right. No, you've got it. Yeah.	
Candace Beane:	Yeah. I know I served on entertainment. And then I sort of went off, you know, I actually like jobs where you can tell me what your end product is, tell me what you want me to do, and then give me space to go off and do it. So I took on a number of the more solitary jobs. I was the scheduler for three years. And I became the scheduler, it must have been around 2005, the same year that we went online with volunteer matters and that totally changed the world with scheduling. I enjoyed that job, and it was great because you got to know everybody in the organization, everybody. It's a wonderful job.	
MB:	Well, that's good to know.	
Candace Beane:	Yeah, keep that in mind. I also served as assistant treasurer one year. Well, I've been the treasurer for two years. And yeah, so I had a lot of these jobs where I worked alone or in a very small group. And then finally, two or three years ago, my neighbor Jennifer Kilmer and I decided to co-chair the homes tour and that really opened my eyes. That was the first time I had shared a big Twig project. And I found that I felt like I could do it. I felt successful doing it, and I enjoyed it. So from there, I had been asked to serve as president several times and I always said no because I just felt like I was a better prince than a chief or a better prince than a king, but having served as homes tour chair gave me a lot of confidence. And so I decided that if asked, I was ready to say yes, and so that's how that came about.	
MB:	Well, I think you've had a very interesting, shall I say, year as president. And you're doing an amazing job. And faced with a lot of challenges, did you lean on anyone, or did you go, "Oh, no! What	

	am I going to do now?"
Candace Beane:	I mean, I had been an active member for eighteen or nineteen years. So I had a lot of ideas churning in my head. The year that you serve as president-elect and membership chair is really the most important year I found because that's when you really get to formulate your ideas and decide what it is you want to accomplish the coming year. And you send out trial balloons and put out feelers to see what other people think of your ideas. And I really relied on the membership committee. That committee is composed of mostly past presidents, and they've got years of experience. And we'd have a committee meeting, and we spent half our time on our business at hand. And then I'd use them to suggest some things I'd like to try, and I got a lot of great feedback from them and a lot of input, and ultimately, a lot of support.
	So I encourage everybody, every president to really use your membership committee. So I felt by the time I was ready to start structuring the board as I wanted it for my year and asking people to chair, and that sort of thing, I felt like I had all my ducks in a row. I had probably six to eight things I wanted to accomplish. Janet's heard me say this before. I sort of threw them all up there. And I'd say 60 percent to 70 percent stuck, which I'm thrilled with. That's good enough.
SERVING AS PR	ESIDENT OF TWIG 13:52
MB:	Yeah, especially when we're having to do it remotely. I think just the programs and just the connection, it's really been really good.
Candace Beane:	In a way, I feel like this was the perfect time for me to be president in that since the world was turned topsy-turvy, it didn't matter if it did one more somersault. I had a whole lot of radical things I wanted to do, but we were already in a world where "same old, same old" wasn't going to fly. So why not try a few things? One of my objectives was to make the Monday night meetings more interesting or at least make them not feel onerous because that is one of the—if you ask and survey Twig members, what is it you like or dislike or why did you decide to go sustainer, one of the things people say is they hate coming out on cold winter nights to the hospital or even on warm spring nights. Coming to those Monday night meetings is perceived as onerous.
	So I thought, well, maybe if we add interesting programs, that will make it more interesting and less undesirable. We also thought that we would eliminate some of the meetings. The months that we had coffees for our prospective new members, we wouldn't have

	membership meetings. Well, that sort of flew by the wayside because I have not been able to have coffees because of COVID[-19]. So we've had meetings every month, but we have had them via Zoom and—what I hoped people have enjoyed, had programs. I think Zoom has—we proved that we could do things. We can meet as a group via Zoom.  It's not quite the same as meeting in person, but I would hope that in the future that, maybe in our winter months, we don't have to go out on all those cold winter nights and go to the hospital. It will be my recommendation going forth, let's never have a January meeting again in person. Let's always meet via Zoom. I think we've learned a lot. I mean committees have been able to do a lot of work via Zoom. As much as we've missed everybody, we have been able to stay in touch and still accomplish things.
SPECIAL CONNI	ECTIONS AND FRIENDSHIPS FORMED 16:30
MB:	So that leads me into a question about friendships and special connections, and those types of things that you formed along the years while being in Twig, with other Twig members.
Candace Beane:	Well, I think that like any organization, you get out of it what you put into it. Some people joined Twig and they haven't moved beyond the perimeter. It may not suit them or they're just interested in one aspect of the organization. I have developed many friendships, although perhaps not as many as some people, but what I always like to say, I'm never afraid to walk into any Twig function on my own. And I do. I rarely make plans to go to a Twig function with somebody because when I walk into that room, I feel like everybody is my friend. I feel like there are so many people that I've known for so long. It's a very comfortable feeling. I don't worry about will anybody be there that I know. But I will say, it took me many years to get to that point. It's a really wonderful feeling.
MB:	Yeah, that's a nice feeling.
Candace Beane:	Knowing that we have the whole community behind us. I will say, too, that I've had moments in my life in the last twenty years, I've had moments and crises when I have lost both parents, I recently lost my brother and most of all, six years ago, it was my husband. And he was in a coma for thirty days. My Twig friends and the Twig community really rallied around me. And it was a wonderful thing. They held us up and supported us, and fed us, and did everything they could.
MB:	That's nice. That means a lot, yeah.

Candace Beane:	Yeah, absolutely.	
SIGNIFICANT P	SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS 18:41	
MB:	Yeah. Can you talk about some of the more special or significant projects that you've been involved in, in Twig?	
Candace Beane:	Well, I think Homes Tour is a really interesting project. I love the Homes Tour. I love being a part of it in a big way, and I love being a part of it in small ways. The nearest one I have been, I've always been a docent. There have been other years when I've been, what do we call that? The person, head hostess?	
Janet Hawkins:	The head hostess.	
Candace Beane:	That's been a lot of fun. I've written the program. Oh, I did the program for many years. I forgot that.	
Janet Hawkins:	Yes.	
Candace Beane:	I assembled the program. And that was a frantic project. We came together in a short amount of time, and it always seemed to end with a round robin around my dining room table with a bunch of people proofing and eating lunch and having a good time. One year, Cheryl Holt and I served as—when Janet was president, when was that, Janet? We served as the chairs for the seventy-fifth, seventieth?	
Janet Hawkins:	Yes, that was 2006, 2007 when I was president and then the actual exhibit and everything was 2008. Yeah. You did the exhibit. You should talk about the exhibit and how you planned that, and the database that you put together.	
Candace Beane:	The exhibit, yes. We went through all those old boxes and scrapbooks, and things. it seems like a distant memory. Well, we did an exhibit at the <a href="Lyceum">Lyceum</a> [Alexandria's History Museum] on the history of Twig. And it's always interesting to work on a museum exhibit because it's—the difficulty is how to take a verbal history and present it visually, but I hope that we did successfully. Do you remember we had those roll-up screens? Whatever happened to those? Are they still around?	
MB:	Roll-ups.	
Candace Beane:	They were like silkscreened. Instead of having boards and things that were fixed to the wall, they used those [gestures with hands], you see what I'm doing. It's almost like a movie screen that rolls up.	
Janet Hawkins:	I think you're thinking of maybe the Gadsby's [Tavern Museum] exhibit. We had the panels that were done at the Lyceum, the ones that had the green at the top.	

Candace Beane:	And what happened to those panels?
Janet Hawkins:	Well, a couple of them are at the hospital and then somebody was about ready to toss them at the thrift shop so I took them back. And they're now at the Lyceum because I thought they might be useful for Kris Lloyd to, [unclear] to have that material, so, you know.
Candace Beane:	We did that. That was another great project. One of the most interesting moments that all my life I've never forgotten in Twig was—I should say one of the best lessons I've learned in Twig was I was weekly chair at the shop, and I was complaining about people not following the rules or something. And Julie Lineberry, who was former president and have been a Twig a long time, she stopped me in my tracks and said, "Candace, we're all volunteers. We raise \$100,000 a year. I think that's pretty good. You've got to let it go." And I have never forgotten that moment. And I have tried to pass that knowledge on to other people. It's not your shop. It's not my shop. It's everybody's shop, and everybody has an opinion on how they want to do things. Yes, we have rules and procedures, and people do the best they can to follow those rules and procedures, but the bottom line is we're all volunteers, all volunteers. And, yeah, we can't control a volunteer like you can an employee. So that was very fine advice.
TWIG'S CONTRI	IBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY 23:22
MB:	Yeah. Just to change paths a little bit, what do you think in terms of our contributions, Twig's contributions to the hospital, what have been some of the most significant ones that have meaning to you that you think have been some of the most important?
Candace Beane:	Well, I don't know that anything is more important to me personally than anything else. I do think that when Janet and I joined Twig, Ken Kozloff was the new hospital administrator, and I think he was instrumental to some extent in changing the direction of Twig. I think before that, we were focused on—we would raise money for a specific project, a piece of equipment or I heard people talking about—we did a lot with maternity ward and things like that. We had a newsletter or we had take-home kits for the mothers, things like that, but on a smaller scale, Ken Kozloff came here and I think he looked around and said, "Hey, here's a group of women, good demographics, I'm going to use these women in a different way." And he did.
	He challenged us to think much larger and think in terms of long- term, five, seven-year pledges. I think our first big pledge like that

might have been for, I don't know, maybe \$150,000, you'd have to go back and look. And it was for a more bricks and mortar sort of projects. I give him credit for really changing Twig's focus. And from that point on, then we began to work in much larger projects, the Twig Pavilion and the latest, the ICU [Intensive Care Unit] conversion, and things like that. I think that's pretty significant. And I hope that we would be able to continue to play that type of role with the new hospital.

In the meantime, we have an interim of six or eight years where we probably aren't going to be in the position or we aren't going to want to fund brick-and-mortar projects because we know it's a terminating hospital [the hospital will be moving to a new location.] So we're going to have to find some other type of, I'd like to say juicy or sexy project to fund, whether that'd be endowing chairs or departments, or something. I don't know what the answer is, but I think we are, once again, at a relatively short-term pivotal point. And we have to change our focus because in order for us to go out and fundraise in the community, we have to be supporting some specific project at the hospital, that is, or garnering the public's attention. So it'll be interesting to see how that works out.

## TWIG, MOVING FORWARD 26:45

MB:

Yeah. Well, you sort of already answered my next question, but it was, why do you continue to support Twig and support the hospital but also, what do you think the goals of the Twig should be moving forward?

## Candace Beane:

Well, you know, Twig has something to do with the community. If I've got time on my hands, why not? I like to be busy. I think I get as much out of it as hopefully my contributions do or the hospital does with the contributions of Twig's, I should say that. I think that's probably true of everybody. Why do you join organizations? For many reasons. I would say more than 50 percent of them have to do with me. So I'll be honest about that, but it's a wonderful group of women, and we do good work in the community. And I'm very proud to be part of it. I'm going to share some numbers with you that I just worked up. And you're the first with Lori Ring to hear these numbers.

So until we had our online database, every member that joined Twig had a membership card. And that was up until 2005. And so we have 937 member cards that have been scanned and they're in the cloud storage. Since that time, I asked Lori Ring, our tech chair, to run a report for me, we have had an additional—well, wait a minute.

	Where are my numbers? I figured out the other day that in total, 1,151 women have been Twigs at some point. Maybe for a year, maybe for thirty years, whatever, but I think that's a pretty fabulous number.
MB:	I think so.
Candace Beane:	And I'm going to get that number out there, and we're going to broadcast that number. I'm sorry, what was your question?
MB:	No, no. Well, I mean, I think that speaks volumes to the organization, why people want to be a Twig and why people stay in the organization because of—I mean, I think that's a stat that backs that up, so yeah.
Candace Beane:	Absolutely.
MB:	And then in terms of the goals of the Twig moving forward, I think you kind of said we're going to have to be flexible with the new hospital, but if you'd like to expand on that.
Candace Beane:	Well, I would a little bit. I'd like to talk a little bit about one of—our other new initiative this year was corporate fundraising. I had long felt that there were opportunities with the local business community, to partner with them and for them to be a supporter of the Twig and in turn, us to be a supporter of them. So I think that is another opportunity for us to really explore and exploit over the next several years. I think we've just started this year with it, and we'll see where it leads. Homes Tour, I see that continuing. I see the thrift shop continuing.
	I think one of the challenges we face as an organization is that most of our members coming in are recent retirees, women with a lot of experience, a lot of skills, and they're happy to be a part of Twig, but they're not necessarily interested in taking on leadership positions. And maybe it's because they don't feel they've been in Twig long enough or they've been there and done that in their lives. And they're not interested in that necessarily, but that concerns me, that we have sort of a middle management gap right now. So MaryAnne Beatty — "Beaty" or "Baty"?
MB:	"Baty."
Candace Beane:	"Baty," yeah. Think about that.
MB:	I will. I'll remember that. I will remember that.
Candace Beane:	We need you.
MB:	Yeah. And it's good to hear both of you say, you know, when you

	first join an organization, it's kind of hard to get in there. You feel like, "Oh, I don't know anybody." Janet and Linda Lovell, who's a friend and a neighbor, have been very—holding my hand and very supportive so that's made a lot of difference. And you, too, Candace.
Candace Beane:	Like anything else, you just have to force yourself to do it, you know.
MB:	Yeah, yeah.
Candace Beane:	Walking through the annual luncheon and look around thinking, "Oh, where will I sit? Who will I sit with?" I sat next to some really interesting women and got to know them. I sat next to Mimi Olinger one year. I didn't know her at all, and we had the best conversation. And she is a really interesting, delightful woman. So [unclear] opportunities. You just sort of put yourself out there and let it happen, and don't pre-plan everything and have it all scheduled and arranged.
WHAT MAKES A	ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL SPECIAL 32:37
MB:	Right. Yeah, yeah. And then I just have a couple more questions.
Candace Beane:	Sure.
MB:	What is it about the Alexandria Hospital that makes it so special to the community?
Candace Beane:	It's there. [laughs]
MB:	Yeah, I know. I know. [laughs]
Candace Beane:	So this is what I say to them, and I think that in Twig, well, sometimes we don't toot our own horn loudly enough because there are many, many non-profits in Alexandria supporting the local community, each of them worthwhile and significant in their own right. But I would contend that we are the only one that impacts everybody's lives. Schools, great if you have kids, you know, scouting, sports, the arts, whatever, but everybody uses that hospital at one time or another. Everybody needs the ER [Emergency Room]. And I think that we need to support it.
TWIG CAREER 3	33:46
MB:	Yeah. We need it. I don't have anything else. Janet, am I missing anything?
Janet Hawkins:	Well, Candace is missing something. I was thinking about your Twig career. And I recall that you served as parliamentarian for a couple of years when we made some major bylaws changes. Is that right?

Candace Beane:	I think I was parliamentarian one year, but we changed. We removed the associate status. You know, going back to this whole issue of membership. It's a tough thing to attract and retain members and finding the right balance of how much can you ask the people. We used to have four classes of membership, well, provisional, active associate, sustainer, and honorary. And now, we've eliminated the associate membership and pushed it out a few more years until you can go sustainer. Am I correct? Do you remember, Janet? I know that's what you're getting at. Is that what you're getting at?
Janet Hawkins:	Yeah. Well, there was that and then I want to say you were parliamentarian. That was one of the things that was eliminated, was associates. And you could switch that category after being in Twig for three years. One of the benefits of doing that, MaryAnne, was you still needed to serve on a committee, but you also didn't have to attend every Monday night meeting, which was—but I also wanted to say that weren't you the chair on that committee when we cut back on the thrift shop shifts from three to two?
Candace Beane:	Yes, that's right.
Janet Hawkins:	Because that impacted my presidency. [laughs]
Candace Beane:	We had to work three shifts a month. That's a huge commitment. That's eight-and-a-half hours with the shop.
Janet Hawkins:	Plus be on the committee.
Candace Beane:	And as our membership grew, we were able to cut back to two shifts a month. I think that made a huge difference. That meant that if you were working full time, you could come in on a Saturday and work two shifts and still have a little bit of your Saturday left. That was a big deal.
MB:	Yeah. Well, this is my second year in Twig and so I just want to thank you for your leadership, Candace. I think you've done an exceptional job this year with dealing with the COVID challenges. And I've enjoyed the programs. I enjoyed the cooking last month or earlier this month or whenever it was. That was really fun.
Candace Beane:	Well, first of all, you're very kind. Thank you. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to have Eric Ziebold [a chef with well-known restaurants in Washington, DC] in my kitchen. It was like "whoowhoo!"
MB:	I would have been a little intimidated, but anyway, I don't know. It was great. Thank you again. And I think that wraps up our interview, and I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to talk with you. Thank

	you.
Candace Beane:	Well, thank you. Thank you very much. And I enjoyed it, too. Take care. See you all soon.
Janet Hawkins:	Bye!
Candace Beane:	Bye-bye!
MB:	Bye!