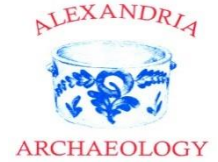




City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies – TWIG Interview*

Title: *Interview with Helenmarie Shipp, Jocie Kazanjian and Mary Kasik*

Date of Interview: *June 8, 2019*

Location of Interview: *Alexandria, VA*

Interviewer: *Alyssa Barilotti*

Transcriber: *Alyssa Barilotti*

Abstract: *This interview was with three former presidents of TWIG, Jocie Kazanjian (1990-91), Helenmarie Shipp (1991-92), and Mary Kasik (1992-93) and focuses on the history of the TWIG organization, it's structure and membership, and it's contributions to the Alexandria community.*

TWIG is the Junior Auxiliary of the INOVA Alexandria Hospital. Twig is an organization of women dedicated to providing financial aid, volunteer service, and support to the hospital.

Information on how the interviewees became involved with TWIG is also discussed.

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

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Introductions and Start in Alexandria 0:00	
Alyssa Barilotti	Okay. It is June 8, and I am here with Jocie Kazanjian, Mary Kasik, and Helenmarie Shipp, and I am here for an oral history interview on the TWIG organization here in Alexandria. The interview is being held at Jocie Kazanjian's home. Okay. Before we get into, you know, the TWIG organization and your experiences with that, I want to thank you all for doing this interview and I just want to start off with a general where and when you born? And then how you came to Alexandria?
Jocie Kazanjian	Why don't you start Helenmarie?
Helenmarie Shipp:	I was born in Greenwich, Connecticut.
AB	Okay.
Helen Marie:	I came to Alexandria because I took a job in Washington after I graduated in 1975 from Georgetown University, and stayed here. I had my first child in 1980, I was living in Fairlington [neighborhood] at the time, and we were looking for, I was looking for some kind of volunteer. Parenthetically, my mother said to me "Now that you're home, what kind of volunteer work are you going to do?" [Laughter] And a neighbor in Fairlington, her husband was, I don't know if you want this much detail, her husband was doing these wonderful silk screens of children in the hospital. It was in the labor and delivery area of the old hospital. And we used to meet them [the neighbors] when the older kids would play outside in Fairlington. They took a picture of our children and invited us to a party when the silk screens were done. There was a whole group of women there and they said 'oh, you should join TWIG", and that's how I joined.
AB	Okay.
Jocie Kazanjian	How I got—first of all, I was born in Washington, DC during World War II, only because my father was one of the first officers to open the Pentagon. So we lived in the area. We lived in Alexandria, right off the George Washington Parkway going down to Mount Vernon and so I lived my first years here during the whole war. Anyhow, we moved, we were military from that point on. Okay, so what did I do? But marry an Air Force officer and he was assigned here to the Alexandria area. Well, he wasn't quite the Pentagon, but eventually he was assigned to the Pentagon, and

	worked for the military in this area, and we had to find a place. And this is the home we purchased in 1970. And okay, I lived here and I was not looking for volunteer, to volunteer anywhere. I had enough on my plate when I lived here. Except one neighbor invited me to attend a TWIG coffee, I had no idea, I never even heard of TWIG. And I—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Nor had I.
Jocie Kazanjian	I never heard of TWIG or anything, went to the coffee and they accepted me. And she told me “Oh, they’ve accepted you and they expect you to start in September.” [Laughter] And that’s the way it goes. And I have been a TWIG since September 1982. There we go.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, and I’ve been a TWIG since April 1984.
Mary Kasik	I think you may have this story already from my previous interview, but I was born in Michigan and moved to California and met my husband. And Vietnam came along, and we were in the Navy here, and he got a job here, in Washington DC. We lived first in ParkFairfax [neighborhood], and then in Rosemont [neighborhood]. I had tried another volunteer organization because we thought we were going back to California, I didn’t get too involved. And then it became clear that we weren’t going back to California and I had tried the Junior Friends at the Y [YMCA].
Helenmarie Shipp	So had I.
Mary Kasik	It just wasn’t a fit.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah.
Jocie Kazanjian	It’s a different mentality.
Mary Kasik	Yeah, so a neighbor, again, it must have been a neighbor. It must have been—.
Jocie Kazanjian	Jean Klinge, maybe?
Mary Kasik	No, it was Elaine Gemmell.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh.
Mary Kasik	I was living in Rosemont [neighborhood] at the time.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yes. Oh, yeah.
Mary Kasik	She invited me to a coffee and that’s how I got started and this was November 1985.

Mary Kasik	Yeah, I lived around the corner from Elaine, and of course she's my sponsor and she is supposed to pick me up. [Laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	Mine was Suzanne Newberry, I was on my own from the get-go.
Mary Kasik	And then it turned out I went to Church with her.
Getting Invited and Involved in TWIG 5:08	
AB	So is that how, at the time with TWIG, were you first invited to a coffee?
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes.
AB	And that was how you learned about the organization or?
Jocie Kazanjian	Well normally, you can know about the organization and ask your friend I would love to join. I'm impressed with your work—.
Mary Kasik	We have to be honest, it wasn't because of the hospital necessarily. It was for the social aspect.
Jocie Kazanjian	Absolutely.
Helenmarie Shipp and Jocie Kazanjian	[together] And the service aspect.
Helenmarie Shipp	The other thing about TWIG is, even though it sounds, I don't want to use the word exclusionary, but, it's very important because of the kind of work we do, and it's all volunteer, that you sort of know who's joining. So it's important that you are sponsored, as we call it, by someone you know, so that you are not coming in completely on your own. But also there is a little bit of accountability if—.
Jocie Kazanjian	That's true and I agree, except that through the years there have been examples, and very successful examples, of people just coming up to our thrift shop, and they go regularly to the thrift shop or whatever, and then they'll say, you know, yeah, oh wow, okay. It's yes and no. Sometimes you don't.
Mary Kasik	And of course, we say and then we got invited to join, and we don't know that at the time it's like, "oh good, here's another one." You know. The people at TWIG are so excited.
Helenmarie Shipp & Jocie Kazanjian	[Laughter]

Mary Kasik	Because—.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah. Yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well the interesting thing is when I joined, when I went to the coffee, I went to a fall coffee and could not even apply for that fall class because they had too many people.
Jocie Kazanjian	I know.
Mary Kasik	I remember that.
Helenmarie Shipp	So I didn't get in until April, which would have been the spring coffee.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes. Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	Of the next year.
AB	So there are about two coffees?
Jocie Kazanjian	Three.
AB	Three, like, times that you can come into the organization?
Helenmarie Shipp	Excuse me, there are two definite coffees. We've had situations lately where we haven't always had enough people to have that third one.
Mary Kasik	But what Helenmarie Shipp is talking about. When there were too many people. That was happening at that time and it was mentioned that we can only have one membership coffee because we don't have room for—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Do you remember that?
Jocie Kazanjian	But it definitely wasn't during our period. I mean it was so hard to get people. Do you remember that Helenmarie? And I'll tell you I'll never forget when we had to have Cheryl as the only person that showed up from that class. It was a probably in January, or something like that. For the orientation, I think, it was one other person that was in her class. But they didn't show up and so that was it. Cheryl was the provisional.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	Also, when we joined, you had three obligations.
Mary Kasik	Oh yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	You had two shifts at the thrift shop a month, you had a shift at the

	hospital.
Jocie Kazanjian	Half a day.
Helenmarie Shipp	And for the first six months of your membership, you had to go to a stock committee as a provisional member and you had to go to a monthly Monday night meeting.
Jocie Kazanjian	And you were not allowed to miss it.
Helenmarie Shipp	So, theoretically, you could have one TWIG obligation a week.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	For the first six months you joined.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, it was tough. It was tough.
Helenmarie Shipp	And that has changed, that's been modified. But back then, it was a large commitment. And I had small children.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, it was a very difficult commitment. And you could not—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Laughs] You didn't miss.
Jocie Kazanjian	You could only miss the meeting supposedly if you were sick. Not if your child was sick. You had to be sick. Because I guess there must have been abuses or something. Don't you think Helenmarie?
Mary Kasik	Oh yeah.
Jocie Kazanjian	It was very, I remember taking it very seriously.
Mary Kasik	But we had a hard time getting people to do their jobs at the thrift shop. People were just not coming in or coming in late. This is what I got from reading the minutes. I was surprised.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh no, we had a very difficult time when I was president. We had to have meetings and all that sort of thing. But what I want to tell you is the technology has changed things so drastically you have no idea.
Advances in Technology for the TWIG Organization 9:41	
Jocie Kazanjian	Do you know that we did not know what day we were going to work unless we, well I don't know if we, we couldn't request a day, but we could say, "please don't put me down on Tuesdays because I have a class." Okay, so you couldn't say "please put me down on Wednesday", or something, so we would, when the mail came and we knew about when it was going to come in, I

	remember, I would run to that mailbox, I would tear up that envelope as fast as I could. “Oh thank goodness, or oh no, that’s the night I’m having a dinner party.” And then you would have to call everybody. But it was even before the machines. We didn’t even have the answering machines when we first started.
Helenmarie Shipp	I was a scheduler, pre the computer.
Jocie Kazanjian	Can you believe that?
Helenmarie Shipp	It is amazing to think if you know me personally that the trains ran on time. But they did.
Jocie Kazanjian	We kept her for several years. You were scheduler for two or three years.
Helenmarie Shipp	And then you had to contact everybody.
Changes in TWIG Duties 11:15	
Mary Kasik	Was I the hospital scheduler?
Jocie Kazanjian	There was the hospital scheduler.
Helenmarie Shipp	You know what, yeah, Mary, you might have been. See when we started, we were working at the hospital one shift. You did one shift a month at the hospital in different volunteer areas in the hospital. During my tenure, which would be 1991, they stopped.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, yes.
Mary Kasik	The hospital. Underneath, they went back into, they tried to get people into the emergency room.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	What happened was we were having trouble staffing it. We only work from September. We only work from Labor Day to Memorial Day. And the hospital had enough over volunteers that they wanted people who could work whenever, twelve months a year. So we made the executive decision that I thought would be accepted, that we were not going to work at the hospital, and we were going to shift over to three shifts at the thrift shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	Well, yeah, let me tell you what happened.
Helenmarie Shipp	That didn’t go over real well in the beginning.
Jocie Kazanjian	What really happened was there wasn’t enough work for us and the ladies were bored stiff. They would come, well I loved it because I’m a talker. So I would come in, when I came in, we

	were doing maternity, the maternity ward. Giving out juice, water—.
Mary Kasik	And taking the babies, taking the wheelchairs out.
Jocie Kazanjian	And taking the, yes, that's right.
Helenmarie Shipp	Which they had to stop for liability reasons.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh really? Well, during my time we—. [overlap]
Helenmarie Shipp	That was liability reasons.
Jocie Kazanjian	But what it was, sometimes I had to rush to things at the end, "oh my gosh my shift is going to be over, I better get to, you know, room number 56 and 58", or whatever. But some people are not talkers, if they just come in and say "Do you want juice, do you want—" and then okay, fine, and then leave. You know I would try to talk, what did you have and try to cheer them up or whatever. So it was fine for me. There was not enough work for people. Well they were bored stiff. And at the same time, we were going through a recession and we really needed to focus on the thrift shop. We needed to have people work at the thrift shop, so we could make money. So, we finally decided that it is more important, and we tried, we tried all kinds of, hey Helenmarie, they put us in different—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Don't you remember that was my first, remember when I announced that, that was my first general meeting as president?
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes.
Mary Kasik	Yup.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh my god, there were almost boos, I mean.
Jocie Kazanjian	That you were going to leave the hospital? Are you joking?
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh yeah.
Jocie Kazanjian	I thought everybody was really happy. Well you know, I wouldn't know. [overlapping voices]
Mary Kasik	But you gave them the option that you could still work there.
Helenmarie Shipp	Which Jocie did.
Jocie Kazanjian	Right.
Helenmarie Shipp	Jocie was one of the last ones that stayed at the hospital.
Jocie Kazanjian	I was the only one.

AB	So, the TWIG organization, you guys shifted the one shift at the hospital to the full time TWIG thrift shop around 1990?
Helenmarie Shipp	1991-92. Can I go back, do you know that, do you know the organizational thing at the hospital in terms of volunteer?
The TWIG Organization Structure and the Alexandria Hospital 14:48	
Helenmarie Shipp	There used to be, what, a senior, what did they call them?
Mary Kasik	There used to be a regular auxiliary.
Helenmarie Shipp	Then there was the senior auxiliary, and then underneath the senior auxiliary was something called the Board of Lady managers, who do the gift shop [at the hospital] and that sort of thing. Then underneath that was TWIG, and the, I think the idea was at the time, you couldn't be older than forty-six to apply for membership to TWIG.
AB	And this was the 1930s?
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh no, in the 1930s, it was twenty-six. You couldn't be older than twenty-six apparently. You know when Cheryl did her report, I think it was—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, but back when it was us it was forty-something.
Jocie Kazanjian	And then they did it to thirty-six supposedly somebody told me, I don't know I can't verify that.
Helenmarie Shipp	And then it went to forty-six.
Jocie Kazanjian	And then it went to forty-six. But I remember that was during our time and you know who it was, it was that Bonnie, she was the one who lived right across the street -
Helenmarie Shipp	Bonnie Fairbanks. So, the idea was that you would go when you were younger as a TWIG. And then you would sort of, I don't want to say age out, but then you would go up into the Board of Lady managers.
Mary Kasik	No, you would go to the auxiliary, the Board of Lady managers was run by the churches. [overlapping]
Helenmarie Shipp	Okay, so then you go to the senior auxiliary and what happened was nobody wanted to leave, nobody wanted to leave TWIG.
Jocie Kazanjian	It was the big baby boomers. The baby boomers.
Mary Kasik	What, we're not that old.

Jocie Kazanjian	Well, I'm pre-baby boomer.
Helenmarie Shipp	People wanted to stay at the thrift shop, wanted the camaraderie.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, absolutely.
Helenmarie Shipp	Didn't want to become a pink lady like my mother was, you know with the jackets at the hospital.
Jocie Kazanjian	But nobody wanted to go where those old ladies were. Nobody wanted to. So we just—.
Mary Kasik	Because they ran the [gift] shop and they had a homes tour.
Jocie Kazanjian	They had a tour of homes, yeah, the homes tour in Alexandria. [The Tour of Historic Alexandria Homes] Which is still going on. They passed it on to us, they asked us to pick it up. And what year was this?
Helenmarie Shipp	But it's not theirs anymore.
Jocie Kazanjian	Right.
Helenmarie Shipp	It's the TWIG tour.
Jocie Kazanjian	Now its ours. It was more than seventy-five years, I know it. Maybe the seventy-seventh, seventy-eighth, pretty close to that.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well, we were still doing the cooks tour when I was—.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah, oh yeah.
Mary Kasik	I think there was a year when we tried to do both of them and then the year, [19]93-94, there was no tour because that was the year we had the gala and were doing the cookbook.
Jocie Kazanjian	The cooks tour, we didn't have a cooks tour is that what you're saying?
Mary Kasik	Right, we didn't have a cooks tour but I think there was still a homes tour in the fall.
Jocie Kazanjian	And they were struggling because they didn't have enough members. You need a lot of people to, I mean we open up about six homes and you need about oh, six, or seven, or eight people per home. They would ask us to help them out. That was the senior auxiliary. And then the senior auxiliary just died out.
Mary Kasik	It doesn't exist [overlap] and the gift shop is run professionally now. It's part of the hospital.

Helenmarie Shipp	But once again, a reflection in many cases, of the changing roles of women and that's the kind of really fascinating. I think, underlying tenet of the TWIG organization.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, absolutely.
The Changing Roles of Women and the TWIG Organization 18:17	
AB	And that's what I wanted to ask is could you elaborate on your experiences because you had a child while you were, two children during your presidency of TWIG.
Helenmarie Shipp	I had one child during my presidency, I had another one, I was president in. Taylor was born in [19]86, and Blaire was born in '91.
AB	So how did you see the shifting roles of women within the TWIG organization? And how did that affect the—?
Jocie Kazanjian	We couldn't get members. We couldn't get people anymore, and what happened, I was reading through my notes and it said two people were rejected who had come to the coffee because of age. So, we said we have to discuss the age, and that's when we did. So, we did let one in, this one lady—.
Mary Kasik	Are you talking about Bonnie?
Jocie Kazanjian	Bonnie Fairbanks.
Mary Kasik	This woman is a dynamo even today. [Laughs] I mean even thirty years later.
Helenmarie Shipp	But she's not a TWIG.
Jocie Kazanjian	Well, no, no.
Mary Kasik	She dropped out because she had too many things to do.
Jocie Kazanjian	She dressed as Mary Washington [George Washington's mother] in all the, everything. I mean, I've seen her.
Mary Kasik	You've probably seen her at some point. She has red hair and plays all these roles.
Jocie Kazanjian	She plays all these roles, but mostly Mary Washington and I ran into her one time when I went to a conference, or whatever it was, at the Masonic Temple. I was coming out and there was Bonnie, receiving all these people [laughter] as Mary Washington.
Mary Kasik	I go to church with her and she also joined the DAR [Daughters of

	the American Revolution] just a few years ago.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, wow. She's a good one—but anyhow, we did change for her. She was forty-six, or something like that, yes, and we did change. And then eventually, of course I didn't follow it afterwards, cause I wouldn't go to the meetings that much after that, but now we are completely eliminating the age [limit].
Mary Kasik	And now we get a seventy-six-year old. [Overlap with others]
Helenmarie Shipp	Because at the same time, younger women were going back to work and so the contingent of people to take up, the thrift shop is closed on Monday. Tuesday to Friday became harder and harder to do because younger gals were starting to go back into the workplace.
Jocie Kazanjian	That's right.
Helenmarie Shipp	Even with younger children.
Jocie Kazanjian	That's right.
Helenmarie Shipp	And so the numbers essentially were the pushing force between moving up the age too.
Jocie Kazanjian	And all these baby boomers retiring and really full of energy, full of knowledge, full of, still wanting to lead and all that, who wanted to join. Who wanted to do—finally, I am retired, I can do some volunteer work.
Mary Kasik	And have fun.
Jocie Kazanjian	And have fun. But I'm telling you, we cannot believe how these women work. Would you say it's unbelievable, and I read, it's unbelievable. They work like they're still working.
Helenmarie Shipp	My husband ran a trade association and I went to dinner with, just as an offshoot, this is sort of off the beaten track, but my husband ran a trade association before he retired. I went to a dinner one night with him and its safety equipment, so a lot of it were small companies, little offshoots and things like that. Because I would always say, you know, I got this at the thrift shop, or whatever. They were taken aback by the fact when I told them the numbers, the money numbers that we do with no paid employees. Never any problem with anything. The only thing we actually pay money for, other than utilities and that sort of thing, is someone does our taxes because it has gotten so complicated with all the IRS requirements and all that kind of thing. It became too much to ask the select few

	women who might have, who were or had been, CPAs to do it. So, as far as I know, that is the only thing, other than, you know, insurance, utilities, whatever.
Mary Kasik	And we own our thrift shop, outright.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, we paid off the mortgage and we own the building.
Jocie Kazanjian	Somebody was very smart, very, very smart, with that.
AB	And correct me if I'm wrong, but it's a historic building in Alexandria, or?
Helenmarie Shipp	It's under the Board of Architecture [Review] of Alexandria. [The building was built in 1941 in the colonial revival style].
AB	Yes, correct.
Mary Kasik	Our mortgage payment used to be \$135 a month.
Helenmarie Shipp	Remember that? Remember that in the budget?
Mary Kasik	We wrote the checks.
HelenMarie	Between us [Helenmarie Shipp, Jocie Kazanjian, and Mary Kasik] we've been, what you have here is, you have an old treasurer, assistant treasurer, scheduler, stock committee chair.
Mary Kasik	I was thrift shop chair one time.
Helenmarie Shipp	Thrift shop chair.
Mary Kasik	I was never stock committee chair.
Helenmarie Shipp	What else? You know?
Mary Kasik	Vice President.
Helenmarie Shipp	Vice President.
Mary Kasik	And I was parliamentarian once.
Helenmarie Shipp	And I was parliamentarian, I was scheduler, I can't even think. I mean we sort of had, you have in front of you, people who have sort of done almost every job.
Responsibilities of a TWIG President 24:50	
AB	Right. And can you elaborate on some of the roles within [Twig], so scheduler would make sure that every volunteer—?
Helenmarie Shipp	Well they would schedule the volunteers.
AB	Right, so then, and I'm sitting before three presidents, what were

	some of your day-to-day, you know, duties, or things that you had to consider when you were a president of this organization.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well, if you look at the by-laws, the first thing under the president is the day-to-day operation of the group. I think your most important thing was to get a really good board, really smart women, who basically, you really oversaw the Board of Directors. As well as being involved in other things, but it wasn't like a full-time job where you running the place every day, but nothing went on that you didn't, you weren't—.
Mary Kasik	But being president, I felt, was easier than Vice President.
Jocie Kazanjian	[overlap] Vice-President. That's what I wanted to say. Vice President, you had all kind of, you had to send out the invitations, you had to set up the luncheons, or the coffee.
Mary Kasik	You had to oversee the new members.
Helenmarie Shipp	That was the bigger thing.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, that was the bigger thing. But it was much better, much easier being—.
Helenmarie Shipp	And to tell the camaraderie of the group when I was Vice President before I became President. I was asked to be Vice-President, which meant I would become the next President. I said yes in April and I found out I was having my fourth child in June and I went back to Joan Fletcher and said Joan, look, and she said "Oh you'll be fine, you'll be fine." And part of the reason I would be fine was that I was following Jocie Kazanjian, who was so extraordinary and I got—.
Jocie Kazanjian	And you had Mary Kasik right behind you.
Helenmarie Shipp	And I had Mary Kasik right behind me! It's kind of a joke. Mary Kasik tended to stop ever saying yes in front of me. [laughing] That was Betty Blount's line. Betty Blount used to say, "If Helenmarie Shipp says something, never say yes." [laughter] But I had to be on bedrest for part of the pregnancy so, uniquely, but because of how wonderful of a person she [Mary Kasik] is, she essentially was part Vice-President and President her year.
Jocie Kazanjian	And it worked fine.
Helenmarie Shipp	And it worked fine, and I had Blaire, and Mary Kasik followed me with this little baby, who's now twenty-eight.
Mary Kasik	Having been a Regent of a DAR chapter, recently, that was a

	whole lot more work, and it was because I had to do everything and I remember in TWIG, I didn't have to do everything.
Helenmarie Shipp	Exactly. Exactly.
Mary Kasik	You know, there were people, there were assigned roles for everybody.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well there are monthly Board meetings the week before the general meetings. So there's, if you look in our by-laws there's an entertainment committee. There's a sustainer, which is when you are not as quite as active, committee. There's a special sales, there's thrift shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	Cookbooks, we have the cookbooks.
Helenmarie Shipp	We have the cookbooks, we have the homes tour, so you have these fabulous women who take on, I kiddingly call it full-time part-time jobs, but it's not really. But there, the real success of TWIG in many ways is that for the TWIGs, you give them something and they say okay, I'll come back to you on it. You know what I mean? So it's become more so because of all the different things we're doing that we didn't do when we were President.
Mary Kasik	The President this year, I mean, there are so many extra-activities now. We have so many social activities now, that kind of started the year I was President, thanks to Georgine Newland. I'm like, really, I read my minutes over, and I'm like we did all of this. And Georgine organized all of this, going to the fur salon and having the facials.
Helenmarie Shipp	I remember.
Mary Kasik	She'd have one of those things once a month, kind of like they do now. The President this year, I mean, I asked her, I said, "Patty you're going to do things all the time for TWIG." And she said, "Yes, it's been a lot." But it was, for her it was a good thing.
Jocie Kazanjian	It was because she lost her husband. So, her children were grown and all that—.
Changing Roles of Women in TWIG 29:40	
Helenmarie Shipp	See that, once again, it's the changing roles.
Jocie Kazanjian	Exactly.
Helenmarie Shipp	When we came in the children were small. So, you did your

	obligation and then you went home.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, yes. And that in itself was a big commitment.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] It was a big commitment. Then all of the sudden now, as you get people who are older and parenthetically, most people were married when we were younger.
Mary Kasik	The professional people that I've noticed are mostly real-estate women.
Helenmarie Shipp	But a lot of, but we now have a lot of single women who never had, who never got married, never had children, gals who are widowed, or whatever. And so it in a weird way, we do more than we ever did but there's also a social component to it that wasn't necessarily there when we were in the thick of it.
Jocie Kazanjian	Right. Right.
Mary Kasik	We didn't have time for that. We didn't have time.
Jocie Kazanjian	Exactly.
Helenmarie Shipp	Or the interest in it becoming that because we were so immersed in—. So it is interesting how that's morphed and that's a lot of like, there are shopping nights, and TWIG dinners at places. There's a lot more social activity woven into the calendar of TWIG then there ever was when the three of us, well needless to say we all—.
Mary Kasik	Except, I noticed that we did it my year. Thanks to Georgine. She organized.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Laughter]
Mary Kasik	She's wonderful.
Jocie Kazanjian	Agreed. She's our friend.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, yeah. But its just, it's fascinating because there's a loyalty component to this organization that I find fascinating. That no matter what you do, you know, you never leave it. And it's always sort of part, I feel as though it's part of who I am.
What the TWIG Organization Means To Me 31:52	
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh absolutely.
Helenmarie Shipp	Don't you think?
Jocie Kazanjian	But that's why, us, we people [motions towards Helenmarie Shipp

	and Mary Kasik] who stayed in so long.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes.
Jocie Kazanjian	The other ones that left at ten years, they just faded away, you know.
Mary Kasik	Because after ten years you become an honorary member.
Structure of Membership with the TWIG Organization 32:07	
AB	Okay, so that was my next question.
Helenmarie Shipp	You see the thing is, we have some little trickle out, but some who trickle back in from honorary [membership].
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes.
Mary Kasik	[Overlap] Who have now retired.
Helenmarie Shipp	People like Barbie Pool [now Barbie Frank], Jackie Mason, Stevie Gillespie, all these people who, they miss it. They miss the thrift shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	And they have more time now. For instance, one of them just lost her husband last year, so she has a little bit—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] Adrift.
Jocie Kazanjian	—free time, adrift and so she can see the camaraderie.
Mary Kasik	She comes to sewing group at church.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, how nice.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well then you look at Chris Czech who left to go, because her husband took a job in New Jersey and she had been a past President. The minute they came back here, she came back in. It's just that, it's a very, it's really interesting.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] It's like a family.
Helenmarie Shipp	Sorry you couldn't have maybe gone to the luncheon. It's a fascinating thing. I was upstairs at the shop one day, and I was talking to someone, and I found out that Linda Lovell [a TWIG member] is an ex-FBI profiler.
Jocie Kazanjian	She's unbelievable. She's so bright.
Helenmarie Shipp	You know, and Yvonne used to work for Ken Adelman, at Arms Control, and you know, fascinating stuff. People in my case, because of the children, I maybe would have never met. And that

	still is the case today. I've met lovely people who, even though I feel like I know a lot of people, I never would have met them were it not for TWIG.
Jocie Kazanjian	Absolutely.
Helenmarie Shipp	Trish Meyer, and Elaine Mannen, all of those people who live in Old Town.
Mary Kasik	I still don't know the name of the woman I sat and talked to for two hours at the last luncheon but she was fascinating.
Helenmarie Shipp	Who?
Jocie Kazanjian	Can you describe her a little bit?
Mary Kasik	She's a realtor with McEnearney [McEnearney Associates]. Sue something? Sue? Not married. She's never been married.
Jocie Kazanjian	Not Eloise, her name wasn't Eloise.
Mary Kasik	We're stumped. We'll figure it out.
Jocie Kazanjian & Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] Yeah, yeah. We'll figure it out.
AB	So, I do have a question. What is the difference between an honorary member and an active member? And how do you go back? So, you said there was ten years of being an active member.
Jocie Kazanjian	Actually, you [points to Helenmarie] should pick it up here because there was a point when we decided we were losing a lot of good people, why don't you pick it up here?
Helenmarie Shipp	When you join TWIG, you're a provisional, and you are a provisional and you are asked, you are offered membership and you are a provisional, and when I told you back before that you, that the additional thing is you have to do that stock commitment.
AB	Correct.
Helenmarie Shipp	And so you are a provisional for three months.
Jocie Kazanjian	For three months.
Helenmarie Shipp	For three months, and then you become an active member.
Jocie Kazanjian	If you don't mess up during your provisional.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well, correct, yeah.

Jocie Kazanjian	Because let me tell you, people do mess up.
Helenmarie Shipp	They do.
Jocie Kazanjian	They say, “Oh boy, this is too much for me, or whatever.” And you know.
Helenmarie Shipp	They part on good terms.
Jocie Kazanjian	That’s right.
Mary Kasik	We invite all of these people to the coffee and there would be in the minutes that we invited eighteen people and fourteen people accepted, and eleven people came to the first day. You know, it kind of—.
Helenmarie Shipp	It whittles down, yeah. So you become an active member, and with that is you’re a voting member, of course the responsibility at the shop, and whatever. And it used to be that after five years you could do what was called a sustainer and you could—.
Jocie Kazanjian	How about the associate?
Mary Kasik	[Overlap] What about the associate?
Helenmarie Shipp	No, in the old days, it was five years for a sustainer. Which meant you didn’t have a vote, you didn’t have to go to the Monday meeting, but you still went to the thrift shop but you had a lesser commitment. So back around the time when I was president, we were getting so many people quickly at five years jumping to the sustainer, that to a certain extent we were losing the middle management, I don’t know a better word.
Jocie Kazanjian	Leadership.
Helenmarie Shipp	That was feeding into being president.
Helenmarie Shipp	That sort of thing. So what we did is we dropped the third shift, which had originally been the hospital, and then it went to three shifts at the thrift shop. We dropped the third shift but we moved becoming an associate to seven years so we could keep those people in for another two years.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Yes, now you said—.
Mary Kasik	You mean we moved the sustainer to seven years.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes, but in that as well, there was an associate category where, that no longer exists.

Jocie Kazanjian	No, but that was after three years, I believe Helenmarie, you could go to associate.
Mary Kasik	But there was a whole process.
Helenmarie Shipp	There was a whole process but there was a mathematical calculation. Yeah, that they've dropped. So now it's seven years after you become a sustainer, and after ten years, you can become an honorary, which means you basically resign in good standing.
Jocie Kazanjian	But you're still in it. You still—.
Mary Kasik	[Overlap] You still get invited to the luncheons.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] You still get invited to the luncheons, and if you become an honorary and leave in good standing, et cetera, you can come back any time you want. And all you have to do is say to the membership committee, "I would like to come back in." And you can come back in.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yeah, and it has to be in good standing. Because some people do leave in poor standing, which means that they probably—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] They resign in bad standing.
Jocie Kazanjian	What it meant was, they probably didn't, they probably missed a lot of their shifts and they never made it up before they quit. Do you understand what I mean? It shows—.
Mary Kasik	When you're a member, in addition to working at the thrift shop, you have to sign on to be a member of a committee.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, yeah, I'm sorry, you're right. And when you're a sustainer you don't have to do that.
Mary Kasik	Right.
Helenmarie Shipp	That's the other thing. You don't have to be a committee member, you only have to work one shift at the shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] That's correct.
Helenmarie Shipp	And you don't have to go to the Monday meetings. And we were getting too many people that we thought would be presidents who were leaving the active roles after five years.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	The compromise that the by-laws committee came up with was the seven years. But we—.

Jocie Kazanjian	Our numbers were so low, Helenmarie, during my tenure, and maybe yours, that you suggested that we—if you were going to go have a leave of absence, which meant you were going to have a baby or whatever, or very ill, or going to have an operation or whatever, that you should find a replacement for you. And this has never been done before.
Helenmarie Shipp	And it never worked out.
Jocie Kazanjian	And it probably never worked out. Yeah, it probably never worked out. In other words, if you are taking a leave of absence, you're probably stressed out enough. [Laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	But the thing about the leave of absence is, you were relieved of your duties but you were also relieved of the benefits of membership as well.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, that's right.
Helenmarie Shipp	So you do not have a vote, you are not, theoretically, you are not invited to the functions, or whatever.
Jocie Kazanjian	And that counted against your—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] And it does count against your tenure.
Helenmarie Shipp	So, the leave of absence thing, that is a membership committee function. It does, it really, there is a set of criteria but quite honestly it's on a case by case basis because, you know. The birth of a child, not many people do anymore.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Not anymore. [Laughs] The last one was—.
Mary Kasik	When was the last time?
Jocie Kazanjian	The last one was, what's her name, Cassie.
Helenmarie Shipp	Cassie McLaughlin had already had her—.
Jocie Kazanjian	No, but she was the last one who had a baby, I think.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah. That was a long time ago.
Jocie Kazanjian	A long time ago. [Laughter]
Shifts Within the TWIG Organization 40:53	
AB	So there's been this shift between members who were having children and taking leave of absence and now that we've opened the age requirement—.

Jocie Kazanjian	There are now a lot of broken legs and broken ankles. [Laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	True. There is a lot of medical leave. That and emergency leave and that is on a case by case, time sensitive basis.
AB	Okay.
Helenmarie Shipp	But what we try to do is, you don't go for a leave of absence because you are taking a cruise in February and you're not going to be there and then you are expected to find a replacement and that sort of thing. The point of fact is at, whatever it is \$400,000 or whatever that goes through the thrift shop, it is a business and so we do have to have a certain number of people at the shop everyday it is open. So you are not relieved of your obligation unless it is a very, you know, a serious situation where you physically can't get there. That is not to say that we're a draconian, you know, but to certain extent you got to be business like because we are a business.
Jocie Kazanjian	We should talk about the—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] We actually pay business tax, you know that now? [gestures to Jocie Kazanjian and Mary Kasik]
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, really? I would think so.
Helenmarie Shipp	We pay business tax in Alexandria.
Jocie Kazanjian	Really? Even though we are not for-profit?
Helenmarie Shipp	Well you know we are a 501(c)(3). [a category for non-profit organizations]
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Mary Kasik	Correct.
Jocie Kazanjian	We should talk to you [gestures to Alyssa] about how we, our whole purpose too, is to promote well, to help out the hospital financially. So we always have, we find a—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] We go to the [hospital] foundation office.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, and they'll tell us and say this is what we need, or this is what we're going to do, we're going to build on this wing here and if you would like to participate. I guess it's a certain amount of money we give and we get the name.
Mary Kasik	Well, I think our, during our time was the first big pledge.

Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yes. I think so.
Mary Kasik	And we had \$150,000 dollar pledge and we were committed to doing 50,000 dollars.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] It was a cellar room at the Cancer Center.
Mary Kasik	Yes.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yes.
Mary Kasik	And so we had to have \$50,000 a year. Well there was a lot of emphasis on how much money we could make. I mean because we were making \$200 to \$300 a day. How much do we make a day now? [Gestures to Mary Kasik and Jocie Kazanjian]
Jocie Kazanjian	I can tell you per month, last month. In March, \$23,000 dollars.
AB	\$23,000 from the thrift shop?
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, I wrote it down. March sales, \$23, 522.
Mary Kasik	Which is ten times more than what we used to do.
Jocie Kazanjian	Exactly. Can you believe—?
Helenmarie Shipp	[Gestures to Alyssa] Have you been in the thrift shop?
AB	I haven't had a chance to.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, you have to.
Mary Kasik	It's mind-boggling.
Helenmarie Shipp	That's unfortunate because it is just about to close for the summer.
Jocie Kazanjian	And today is the first day of the bag sale.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, today is the bag sale?
Jocie Kazanjian	Today is the bag sale. I have to go by the way, but I am not leaving here until 1:25 pm.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, you have the third shift?
Jocie Kazanjian	I have the third shift today. [Laughs]
Mary Kasik	That was another thing. We were open from 9:30 to 2:30.
Jocie Kazanjian	Because of the school.
Helenmarie Shipp	Tuesday through Saturday.
Mary Kasik	Tuesday through Saturday. And now we have nights, we have—.

Helenmarie Shipp	The Thursday night shift.
Mary Kasik	We have three shifts on Saturday.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well because we started to, we decided to open at 10:00 a.m. because most businesses open at 10:00 a.m. Rather than 9:30 a.m.
Mary Kasik	But we're still closed on Mondays.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yeah.
Mary Kasik	We haven't changed that.
Jocie Kazanjian	The thrift shops are still closed on Mondays.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh yeah, you know if you noticed we worked on Memorial Day. I think they're moving, you know, it all, of course, used to be based on the city's schedule mostly. We were closed for Christmas. We were closed between Christmas and New Year. We were closed most holidays.
Mary Kasik	And I think we were closed Easter week.
Helenmarie Shipp	We were. We were closed Easter week.
Jocie Kazanjian	And I read in the minutes, it was either, probably during my tenure where we decided we would open for those four days during Easter week.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes.
Jocie Kazanjian	And we made 900 and some odd dollars for those four days and we said so it was worth it.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well, and originally, the thrift shop schedule for snow, and vacation or anything, for a long time we were on Fairfax county's schedule.
Mary Kasik	My year it was on Alexandria's schedule.
Helenmarie Shipp	Because it changed in my year. Because most of the women who had a say so in it had children in private school who's, Saint Stephen's and that kind of thing, who went on Fairfax. And then all of the sudden—.
Mary Kasik	We came along.
Helenmarie Shipp	We came along and all of our children were in public school and we said, "If you live in Alexandria and you work in Alexandria, you should be on Alexandria's [unclear]

Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	So that was a little tumultuous but everybody—.
Jocie Kazanjian	Well let me just, because I am thinking about it – to give you an example, the lowest membership, of total membership, every month it would change depending on the provisional members that came in and that sort of thing, the lowest was about 121 total. That means sustainers, associates, and provisional and active members. In March this year, it was 187.
Mary Kasik	But I think they were trying to keep it at a certain number.
Helenmarie Shipp	Things are changing again and they're having all these extended hours and we have more shifts to cover. And there are a lot—.
Mary Kasik	There were times that the store was closed because people didn't turn up on our end.
Helenmarie Shipp	I know we are jumping around but for security purposes we always have three people on the floor.
Mary Kasik	And we were opening with two people.
Shifts and Duties at the Thrift Shop 47:45	
Helenmarie Shipp	And we were opening with two people. The idea is we have five people to a shift. So you have two people behind the desk, one who is sort of roaming, and then you have two people upstairs marking because we are constantly marking stuff.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, it's all donations. You cannot believe the fabulous—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh yeah, there's no consignment, no nothing.
Jocie Kazanjian	Nothing. It's just all donations.
Mary Kasik	And when we were involved it was every member had to donate at least sixty dollars' worth of merchandise.
Jocie Kazanjian	That's correct.
Helenmarie Shipp	We soon got rid of that. [Laughter] You know, do you remember the note card? Filling box, and you had to put in, now we just have a card that goes with your taxes.
Jocie Kazanjian	And fewer people are taking that because of the new—.
Helenmarie Shipp	The new tax laws. Well we used to, you would sign it and it would say TWIG member, TWIG signature and then it would have the date and then you were responsible for putting in the worth of

	what you gave us.
Mary Kasik	And of course sixty dollars was harder to do than it is nowadays. Things were not priced as high as they are today.
Helenmarie Shipp	We couldn't have the responsibility of saying how much your stuff, now, so, and you're right. Because of the way the tax laws changed and the people who donate stuff to us. Speaking of that, let me tell you one thing that I think is fascinating about the thrift shop. When the economy is good, the merchandise that gets sent into the thrift shop is very nice. When the economy isn't quite as strong, things are much more worn.
Jocie Kazanjian	Isn't that interesting?
Helenmarie Shipp	It's fascinating.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Mary Kasik	Of course we've had the Marie Kondo [author who writes about decluttering and organizing], you know. We've had a lot of people cleaning out—. [overlap]
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes! [Laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	It's interesting about the quality of things, Mary. Because when we had the big boom, the big tech boom and everything, we were getting a lot of stuff that still had the tags on it. That people had never worn. And then when things in the late 2000s, the shoes were much more worn, the clothes were, you know. There wasn't that, and we stopped doing children's clothes. We used to have these huge—.
Mary Kasik	We all dressed our children from the thrift shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	You better believe it.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, my husband used to call it the Alexandria clothing exchange because we had three boys and then a daughter and everybody would bring in their navy blazers and the blue shirts and the khaki pants.
Jocie Kazanjian	[overlap] Oh, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	And like the loafers.
Jocie Kazanjian	And kids outgrow those things.
Helenmarie Shipp	And you'd outgrow them and you'd dry clean it and you'd bring it back in and somebody else would buy them, you know. But what

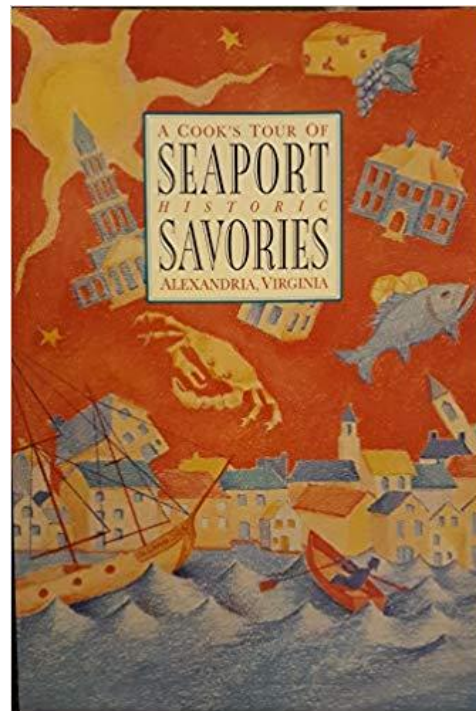
	happened was, even though we are completely separate, legally, from the hospital, there was a question, I don't remember the exact timeframe, about the lead paint and it started with the golden books, do you remember the Golden Books [children's books]?
AB	Absolutely, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	Okay, and the lining?
AB	The lining [the border of the books], we used to have tons of them as kids.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well the gold lining, kids used to chew on it. People were worried about that. And then—.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlapping] It had something to do with—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] Then there was the flammability standards with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. And this was part of the—
Mary Kasik	[Overlapping] And then there was the chemicals involved in stuff made in China.
Helenmarie Shipp	It was stuff made in China, there was, you know onesies have the little snaps?
AB	Mhm.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well they were worried about the paint on the little snaps to match the design. And then they were worried about the flammability of the standards with the sleepwear, and apparently, this would have been under somebody named Debbie.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	The decision was made that we were no longer going to carry children's clothing. Now every other thrift shop in creation carries children's clothing. But for some reason we didn't do it and for some reason.
Mary Kasik	And we gave it up by choice.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, we gave it up by choice. And we've been so profitable that there's never been any question.
Mary Kasik	We did have a few things but never clothes. We never have clothes.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, we do but we're very selective.
Jocie Kazanjian	But I was concerned too because there are so many, there were so

	many people who had, really very little money.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] Oh my goodness, we used to—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] That would come in and buy all the clothing. Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	So we were very generous in what we call our give away. Our giveaway goes to Vietnam vets, all of the, speaking of that, we also have a very strong voucher program with some of the churches and the Carpenter's Shelter [It provides services to help people who are homeless or living in shelters]. Where they, people can come in with a card from Christ Church or Saint Paul's.
Mary Kasik	And that started my year or your year? [Gestures to Helenmarie Shipp]
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, I don't remember when that was.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlapping] Long ago.
AB	For clarification, this was the early [19]90s?
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes. And what they would do is you could come in and if it said he needs a sweater, a shirt, pants, and a pair of shoes, the individual who got this would go down and get the things, we would check it off, and then there was some kind of reciprocal payment. I don't know exactly what it was between the church and this. Except for Christ Church who we helped out their thing and then their members gave us all their clothes. But I know now that it is some sort of , it was for a while.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] It does work out.
Helenmarie Shipp	I know for a while we were being paid, but we don't know now if we are being paid.
Mary Kasik	When it started, we had the woman who was doing the social services at Christ Church gave us her card and somebody would ask and say they didn't have money and we would give them her card and they would go over to her and they would get a voucher from her. So obviously, their program was just starting at the same time.
Helenmarie Shipp	Lazarus, I think it's called.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] They're terrific. They're just, they're wonderful.
Helenmarie Shipp	But that, I know now that we do a lot of work with, I think it's Carpenter's [Shelter].

Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	But we give away whatever we don't feel is good enough, no, not good enough, what we can't sell.
Jocie Kazanjian	Okay, for instance, there would be something, we like to bring nice things down.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] Because we are more charging money, we want nicer things.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlapping] If there is a snag, or just dirt, or even just a spot. The whole thing could be in perfect condition but the spot, I mean, no one is going to want to buy something with a spot on it.
Mary Kasik	We don't take the stuff home and wash it and then bring it back.
Jocie Kazanjian	No. No, some of us do. Some ladies do.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yeah, so we give to the Vietnam Vets [charity]. So we give away some of our stuff as well.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	But the interesting thing is, it's harder and harder to give away that stuff. I remember we tried to give coats away years ago and the only people who would take the excess coats we had was the Mitch Schneider Center for Creative Non-Violence, you know the shelter in DC.
Jocie Kazanjian	Well they should try St. Joseph's, I know we sent them to St. Joseph's. It's the Catholic Church.
Helenmarie Shipp	That's Blair's church, and you know what's interesting? I tried to give them and they told me to bring it all over to some other center on 7 th and O [Streets in Washington, DC].
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Well it maybe because it was very cold when I sent it over and they accepted it. Oh, it was such a cold.
Helenmarie Shipp	When was this Jocie?
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh about two, three years ago.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh because I tried to take it last year and they wouldn't take it.
AB	Why is that?
Helenmarie Shipp	They don't have space. They don't have space for, the space in DC is so tight that they don't have space and they don't also want to be responsible for going through [things].

Fundraising for TWIG 56:26	
Jocie Kazanjian	Now can we mention about how much we have given, I mean, I just can't believe it.
AB	That was my next question. It was just some of, you talked about the luncheon and the coffees and other functions and what are some of the functions that you have in the fundraising sphere that you have?
Jocie Kazanjian	Well the coffee and the luncheon we don't fundraise or anything, that's for the members, to get members, but our thrift shop is our main thing. But we also have things like special sales, well that's—.
Mary Kasik	But that wasn't involved in our time.
Jocie Kazanjian	No, no, but we did in our time start the first fashion show. That was quite something. I know because I participated and that was really, what it was is that we give all this money to the hospital but a lot of people that work in the hospital don't have a clue what TWIG is. I can't tell you working here, "Do you know TWIG" and they'd say "Oh, I don't know, maybe, I've heard—."
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh I've heard of people going to the emergency room and saying 'I'm in TWIG [unclear].'
Mary Kasik	They put it on your record now.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] The hospital. Our name, the TWIG unit and people still don't—.
Mary Kasik	There are big signs.
Jocie Kazanjian	But before we weren't, we didn't have those things before. But before what we started to do was have in the downstairs area next to the cafeteria where people would come in at lunch time and all, we decided we would have like a fashion show and we would sell everything we'd show.
Mary Kasik	And that started with you [points to Jocie Kazanjian].
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, it did. I remember it was fun too, you know? And so we would walk around and, oh all the women, all those women [laughs] they thought it was great and so I think it has grown and grown, hasn't it?
Helenmarie Shipp	Well it's become the hospital bazaar. Where we take a room across from the elevator.

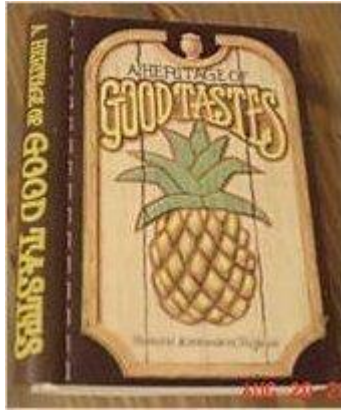
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	In the basement floor on the way to the cafeteria and we pull things out of the thrift shop and we create essentially a shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlapping] Oh, they loved it.
Helenmarie Shipp	A shopping situation. We do it at Christmas, we might do one in the fall and one in the spring. We have a whole special sales committee.
Jocie Kazanjian	Well what we wanted the members of the staff of the hospital to know about us, to know about our thrift shop too.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well also to take advantage of things from the thrift shop too.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes, absolutely.
Mary Kasik	There was a thing where if you contributed one hundred hours of service, I think it was, or something like that, you were able to get a private room for the price of a semi-private room. That was in the minutes somewhere.
TWIG Cookbook 59:07	
Jocie Kazanjian	Wow, isn't that something? And the things we've forgotten. But also we have a cookbook, we've had several cookbooks. And this is our fourth cookbook and so the ladies put it together this latest one is all, they went to the different restaurants in Alexandria.
Helenmarie Shipp	There will not be another cookbook after we finish this one.
Jocie Kazanjian	Is that so?
Helenmarie Shipp	I think so. That's what the current group does not want to work on another cookbook.
Mary Kasik	Yeah, but it was amazing, it was called <i>Seaport Savories</i> , and that came about the year I was president and it starts with, they go to a seminar on how to do a cookbook with Wimer Brothers, Eddie Glow.



Cover of "A Cook's Tour of Historic Seaport Savories: Alexandria, Virginia"

Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] I went to one of those.
Mary Kasik	And they do this in September and by April they are ready to publish a cookbook.
Helenmarie Shipp	They've published four cookbooks.
Mary Kasik	I mean and it was a beautiful book.
Helenmarie Shipp	Once again, no money. This was all volunteer work.
AB	All volunteer work. That's incredible.
Mary Kasik	And they are all really good books, I mean the one, <i>Heritage of Good Taste</i> , is a classic.
Helenmarie Shipp	That's our original one. [To Jocie Kazanjian] Are you going to get them?
Jocie Kazanjian	I'm going to get them.
Mary Kasik	I go to estate sales and—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] This one [points to Jocie Kazanjian] is an unbelievable cook. So she was involved in a lot of this.

AB	Oh my goodness.
Mary Kasik	But all the taste testing, and we had our members—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh god, the taste testing of recipes.
Mary Kasik	[Overlapping] And we had a member who was an artist so she created this beautiful, Margitta, she did this beautiful—.
Helenmarie Shipp	And Kim Weiler. And once again, the talent, the bounding amount of talent in this group. Wouldn't you say?
Mary Kasik	It was amazing. Going back I had no idea how fast it all happened. You know these people just took off.
Helen Marie	And they just take this on.
AB	And these recipes. Oh, I'm sorry, you were saying—.
Mary Kasik	We all donated the recipes.
AB	Okay.
Mary Kasik	We had a, and then we had a tasting committee and everyone had testing cards and we'd test the different recipes and everything and the errors were minute in these recipes.
Helenmarie Shipp	Once again, TWIG is made up of a lot of ex-chiefs. They really are because people tend to, because of the nature of what they're doing, because it's the hospital—.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Brings the cookbooks in] This is our very first book. Well, not the first one. Do you know it's not the first one? Jane Ring did this one.
Mary Kasik	Yes, it's the little one.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, and it's hand-written, if I'm not mistaken. Hand-written.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes, I believe it is.
Mary Kasik	[To Jocie] Now how does your cookbook look like that?
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlapping] Now this we used to have, our husband and I—.
Helenmarie Shipp, Jocie Kazanjian, Mary Kasik	[Overlapping and laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	There's a dinner we used to do every New Year's Eve because the children were out and we never wanted to go out. Where's the,

	with the cheesy potatoes and the hearts of pomme, no I think it was a riff on that and we used to do that every New Year's Eve because my kids are ten years apart and my oldest, the first three were boys so we were always home on New Year's Eve. [Laughter] And we did the steak Diane, that's what it was.
AB	And so these cookbooks, TWIG members would submit their recipes?
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes, you can see they were all TWIG members.
Mary Kasik	There was attributions in this one [points to a book] but in this one it was just a list.
AB	So the <i>Heritage of Good Tastes</i> was the first one? 
	<i>Twig's first cookbook "A Heritage of Good Tastes"</i>
Jocie Kazanjian	The very first one. This was the second one, <i>Seaport Savories</i> , and some of these recipes [from the <i>Heritage of Good Taste</i>] ended up here [<i>Seaport Savories</i>].
Mary Kasik	Not too many, the old favorites.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah, the old favorites. And then this was the where the little group we put together it was to celebrate our [Twig's] seventy-fifth anniversary. And these were mostly recipes that were taken from all the cookbooks, all of the favorite ones and then some people added some like the salad, that was added. And the lady who did all the drawings was from TWIG. This was Carol Boyd [spelling] who did all these.
Mary Kasik	Okay, and this was Margitta.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, this was Margitta. She drew this rooster, look at that. She did a fabulous job.

AB	These are beautiful.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah, and then this is the latest one.
AB	Favorite. So you guys did you favorite restaurants in Alexandria?
Jocie Kazanjian	Well, what they would do is they would go and ask if they were willing. [Laughter]
AB	If they wanted to share their recipes?
Mary Kasik	I don't even own this one.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, I have to tell you the one, the Aztec [restaurant], if you find the Aztec cookies, they're so good. [To Mary] If you don't have it I will send it to you.
Mary Kasik	Well no, I should buy the cookbook, I just haven't gotten around to it.
AB	And the cookbooks can be sold in the thrift shop?
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah, they always used to be.
Mary Kasik	The year that I was president, they made <i>Seaport Savories</i> , and they're starting a new cookbook, but we had 5,000 copies made and they stored them at the hospital.
Jocie Kazanjian	We had 8,000.
Helenmarie Shipp	I remember it was down by the morgue. That was the scariest place.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	I was cookbook chair and assistant treasurer once.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlapping] I was cookbook chair. I didn't know it was a morgue and I would go down there.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, I used to go on Sunday afternoon, and I used to say Dan, please and he'd say 'don't be a baby.'
Jocie Kazanjian	I didn't know that.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh, I was so afraid.
Mary Kasik	I didn't realize it was down by the morgue.
Jocie Kazanjian	Me neither.
AB	So these are donated books to the hospital?

Mary Kasik	No, they would store these.
AB	Oh.
Jocie Kazanjian	They would store them for us, and they gave us a little office. I would call customers.
Mary Kasik	You see when <i>Seaport Savories</i> —.
Helenmarie Shipp, Jocie Kazanjian, Mary Kasik	[All speaking at once]
Mary Kasik	Where do they store the books now?
Jocie Kazanjian	I have no idea where they store them now.
Mary Kasik	Because the hospital told us they didn't have space anymore.
Helenmarie Shipp	No, there isn't space. They're stored either at the shop or at somebody's house.
AB	So you said that you sold five thousand cookbooks?
Mary Kasik	Oh, we had thousands of them and there was remaining five thousand of these [<i>Heritage of Good Taste</i>]. And by May, after the tour, it was down to three thousand something. So even though this cookbook had been around for years we were still selling.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	My first job at TWIG was the, I was on the merchandising side.
Mary Kasik	Oh wow.
Helenmarie Shipp	The whole sale, there was a subcommittee for the cookbook and Mary Kasik and I would have to go up and down King Street to see if people wanted to buy the book because we had a whole sale rate. And I can twist anybody's arm, Mary Kasik can tell you this.
Mary Kasik	No, she can hornswoggle you. [Laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	But I hate asking people to for money so when Mary Kasik, Beth, and I would go in and people were like well [unclear] I'd say okay, fine. [Laughter] And I would take the rejection but when it came to people not taking jobs I was like no.
Mary Kasik	[Laughter]
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh I have to tell you too, Julie Lineberry and I went to the Kitchen

	Bazar [store] that does not exist anymore.
Mary Kasik	Yes, I read that in the minutes.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yes, and I remember that, I must tell you this, it was the funniest thing. So we did a demonstration, it's like at the William Sonoma or something, and doing this cooking book demonstration.
Mary Kasik	These two talkers.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Laughter] Oh yes, well it wasn't them, but the people were around looking and we would stop or whenever they'd say, oh yeah we'll buy a cookbook, would you please sign it? And I said, what do I say? I mean it's not—. [laughter]
Helenmarie Shipp	If it had anything to do with cookbooks or cooking—.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] It was so funny, I said—. Oh, I don't know what I said, I think best wishes. I had no idea what to say. So, somebody has that cookbook with Jocie Kazanjian signature and the date.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] One problem we ran into with the restaurant's cookbook is you realize how quickly restaurants come and go.
Mary Kasik	Yeah.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh wow.
Helenmarie Shipp	And some of the restaurants that are even on the front cover—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Are not there anymore. The recipes are great but the chefs or whomever might have given us something are at a different place.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Yes, are gone or at a different place.
Helenmarie Shipp	And the decision was made not, there was a question about whether to revamp this and redo the cover and whatever and the decision was made not to do it.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, I think not.
Helenmarie Shipp	But you know what I can tell you I have a twenty-eight year old daughter and she loves cookbooks.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh I do too.
Helenmarie Shipp	And I think it's so interesting because she gets everything off the internet, recipes and everything, but she had a bookcase in her apartment and half of it is cookbooks.
Jocie Kazanjian	I know there is nothing better than to just lie in bed and, not anymore, I fall asleep too quickly.

Helenmarie Shipp	Exactly. So it's kind of interesting how, it was an enormous amount of work.
Mary Kasik	This is great history.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yeah.
AB	Oh, absolutely.
Helenmarie Shipp	Once again, I can't stress enough, all volunteer.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Oh yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	All volunteer. All of these things we're telling you are all—.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Oh yes, all volunteer.
Funds and Scholarships 1:09:32	
Mary Kasik	Okay, it says in 1977 we purchased 106 North Columbus Street.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh.
Mary Kasik	I didn't realize it was that late.
Jocie Kazanjian	'77 huh? Wow, yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well that's why it's so interesting when we paid it off.
Mary Kasik	[Overlap] So did we have a twenty-five year mortgage? Or a thirty year mortgage?
Helenmarie Shipp	Now I think we paid it off early. As I recall we paid it off early. Because Burke and Herbert [Bank] held the mortgage.
Mary Kasik	Yes, they did.
Helenmarie Shipp	And I believe that we started, and I might be wrong, but I believe when we had any extra money, when we started we took any little bits of money that we were paying against the principle, right?
Mary Kasik	We, if we had extra money it went into the discretionary fund and we made separate donations to—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Okay, well that's something that we don't do as much. Well we do, but in large, back when we were president. The president had something called the discretionary fund, which was a fund that the president could use. We used to give money there when you were in the maternity ward. We'd go home with a little pamphlet.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Yeah, it's called Pierre the Pelican.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] We contributed money to it. We would contribute

	money to, I think one year we gave some money to Imogen Pharmacy Fund. Little bits of money.
Mary Kasik	Yeah we gave little bits of money to finance the dolls that patients got. Dolls were made by volunteers.
Helenmarie Shipp	Wasn't that the women who had miscarriages or something?
Jocie Kazanjian	No, that was a flower, a white flower.
Helenmarie Shipp	A white flower. Now with the larger sums of money, I know we're jumping around but, now with larger sums of money we finance the big, the \$250,000 gift at the hospital. But we do a nursing scholarship.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] That was introduced by, well thanks to Helenmarie Shipp. Oh yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	On our seventy-fifth anniversary they wanted to do something special and I said why don't we do a nursing scholarship. We used to do a nursing scholarship.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Yeah, we used to do one.
Helenmarie Shipp	Because Alexandria hospital used to have its own nursing school and so that had ended and we came up with the idea of a nursing scholarship which was, originally, the thought was there were nurses in there who were RNs [Registered Nurses] but did not have BSNs [Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree].
AB	Mm.
Helenmarie Shipp	And we very much thought that there were women like us, our age or whatever, that could benefit.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] And they have. It's been beautiful to see.
Helenmarie Shipp	In their professional career getting the BSN. So, what we wanted to do was help that out and we started it at \$5,000, I think we went up to eight [thousand], seven then eight.
Mary Kasik	And now it's \$10,000.
AB	That's incredible.
Helenmarie Shipp	And its an in-named scholarship. It is the TWIG Nursing Scholarship and we get names from the foundation again through the, what is it, the Keller School of Excellence, whatever it is over at Fairfax at the corporate Inova [hospital network] and we get usually three to five names with people and all of their

	background. We create a committee every year and we go through and these people recommend after reading and talking and whatever, who to give this scholarship to. So we are giving the \$250,000, we give the \$10,000, we give \$5,000 is it to Vola Lawson [former City of Alexandria manager], the Breast Cancer Fund?
Jocie Kazanjian	And that's for the people to get the mammograms.
Helenmarie Shipp	And we also this year gave money to helping continue medical education for the nurses to be part of the magnet program. Which is a distinction that you get, it's nationwide. But it's a distinction that you get when you have x amount of your nurses have x amount of qualifications and all this. So that's our discretionary fund that used to be, in my day, \$1,500 dollars. It's now twenty-something, god only knows, but we do give money. The point is the money goes to the hospital. There was an attempt, was it my year or your year [points to Mary Kasik] to give some money to the clinic? The one down on Arlandria [neighborhood].
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh the Casey [Clinic], or no?
Helenmarie Shipp	No, not the Casey, it was part of the hospital. The Alexandria Health Services whatever.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Oh yeah.
Mary Kasik	I think it was your year.
Helenmarie Shipp	It was with Susan and a couple of other people and that got voted down because it was not part of the hospital. Where all of the money goes. Our purpose, if you look at our book, is to support the hospital. We don't give them obviously every cent of money we have because we have to have operating funds and whatever but basically we help our, our charter is to help the hospital and that's our community endeavor. So we don't get involved in community based things because our money goes to the hospital. Wouldn't you say that's right?
Jocie Kazanjian	Right, oh yeah. Absolutely. Exclusively.
Helenmarie Shipp	But I loved the gal who came, she was wonderful.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yeah.
Helenmarie Shipp	And it was interesting, we tried originally to have a ROTC [style] thing where it was if we give you the money you give us back three years, so you didn't immediately graduate and then move on,

	and they were told by the legal department by Inova that you can't do that.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh you can't?
Helenmarie Shipp	But we try when we look to see if there are people who have been there for twenty-five years. We had one woman, it was so exciting, she was getting her BSN after working at the hospital for twenty some odd years with her daughter at the same time.
AB	That's incredible.
Helenmarie Shipp	They were getting it at George Mason [University] or something that was really incredible. That was the first one. This last time, not the woman in June but the woman last June was getting a degree from some program at Dartmouth on infectious disease control. And that, oh it was wonderful.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes.
Mary Kasik	Was she going to stay at the hospital?
Helenmarie Shipp	Pardon?
Mary Kasik	Is she going to stay at the hospital?
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh yeah, she's in, I think she will be part of the administration.
Jocie Kazanjian	It's also not to, we search into and spread the news. And let people know.
Jocie Kazanjian	You see she was very interested in teaching our—.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] Handwashing, you know? Because—.
Jocie Kazanjian	Letting people know how to avoid these infections.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] Hospital acquired infections.
Jocie Kazanjian	Yeah hospital acquired, that's what it was. And I think it was because somebody in her family was—.
Helenmarie Shipp	Yes, her mother. You're right Jocie.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] Her mother had died or—.
Helenmarie Shipp	And I think it was because my husband was retiring as the head of the Safety Equipment Association and he looked at it and was like, "You have to have it." [Laughter]
Jocie Kazanjian	Both of my parents died because of infection in hospitals. Both.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well, handwashing is the biggest thing. Two things you learn from

	the National Safety Council, handwashing and falls.
Final Thoughts 1:17:46	
Jocie Kazanjian	Are we going off track or anything?
Helenmarie Shipp	We are totally off track. [Laughter]
AB	No, you have answered essentially all of my questions. Is there anything additional you would like to add?
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh wow, okay, so wait a minute.
AB	That we haven't chatted about?
Helenmarie Shipp	Well I would tell you personally that I can never, I have had situations where I have had surgery or whatever and the fellowship that I have received from the women of TWIG is phenomenal.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	They have sustained my family when I couldn't do it and I think I can never pay back the—I had a serious condition, perforated diverticulitis, and I had my in-laws living with us and my husband was still working and our last daughter was home and I had food delivered to my house for five or six weeks. And it allowed my husband to go to work and take care of his family. I remember my father-in-law saying to me, "Helenmarie, I cannot believe all of this." And he said, "I finally looked at these women when they would come to the door", and then he said friendship begets friendship. And not being, you know, that is something that is so priceless to me about this organization. For example, I would never have met Jocie Kazanjian, her kids are older. I just think the fellowship of the group is so phenomenal, don't you think?
Jocie Kazanjian	It is, yes, and in most cases it takes a certain type of woman.
Helenmarie Shipp	Oh it is, absolutely.
Jocie Kazanjian	It takes a certain type of woman, it's hard to explain. The women don't come just because it is a social thing, there are a few.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well it's just because we are going through people's dirty clothes, that's like why a lot of us didn't do Junior Friends, there's not a hell of a lot of social, you know, when you are going through icky, ew-y, stuff. A friend of ours, her husband calls it TWIG nation. [Laughter] Deb Forester said TWIG nation swoops in. But it, I personally can't emphasize that enough in my life, which is probably why I am still active after thirty-five years.

Mary Kasik	A couple things I noticed was, a question came up once of paying dues. We're not a dues paying organization. It's purely volunteer. And that question was thoroughly squelched. We are not a dues paying organization. You had to do your sixty dollars worth of donations.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] You just had to buy six cookbooks when you came in.
Mary Kasik	That was the other thing. You had to buy six cookbooks when you came in.
AB	Oh, okay.
Jocie Kazanjian	And you do have to buy the tickets for the tour.
Helenmarie Shipp	[Overlap] Excuse me, that came up again because we are running out of cookbooks. It came up again in membership, which I am on.
Mary Kasik	Do they still have to buy the six books?
Helenmarie Shipp	Well they don't now, no, I think it's three because they're twenty-five dollars or whatever but at some point, that's not going to be, the bylaws are not going to be right and somebody just off handedly said, "We'll just take dues." And everyone went no. [Laughter] That never went anywhere, so that's interesting that you brought that up.
Mary Kasik	And no sign-up, [laughter] everything else has been covered.
Jocie Kazanjian	I hope we didn't forget anything.
Helenmarie Shipp	Well as you can see I followed Jocie Kazanjian, then Mary Kasik followed me, and there is never, even though the job has gotten so big now and there are more functions. I kind of think because of the internet you are never off work.
Mary Kasik	Oh, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	So to a certain extent these were, but there is never someone who comes in to the membership function as a vice-president. You are chairman of the committee who the first thing you are told is there are legions of people who will help you. You know, and there's so much knowledge and whatever. You know my only concern is our ten year membership is getting shorter because the women are older coming in and we're losing a little bit of the institutional memory of things. And some people think that institutional memory is important.
Jocie Kazanjian	[Overlap] And of course we think it is. [Laughter]

Helenmarie Shipp	And I think it is.
Jocie Kazanjian	We can always turn to listen.
Helenmarie Shipp	We always can. We've had instances at the shop or whatever where the chair president did not know that someone was working the thrift shop on Saturdays, a sustainer, for twenty-five years.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh, yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	So the institutional memory thing.
Mary Kasik	I mean, I'm a sustainer. I'll go in half a day to work in the shop and some young thing will tell me, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, and I will say, I was the president once, I know. She has not a clue that I was a president. And at our luncheon we have tags, you know, little stars that say how many years you've been in, which I thought was nice.
Jocie Kazanjian	I think it's cute, yes.
Mary Kasik	And things that identify us as a past president. I'm not as active as Helenmarie is.
Helenmarie Shipp	I'm still active.
Mary Kasik	I'm, I do a lot of other stuff. I do DAR [Daughters of the American Revolution] stuff.
Helenmarie Shipp	I always tell everybody I could never take a full time job because I always have TWIG. [Laughter] So every once in a while Dan will be doing a crossword puzzle and he goes, "Sustainer. How do you spell sustainer?" [Laughter] And I'm like—.
Jocie Kazanjian	He's hoping she is going to go to sustaining.
Helenmarie Shipp	But once again I joined when I was thirty so it's part of what I did. It's part of my identity, it's part of my identity with my children, you know?
Jocie Kazanjian	Absolutely.
Mary Kasik	I joined when I was forty.
Helenmarie Shipp	And it was always important to me. I was fifth and sixth in a big large, Irish clan that my children, well it was the three boys, and when we had our daughter, that my kids understood that Dad went to work and that was important and whatever, but that I had a commitment that albeit voluntary, was as important and that they had to understand, you know, well I can't do this at school

	because I have to be at the thrift shop. Not that I did very often.
Jocie Kazanjian	No.
Helenmarie Shipp	But I always felt that it was important for the kids to know, that sort of thing, was not as important as your career or job, but for me it was a very important part of who I was.
Jocie Kazanjian	But it also showed that you held your commitments.
Helenmarie Shipp	Exactly.
Jocie Kazanjian	That you didn't just poo-poo it.
Helenmarie Shipp	And my kids loved all the treats we bought from the shop.
Jocie Kazanjian	Oh yes.
Helenmarie Shipp	I'm trying to think what I have on, let me see. Ah this is from the thrift shop. [Points to her jacket].
Jocie Kazanjian	That's so nice, I can't believe you matched it so well. It looks like you bought it together. But we don't want to hold you back, either. [Motions to Alyssa]
AB	Well I'll just end the recording and say thank you so much for all of this history.
Jocie Kazanjian	Has it been entertaining for you?
AB	Yes. I moved to Arlington about two years ago so it's wonderful to get to know my community. And I volunteer in Alexandria, through these oral histories because otherwise, I would have never know about the community.
Mary Kasik	Have you ever been to the thrift shop?
AB	I haven't.
Jocie Kazanjian	You have to go.
AB	[Overlap] I just learned about it when Terilee had talked to me.
End of Recording 1:26:51	