



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Immigrant Alexandria, Past, Present, and Future
Oral History Program



Project Name: *Immigrant Alexandria: Past, Present and Future*

Title: *Interview with Vasilios (Bill) Patrianakos*

Date of Interview: *October 5, 2015*

Location of Interview: *Alexandria, Virginia at Atlantis Restaurant*

Interviewer: *Krystyn R. Moon*

Transcribers: *Francesca Galan and Carmen Breiding*

Abstract: Vasilios (Bill) Patrianakos was born in 1954 in Greece and has lived in the United States since 1969. He is the restaurateur of the Atlantis Pizzeria and Family Restaurant located at the Bradlee Shopping Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Bill recalls his childhood, growing up in Greece, and the events that led his family to move to the United States, as well as the beginning of establishing a family restaurant.



Table of Contents/Index

Minute	Page	Topic
00:00:00	3	Introductions
00:00:18	3	The Photo - The Family's Coffee Shop
00:01:41	4	The Village of Petrina
00:02:44	5	From Petrina to Athens to Northern Virginia
00:04:20	5	Opening up a Restaurant
00:06:03	6	"Atlantis"
00:07:07	7	Growing up in Greece
00:08:45	8	Family Names
00:10:09	10	Atlantis Restaurant
00:11:39	11	The Greek Corner
00:12:16	11	St. Catherine's Church
00:14:26	12	AHEPA
00:14:54	12	Learning English
00:17:12	14	Naturalization
00:18:07	14	Inspirational People
00:21:29	16	The Menu
00:24:27	18	Greek Traditions



INTRODUCTIONS	
Krystyn R. Moon:	Hi. My name is Krystyn Moon, and this is part of Immigrant Alexandria’s Oral History Project. It is Tuesday, October 5, 2015, and we’re here having a conversation with Bill Patrianakos. Is that close?
Bill Patrianakos:	Very close. Yes, yeah.
THE PHOTO - THE FAMILY’S COFFEE SHOP	
K.R.M.	The first thing we should do is actually talk about this great [family] photo that you have.
Bill Patrianakos:	Sure.
K.R.M.	Here, I’m going to—.
Bill Patrianakos:	Okay.
K.R.M.	—sort of hold it up. And then maybe hold it this way.
Bill Patrianakos:	That’s my family’s little coffee shop in a small village by name Petrina, outside Sparta. And, we start from—from here. That’s my mother’s brother. That’s my father’s first cousin. That’s my father over here. That’s another cousin. That’s my mother’s sister. That’s my grandmother, my mom’s mom. Another nephew. My cousin. That’s my mother’s oldest brother. And over here is a cousin. That’s

	my brother Jimmy—Dimitrios.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	That’s my sister. That’s another cousin. Another cousin, you know, 1954. It was Spring 1954. It was Easter time—the time, and is—it’s a small coffee shop; we still there, ran by one of my cousins.
K.R.M.	Cool.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah.
K.R.M.	Great.
Bill Patrianakos:	It’s a lot of people from here, you know, from United States—they went over there just to see the famous coffee shop Petrina. [both laugh]



Patrianakos Extended Family in Greece 1954

THE VILLAGE OF PETRINA

K.R.M.	Excellent. So, you mentioned you’re from Petrina. Can you tell—tell me a little bit about what that village was like?
Bill Patrianakos:	It’s—it’s a small village. That time when we lived there, it was about 150 families. It was—much farming. It was—the village had a lot of

	olive trees; it was specialized in olive oil.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Everybody there have it, you know, little farm [unclear], olive—the trees. It was—it was rough years then because with [unclear] poor and no electricity like I told you before. It was—we have elementary school so kids when they’re growing up they have to move over, outside the village to a small town to go to the high school, if they go. But we decide—my father decides—to take us, to go to the Capital [Athens], in 1965.
K.R.M.	Okay.
FROM PETRINA TO ATHENS TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA	
Bill Patrianakos:	So we went to the Capital because his brothers was over there to help him out. We are a family of five people, and we went to Athens and we stayed until 1969 over there. My father had a job over there as a—no education. He was—lived very tight. It was very tight you know—big family because he was the only one [who] work. And nineteen, like I said, 1967-68, his sister was here in United States—in Arlington, and she offered to sponsor him with the whole family to come to the United States. So, it took him a year until the papers go through, immigration, all the stuff. And we move, 1969, we move to the United States. And we move in Northern Virginia, we move to Arlington.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Since then, we are here. We live over here for what—for forty-five years now, forty-six years. When we came over here, it was my sister my brother went to school. But my father went to work, and it was—it was rough at time to have an apartment for five people all that. So, we wanted to work. The only work with no education—I mean with no language, no skill—was the restaurants. Three of us—me, my brother, my father—work in a small restaurant in Arlington by name Lamplighter. It’s not existing anymore.
K.R.M.	Okay.
OPENING UP A RESTAURANT	
Bill Patrianakos:	After that, we tried to moving up—wash dishes—it was everything the kids would do, but the major thing, wash dishes. And we tried to learn how to cook. We tried to see what they’re doing there to—to learn something. So we stayed there for little while, for a few years and after, we tried another restaurant, and in 1973, ‘73-‘74, we

	opened a small carry-out in Washington DC on 18 th Street.
K.R.M.	What was the name of the restaurant?
Bill Patrianakos:	The name of the restaurant was the Sub Shop, the original Sub Shop.
K.R.M.	Sub Shop?
Bill Patrianakos:	Sub Shop. Yes, it was on 18 th Street NW. And we stayed there for quite a few years and after we had to move because the building. It was an old building, so they wanted the building to be a high-rise building. So we move and we get a place down in Springfield [Virginia.]
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Still there, by name Milanos Restaurant.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	But we stayed there for little while with my brother, with a partner, we had a partner there. After we find opportunity over here in Alexandria—use to be a small restaurant by name Mona Lisa.
K.R.M.	Okay. Was it also owned by Greek immigrants?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, it was Iraqi.
K.R.M.	Oh, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Iraqi. So we, we bought the place, 1983.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	And since then we in this area over here. Whenever thing would not last that long, but the neighborhood is good, people is good and it's—and we are still—we are still here, you know.
K.R.M.	So?
“ATLANTIS”	
Bill Patrianakos:	And we named the place Atlantis.
K.R.M.	Yeah. So why did you name it Atlantis?
Bill Patrianakos:	Ah, first of all Mona Lisa would have it—from what I understand from the neighbors and the customers and all that—they had a bad reputation.
K.R.M.	Oh, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	It was the food—it was not that great, all this stuff. So when we hear that, we don't use the name at all Mona Lisa. We change to

	Atlantis—it was my brother’s idea, you know.
K.R.M.	Jimmy?
Bill Patrianakos:	Jimmy, yes. So we name it Atlantis, and since then, we are here.
K.R.M.	Okay. Is it also because it’s tied to Greek mythology?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yes, yes. You know the missing universe. And since then, we are here. We used to be on the other side of [Bradlee] Shopping Center for twenty-five years and we move on this side of the Shopping Center now due to the bigger place, and to open for breakfast.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	So totally we are about thirty-three years over here.
GROWING UP IN GREECE	
K.R.M.	Okay, great. So you answered a lot of my questions [both laugh], with that one answer! [Patrianakos laughs] I want to go back a little bit to growing up in Greece. What year were you born in Greece?
Bill Patrianakos:	1954.
K.R.M.	So are you the youngest?
Bill Patrianakos:	That’s why I am not in the picture [Moon laughs]; I was in my mother’s belly at the time. [both laugh]
K.R.M.	Okay, are you the youngest child?
Bill Patrianakos:	I’m the youngest child. Yes, yes.
K.R.M.	When you moved to Athens, did you go to school in Athens?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, I went to school, yeah—I went to elementary school there.
K.R.M.	Okay, and did you get to do any sports or—?
Bill Patrianakos:	Uh.
K.R.M.	—like soccer or football?
Bill Patrianakos:	Oh yes, soccer was another one, you know. We play soccer on the streets, on the side streets, was no fields to play at the time.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	It was the time after the—the bad times, when after the war. And Athens was, at that time, was trying to grow and—.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	All that stuff. And we play the kid’s neighborhood streets, and we

	play soccer. Like over here we have the football. Over there is the Europe—they have the—the soccer.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	So, and also I was trying to help my parents, you know. I was working as a little buffer. Do things here, do this. The lady say: “Get me this, and get me this,” so to help my parents.
K.R.M.	So what was the business that your dad was working at while he was at Athens?
Bill Patrianakos:	Athens—[he] was working for a—a high-rise building—apartment building, yes.
K.R.M.	So construction?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, no, no. It was like a—a doorman, maintenance person or something like that.
K.R.M.	Okay, like a building manager maybe?
Bill Patrianakos:	Eh, we can say building manager. Yeah. And we stayed there to 1969, and soon we after came to United States.
FAMILY NAMES	
K.R.M.	What’s your dad’s name? I realize— .
Bill Patrianakos:	Real name is—.
K.R.M.	Your mom.
Bill Patrianakos:	Panagiotis.
K.R.M.	Panagiotis.
Bill Patrianakos:	His name “Pete.”
K.R.M.	“Pete.” [laughs]
Bill Patrianakos:	“Pete” yes, and my mother’s name “Harriet.”
K.R.M.	“Harriet.”
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah.
K.R.M.	What’s her Greek name?
Bill Patrianakos:	“Eriétta.”
K.R.M.	“Heriétta.”
K.R.M.	And then?
Bill Patrianakos:	And over here, we’re at the age—from Harriet.

K.R.M.	Americanized—.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, Americanized.
K.R.M.	Your names.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
K.R.M.	When did, so—when you came to the United States, did you all Americanized your names?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, no, no. It's the first names so it's going to be easy for the people.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	We still have the Greek names in our legal papers and everything, but like my name they have a hard time to say. So that's why, we cut it to "Bill."
K.R.M.	Okay, and then for "Patrianakos"?
Bill Patrianakos:	It's the same.
K.R.M.	You kept it the same.
Bill Patrianakos:	Same, the same.
K.R.M.	Because some Greeks also change their last names too.
Bill Patrianakos:	They do. Yeah. They ask you if you want to change your names, but we don't, you know we still want the same name you know.
K.R.M.	Yeah, it's good. We talked about like Summers, for example—.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yes, yeah.
K.R.M.	Which is a Greek family.
Bill Patrianakos:	A family of mine, in Chicago, they live in Chicago, and they call it, they call it to "Patros."
K.R.M.	"Patros."
Bill Patrianakos:	Instead of "Patrianakos," they call it to "Patros."
K.R.M.	Oh, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Sort there, and easier you know.
K.R.M.	For Americans.
Bill Patrianakos:	For Americans. Our last name, they don't use it too much, you know, from the fieldwork what do we do, nobody call you with the last name over here. It's the first name.

K.R.M.	They call you “Bill.”
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, or “Greek.” “Hey Greek!” [laughs]
K.R.M.	“Vasilios”?
Bill Patrianakos:	“Vasilios,” yes. “Vasilios,” yeah.
ATLANTIS RESTAURANT	
K.R.M.	So when you came to Alexandria in 1983, and opened Atlantis. Let’s talk a little bit about the restaurant. How old were you when you opened the restaurant? Do you remember?
Bill Patrianakos:	I was twenty-seven, twenty-eight years old at the time, yes. We worked hard with my brother, so we tried to do something good because we like what we do. That’s the reason we put so many hours at the restaurant. If I am not here, he is here.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	So, somebody is here all the times. We come at four o’clock in the morning to ten o’clock, eleven o’clock at night. If I’m not here, he is here. Somebody is here all the time.
K.R.M.	Somebody is here.
Bill Patrianakos:	But most of the time, I am here because he has another business to run. And he spent it over there.
K.R.M.	Okay. So we talked about this before. Is—are the hours probably the most difficult part of running a restaurant?
Bill Patrianakos:	Eh, yeah. Hours. But, like I said to a lot of people, when you love what you, it doesn’t matter. I love what I am doing, and I do it with all my heart, especially when the customers, they say “Thank-you.”
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	They appreciate, yes. And we have a lot of customers, since the day we opened—the first day we opened. They used to come with their five, six-year old kids, and these kids now they come with their own kids. It’s something that makes me feel good. It makes me feel very good for that.
K.R.M.	So, you have a lot of repeat customers.
Bill Patrianakos:	Oh yes. Oh yes, yeah.
THE GREEK CORNER	
K.R.M.	Do you want to talk a little bit about, like the Greek corner? (laughs)

Bill Patrianakos:	Yes, I mean—a lot, a lot of people, a lot of—a lot of Greeks, they not working, they working in the offices, they working less hours, some semi-retired, and they stop by sometimes over here to say “hi,” and they come in and we talk a little bit about politics, we talk little bit about what’s going on—what’s going on in Greece, what’s going on around here, about the culture, about—some of the music, the religions, you name it, a little bit about of everything. A little bit of gossip of everything, you know.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah, so—.
ST. CATHERINE’S CHURCH	
K.R.M.	Yeah, that’s great! We talked about people coming here to the restaurant. Where else do you go in terms of the Greek-American community to meet up with people? Like, maybe St. Catherine’s?
Bill Patrianakos:	St. Catherine’s, yeah, Greek church over there, especially after the Sunday after the church. They have the space over there, the people that go over there, they drink coffee, they talk, and they socialize. They talk about things, helping each other. Uh, if they know somebody need help, they put the things together. They help the families. Back home, they help people back home. They do things like that you know. Yeah.
K.R.M.	Is—Saint Catherine’s been around since, since—?
Bill Patrianakos:	Since I came, yeah, since I came to United States. Yes.
K.R.M.	So, then late 1960s, and is it in Falls Church?
Bill Patrianakos:	Falls Church, yes. Falls Church, Virginia. Very close to here. We do have more churches in Washington DC, and over here outside the Virginia, but that’s closer to us. We have good relationship with everybody over there. We know each other there.
K.R.M.	Yeah. Is it like a family church, where is it a lot—a lot of families that have known each other for a long time?
Bill Patrianakos:	For a long, long time. Yes, yes. Ah, because right now there is no more new immigrants from Greece—they coming anymore over here, so all these people you know, they’ve been over here before me, of course. And, and so the families, yeah—they go over to see each other and they have parties over there. They get holidays. They have a—.
K.R.M.	Festivals?

Bill Patrianakos:	Festivals. As a matter of fact, it was last weekend, the festival. They do two festivals a year. They are—they do christenings, they do weddings, they do all that—everything over there. So, people know each other. We are a small community. We are not too much over here yet.
K.R.M.	Are—are the services done in English or are they done in Greek?
Bill Patrianakos:	Both.
K.R.M.	Both.
Bill Patrianakos:	Both. The reason they do that I'm sure is to bring is to bring the new generation that doesn't speak too much Greek. Yes.
K.R.M.	Right! And they are pews are sort of a modern Greek. Greek-American church.
Bill Patrianakos:	Greek-American church.
AHEPA	
K.R.M.	Great! Do you know about AHEPA [American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association] or—?
Bill Patrianakos:	I'm not that much involved in AHEPA. There is no time for me to do, get involved over there.
K.R.M.	Are there any other sort of Greek community organizations besides the Church that either you are involved in or—?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, I'm not. The only thing the church involved. It's AHEPA like you say. It's quite few more different things, but I'm not familiar with.
LEARNING ENGLISH	
K.R.M.	Okay. When and how did you start learning English? When you—was it when you came to the U.S. or did you study—?
Bill Patrianakos:	Here in the United States, when I came to the United States, I didn't go to school because like I told you, it was very rough to survive, the family—five people, and so I went to work. From people around, [I] listen, tried to get newspapers to learn words, the dictionary, you know like that, but no school.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	My sister went to school. My brother went to school. But I didn't go to school.

K.R.M.	Okay. Were there ever-English language classes at maybe Saint Catherine's, or did they even have Greek classes or pre-classes?
Bill Patrianakos:	When I came to United States, late sixties and early seventies, it was a—in Washington DC, it was Georgetown, above Georgetown, it was, they used to call it “Americanization.” And people that go over there, they teach Greek, all the language—Greek, Italian, all the language over there.
K.R.M.	Ah! Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	But it didn't last too long over there. I don't know. The money was not enough to—to keep it open. Yes, the church, you can learn, the church.
K.R.M.	Okay. So Greek school.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, they have a Greek school. They have eh, on the weekends. And they also have for the little kids, now they call it a—from three years old, they can go over there. Daytime, Monday through Fridays, spend four, five hours—.
K.R.M.	Oh, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	And they teach them things. Like daycare.
K.R.M.	Pre-school.
Bill Patrianakos:	Pre-school, something like that. They call it “pedía.” “Pedía,” starts from the word “pedí.” “Pedí” is “the kid.”
K.R.M.	Oh, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	So, they—?
K.R.M.	How do you spell that? P-E or how would I spell it?
Bill Patrianakos:	Pedía is P-E-D-I-A, pedía, something like that. I'm not, I'm not—.
K.R.M.	I know. I don't know either.
Bill Patrianakos:	—I'm not that good. [laughs]
K.R.M.	It's hard—.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah!
K.R.M.	So they do like dance and— ?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, they do.
K.R.M.	Music?

Bill Patrianakos:	They do music and food.
K.R.M.	Ah!
Bill Patrianakos:	They bring some people from different part of United States, from Greece sometimes for entertainment. They are good. They are good.
K.R.M.	That's great!
Bill Patrianakos:	They try to keep up the cultures and everything.
NATURALIZATION	
K.R.M.	Yeah, that's great. Uh, did you go through naturalization to become a United States citizen? And if so—?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, not yet. I'm a—.
K.R.M.	You are still a Greek citizen?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yes, with a green card.
K.R.M.	With a green card.
Bill Patrianakos:	With a green card. Yeah. I never had the opportunity to go, and I don't need to go. Nobody bother me the way I am, you know. I am legal over here, so—.
K.R.M.	So, it works fine.
Bill Patrianakos:	It works fine. I'm not traveling.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	To go to be an American citizen you have to have American passport. If you traveling a lot, you need it. I'm not traveling, so I don't need it. My—the rest of my family they do, they want it—to be Americans. But me, no. I'm not traveling a lot.
K.R.M.	Yeah, were—well more so to vote, or to run for global office. [laughs]
Bill Patrianakos:	No, no. I'm not going to be the President of the United States. Believe me, you know. [both laugh]
K.R.M.	Understand.
INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE	
K.R.M.	I hear you. I hear you. Do you remember any particular people who really made a difference in terms of starting Atlantis or when you started going into restaurant businesses here in the Washington [DC] Metro area?

Bill Patrianakos:	My few bosses. They have, it's—I was looking the way they were doing. I was very proud of them, the way they growing up from nothing, they going high and saw them how they was doing it—absorb things from them, and up with the ideas, me and my brother, together. We kind of, uh, after that, it's the person whose makes me—I don't know too much about it, but few things I know from Steve Jobs.
K.R.M.	Oh yeah, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yes, make me—I mean from what I hear about how he started and everything.
K.R.M.	In the garage.
Bill Patrianakos:	In the garage. Yes. And he built an enterprise. Very smart. Few people in life make you look after what they done and how they do things. Yeah.
K.R.M.	So, in terms of the people who inspired you, were you looking at the way in which they ran the business, or also the cooking part, or both?
Bill Patrianakos:	Uh, yes. Run the business the most—run the business the most because in the business that we are it's the customers. You have to take care of the customers. You can be, you can uh—you can be the best person, but if you no—you do not know how to take care of the customers to make the customers happy, you know. For the customer to be happy it's very simple: give them good food, good service, a good price.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	So that's it. And I respect the customers. I do respect the customers, and I tell my staff, without the customers we are not going to be here today.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, I mean it's simple. It's very simple, very simple. And we try to be old-fashioned. I am old-fashioned and I try to have everything old-fashioned.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Once a—once a year, we give to the customers suggestion cards, something that's already paid and we put them in the box over there, and I guess eighty-five to ninety percent they say “Don't touch anything,” [Moon laughs] “leave it the way it is. Leave it the way it is!”

K.R.M.	Don't change!
Bill Patrianakos:	Don't change! You know.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	Of course, but the majority say: "Don't change. Leave it the way it is."
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	And I can tell from—from the repeat customers—.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos: 20:57	Repeat customers. I don't know the names, believe me, I don't know the names, but I can—faces. I know faces. Uh, and they coming, day after day, I have customers coming sometimes on the weekends: breakfast, lunch and dinner.
K.R.M.	Really?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, this is like part of the family.
K.R.M.	Yeah, oh yeah, I can imagine. Yeah, that's great!
Bill Patrianakos:	We try—you see in this business, we try to make everybody happy.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	You know, there's no way to make everybody happy, but if I do the majority, I'm happy. I ask—I ask my staff many times: "Any complaints?" They say: "No." Weeks, months without any complains, it feels good. Feels good. That means we do something right. We are not perfect, but we do something right.
THE MENU	
K.R.M.	Let's talk a little bit about the menu, here at Atlantis. What are the two or major cuisines that you have on the menu?
Bill Patrianakos:	We do Greek, Italian, and American.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	And few Greek things, you know, the most popular things you know.
K.R.M.	Like what?
Bill Patrianakos:	Like souvlaki, like chicken souvlaki, chicken breast, moussaka, the gyro [YEE-ro] "gi-roh;" we have the Greek famous soup: the Greek Avgolemono soup, and often we have few Italian traditional dishes, and also we have, you know, other soups, American soups. We have

	the pizza. We have all the kind of sandwiches. We have a large menu to satisfy everybody.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	A large menu. And we have a little bit of everything.
K.R.M.	So when you opened Atlantis, was there any conversation of just serving Greek food, or how did you figure out what to do for a menu?
Bill Patrianakos:	How we started is, is—it was to do a pizza.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	A few Italians and a Greek. The time we started, it was with the revolution in the area over here. After that, after five years, six years of decay, we had something more and more to be competitive with your competition. That’s my, you know. We tried to have it—let’s say the kids want to eat pizza, okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	The parents want to eat—.
K.R.M.	That’s totally true. [laughs]
Bill Patrianakos:	—some Italian, or Greek or they want something simple, some sandwiches, grilled cheese, or something. So try to make it happy everybody—the whole family. That’s the idea.
K.R.M.	Have you noticed amongst your customers, are more and more interested in having Greek food? Or is it still just a wide spectrum?
Bill Patrianakos:	All of them, whatever we have on the menu is selling.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Is selling, yes.
K.R.M.	What’s your most popular dish? I know what’s most popular with my children. [both laugh]
Bill Patrianakos:	We do. Let’s say pizza, you know, pizza. And also we do the souvlakis, cook it in the charbroiled, and we also have the Italian dinners, like veal piccata, like chicken piccata. This stuff, you know.
K.R.M.	Oh, I’m well aware!
Bill Patrianakos:	They go a lot. And also we have the—the sandwiches. We sell a lot of sandwiches, especially the [unclear], a lot of the submarines, and the salads. We do very good with the salads. We have a Greek salad with a chicken breast on it. We have souvlaki with gyro. So, it’s summertime, we be killing with that. Yeah, yeah. The salad it’s a

	meal. The salad is a meal.
K.R.M.	Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	You can eat the salad.
K.R.M.	Oh yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	And take a little bit home for the next day.
K.R.M.	Yeah, I know. It's—.
Bill Patrianakos:	It's huge.
K.R.M.	Yeah, no. It's two meals. Yeah, but it's delicious! Excellent.
Bill Patrianakos:	Thank you.
GREEK TRADITIONS	
K.R.M.	What traditions from Greece did you bring with your family and continue to practice at home or at church?
Bill Patrianakos:	The holidays.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	The holidays, like where, uh—Easter. We believe in Easter, it's a big holiday for us. And—.
K.R.M.	And it's a different date than the Catholic holiday, right?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yes, we have it sometimes one Saturday difference in small weeks, sometimes, sometimes two weeks, sometimes months sometimes. And Christmas.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	And Christmas. That's the tradition. And also some like name-days, you know.
K.R.M.	Saints?
Bill Patrianakos:	Back home, then, they celebrate name-days.
K.R.M.	Is that like a birthday or—?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, no, name-days, like Saint Thomas, Saint John.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Saint Vasilios. They have it different days. That's what—birthdays then, then. Now, no. Then when I was there, it was not, they do not celebrate birthdays.
K.R.M.	Okay.

Bill Patrianakos:	Ah, but after that, like I say, late [19]70's 80's, they celebrate birthdays over there too.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	But over here, they are holidays.
K.R.M.	Are there any dishes, or things that you do during that are—that are special to you or special to your family?
Bill Patrianakos:	Uh, Easter we have the lamb; the Yul—we use the lamb, we use the whole lamb. They do it outside in the charcoal. The Easter. Some people in some part of Greece, they use turkey. The main dish is turkey.
K.R.M.	Really?
Bill Patrianakos:	And few other things around.
K.R.M.	Where are they getting turkeys? From the United States?
Bill Patrianakos:	From United States, yes. It's like Thanksgiving turkey.
K.R.M.	Oh yeah, I know, I know. That's why I was wondering where they were coming from? Because they are not indigenous, or are people raising turkeys?
Bill Patrianakos:	Back home, yes, they do, yes back home they do, yes. Small villages, they do. They have the chickens, they have the turkeys, they have the rabbits. Many things, you know.
K.R.M.	So when you roast the lamb, the whole lamb, are you doing it at your house?
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, they get someone's house, the whole family, friends-fifty, sixty, seventy, one hundred people sometimes, and usually the time the weather is good, they eat outside.
K.R.M.	Is it all day? Because I got to imagine—.
Bill Patrianakos:	They start to do the whole preparation for the lamb—they have started in the morning, six, seven o'clock in the morning because it is very slow processing, very slow processing, and by three o'clock, two, three o'clock, they start eating and drinking. [both laugh]
K.R.M.	Excellent, excellent.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah.
K.R.M.	Are there any foods that you prepare at home that you don't prepare here at the restaurant, probably the lamb or there are other dishes that

	you really enjoy?
Bill Patrianakos:	No, no. Over hear. We don't do any thing at home.
K.R.M.	In the restaurant? [laughs]
Bill Patrianakos:	We do for the family, yeah, we do for the family over there, but you know—you know, we not mix it up in the house and the restaurant.
K.R.M.	Yeah. A lot of people who work in the restaurant business have said things like: "I don't cook at home because I'm at the restaurant."
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah, actually, yeah.
K.R.M.	"We are eating at the restaurant."
Bill Patrianakos:	We are all day at the restaurant; you are not going to go home ten o'clock at night to go eat.
K.R.M.	Yeah, exactly.
Bill Patrianakos:	Or go to sleep.
K.R.M.	I hear that frequently too.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah.
K.R.M.	Are you able to watch Greek movies or do you watch Greek news programs, and any—any sort of other popular culture?
Bill Patrianakos:	Not with a, with a—technology and this stuff you can see all the news, CNN, you can see on the cable all the news over here, you can see what's going on, not only in Greece, everywhere.
K.R.M.	Right.
Bill Patrianakos:	It's not—but they do have some Greek channels. A lot of people they have Greek channels. They watching Greek shows and other stuff from back home.
K.R.M.	Is it [pause] from satellite? Do you?
Bill Patrianakos:	Satellite. Yes, you know. Like Verizon have a few Greek stations.
K.R.M.	Oh, they do. Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	Not Direct TV. Dish TV—they have it some.
K.R.M.	Okay.
Bill Patrianakos:	They have some [unclear].
K.R.M.	Are there things that you cannot replicate here that you maybe miss from Greece?

Bill Patrianakos:	Like I told you I left young over there, fifteen years old, and now having nothing to, but the family is here, so over here is like my home right now. Over here, United States, after so many years.
K.R.M.	This is your home.
Bill Patrianakos:	I know more things over here instead of back home.
K.R.M.	Yeah, yeah. This is more your home now.
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah, yeah.
K.R.M.	You've lived longer in the United States—.
Bill Patrianakos:	Exactly. Yes, yes.
K.R.M.	—than you have lived in Greece. Yeah.
Bill Patrianakos:	I've been forty-five years over here in United States, forty-six years you know, so.
K.R.M.	Okay, yeah. Is there anything else you wanted to add? Or any other sort of comments you want to talk about, in terms of working here in Alexandria? Or—?
Bill Patrianakos:	Alexandria is a good place. I like it. I mentioned before we never thought we were going to last that long, so many years. Like Washington DC, we stayed for a little while, Springfield, but over here is a good area to have a business and have a family over here. It's very—we never thought we were going to last so many years over here. It's very good neighborhood. Very good neighborhood, you know. So, yeah, we are over here.
K.R.M.	Great.
Bill Patrianakos:	And now we are looking for another thirty-five years. If the man upstairs let me. [laughs]
K.R.M.	Absolutely!
Bill Patrianakos:	Yeah.
K.R.M.	All right, excellent. Perfect.
Bill Patrianakos:	Thank you.