

Oral History Interview with Liz

Conducted by Adrienne Danforth

for the DC Oral History Collaborative
as part of the Cleveland & Woodley Park Villagers' Stories Project

September 21, 2023
Fifty-three minutes and forty-two seconds

Home of Liz
Washington, DC

Summary

In this interview, Liz shares her life journey, spanning diverse experiences. Beginning as a litigation attorney in San Francisco, Liz later transitioned into disability policy work, ultimately playing a pivotal role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). From her time at the Justice Department during the Clinton administration to her advocacy for disability rights, Liz reflects on her impactful career. The conversation delves into her relocation to Washington, DC, her housing choices, and the changing landscape of the Cleveland Park neighborhood. Liz expresses her appreciation for Cleveland & Woodley Park Village, particularly in the face of challenges posed by vision impairment in recent years. The interview concludes with Liz sharing her thoughts on the neighborhood's future and her commitment to remaining in her home.

Cleveland & Woodley Park Village is a nonprofit membership organization serving residents in Washington, DC's Cleveland Park and Woodley Park neighborhoods. It is part of a national movement to assist older adults as they age at home, with the mission to create opportunities for older adults to be actively engaged, support those who need it with volunteer assistance to help them live independently, and build a welcoming intergenerational community. This oral history interview was conducted under a grant from the Humanities Council of Washington, DC to the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village.

Narrator Bio

Liz, a seasoned legal professional and disability rights advocate who is now retired, lives in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, DC. Beginning her career as a litigation attorney in San Francisco, Liz's trajectory shifted toward policy work, culminating in a pivotal role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as the coordinator of lobbying for the coalition. From her tenure at the Justice Department during the Clinton administration to her impactful work at the Epilepsy Foundation, Liz committed much of her life to civil rights and disability advocacy. She has been a member of Cleveland & Woodley Park Village since 2021.

Topics Covered: Cleveland Park. Woodley Park. Older Adults. Aging in DC. The Village Movement. Community. Senior Services. DC History. Disability. Disability Rights. Cleveland & Woodley Park Village Membership. DC Villages. Vision Impairment.

DC Neighborhoods and Streets: The White House, Glover Park, Cleveland Park, Capitol Hill, Connecticut Avenue NW, Woodley Park, Devonshire Place NW, Van Ness, Macomb Street NW, Ordway Street NW, The National Zoo

Adrienne Danforth: Hello, I'm Adrienne Danforth, and today I'm here with Liz. The date is September 21st, and we're speaking in Liz's home. Today, I'm honored to speak with Liz about her history within Washington DC, and her neighborhood community recollections, and how the Cleveland and Woodley Park Village has influenced the process of aging in her neighborhood. Okay Liz, let's start by having you introduce yourself, and tell me a little bit about yourself, including where your story starts, and where you come from. Where and when were you born?

Liz: I was born in Norwich, Connecticut, which is a small town in southeastern Connecticut about a half-an-hour from Long Island Sound. I was born in 1955, so I'm 68 years old. I went to elementary and high school there in that town.

AD: You say it was a small town. Was it, what was your neighborhood like?

LS: It was mostly single-family houses. Most of them were old houses. My high school was quite unique in that it was built -- it wasn't one building. It was spread out like a college campus and had an art museum on it. It was technically a private school, but it was the only public school in the community, so everyone went there. The town paid tuition in this private school; it was very unique in that respect. And if you were in the college prep part of your class, you were exposed to a lot, which I fortunately was.

AD: Was it a diverse neighborhood economically, or was it --

LS: It was a middle-class neighborhood. I think the town was very working class. My dad owned a hardware store, where I worked to learn the value of a dollar. Starting at about age 11, I would sell wallpaper. The store had a huge stock of wallpaper. People used to come from Rhode Island and all over eastern Connecticut, and southern Massachusetts, because he had such a large inventory of wallpaper. So I was exposed through that retail experience to a lot of people, and it was probably the best exposure I ever had to many types of people. The town had a lot of old houses, Victorian houses--it was an old mill town. But many of the people who lived there worked for the defense industry, Electric Boat and the submarine base, which were Department of Defense contracts. It was very white, not very diverse.

AD: Did your parents grow up there also?

LS: My dad did. My mother grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts.

AD: Were your grandparents nearby, or were they alive when you were growing up?

LS: I never met my maternal grandparents. They died before I was born. My paternal grandparents lived there, and both of them died when I was about nine or ten.

AD: Okay, do you have any specific memories of them?

LS: Oh yeah. I remember them. My grandfather was from Russia, emigrated to this country from Russia, and my grandmother from Lithuania. Yes, they were wonderful people.

AD: Did you spend holidays with them? Did you see them regularly?

LS: Yeah, I saw them every Sunday.

AD: Wow, was your grandfather also part of this business that your father had, or --

LS: My grandfather was in a lumber business.

AD: Okay. So you obviously had a lot of contact with adults from working at the hardware store.

LS: Yes, and older people as well.

AD: Did you have any memories that stand out from working at that hardware store?

LS: I think everyone should have retail experience, because you learn to accept all kinds of people, especially in a hardware store. In a working class town I met people that I would never have been exposed to. Plumbers and electricians and farmers and all kinds of people.

AD: Do you feel like that experience makes -- gives you greater respect for working-class people than you might have otherwise?

LS: Yes, you learn how to accept and respect, yes, definitely. People -- they work very hard. They work very hard for what they have, which often isn't much.

AD: So would it be fair to say that your experience, your interactions with these hard-working people, have impacted some of your core values that you hold today?

LS: You mean made me more empathic? Definitely. And my parents were very generous people, and by their example, taught me. There was a couple who wandered around near my parent's store. I knew they were disabled; in those days, we called it mental retardation--now we call it intellectual disability. And I assumed they got social security disability. But they'd come see my father whenever they ran short of money. But they didn't have to tell them they ran short. They would just come see him and he'd give them cash. He didn't make a big deal of generosity, he just did the right thing. So I learned that, by example, that that's what's important.

AD: What were you like as a kid?

LS: Well, I had bad vision. The story goes that when I was about two, I was sitting on one of my parents' laps, playing with their eyeglasses (which they both wore), wearing them, and I wouldn't take them off. So they realized that I had a vision problem. My parents had a family friend who was a well-respected doctor in town. And he knew by reputation this renowned ophthalmologist in Boston. My parents took me there to see him--his name was Paul Chandler. He wrote the textbooks on glaucoma and cataracts, and cornea disease. And it was well before I knew my letters and could read an eye chart. This was 1957, before any technology, and he would stand at the end of a room with a chart with trees and dolls and balls, all to test what I could see. He taught me another lesson about the importance of humility in the medical profession. (laughs) And so I started wearing glasses when I was two years old. And every year, my eyes got worse. I had degenerative myopia. So you know, there were limited things. I was never good at sports. In retrospect, I shouldn't have been doing sports, because contact causes detached retinas. But you know, I had friends, and I was a regular kid. I had neighborhood friends, and then I was a good student; that was expected. I had an older brother who was nine years older than me. He wasn't around much. He went to college when I was nine years old. He was very smart.

AD: You said, it taught you something about humility in the medical profession.

LS: Oh doctors? Oh yes.

AD: What did you mean by that?

LS: So, I believe that doctor -- I'm a true medical snob, because this doctor was internationally renowned, but he was the most humble -- I didn't know about humility at age two, obviously. But he was the sweetest, nicest man. He was like a grandfather figure, and as I grew up, he was very nice to me; he was very nice to my parents. He was very nice to his staff. You know, I've gone to other doctors since then. And I've found that eye doctors especially, but I think it applies to all medical professionals, that the ones who are the most renowned are the most humble. And the ones who are just, you know, regular in terms of, how do I say this, they're not particularly accomplished or renowned, you know I've gone to a couple eye doctors when I was in law school, they were -- they had huge egos. (laughter) And I just couldn't deal with it, you know? I really respect humility. I think humility in a doctor makes more comfortable. Because I have a rare eye impairment, I want to see someone who sees people like me on a regular basis, you know? And when somebody has a big ego, and they're like, really excited to see somebody like me, it's like, I run for the door. That's what I meant.

AD: Okay. So --

LS: Which is a longer version of a short question.

AD: No, I get it. So you mentioned you went to law school. When did you decide? Like as a child, did you want to go to law school?

LS: No.

AD: As a child, did you have anything, like I want to be something when I grow up?

LS: No, I don't know. I don't remember. I think when I was very little, I said I wanted to be a waitress. I remember asking my father how many years I had to go to college to be a waitress. (laughter) When I was in high school, I volunteered, first on a campaign, and then two years later, for the McGovern campaign. So I became interested in political campaigns. And then when I was in college at Tufts, in 1976, in the spring, I worked and volunteered in the primary for Jimmy Carter. And then I took the fall semester off and worked for his pollster. And then when I graduated, moved here to Washington, and got a job, first as a consultant, and then as a full-time person in the White House, scheduling an advance office. But after doing that for two years, I was terrified that I was gonna be a political hack. So I applied to law school; that's why I wanted to go to law school. It was more that I think, I didn't want to do campaigns for the rest of my life. And I think women -- this was 1979--, really needed a credential like a law degree.

AD: What appealed to you about Jimmy Carter?

LS: About Jimmy Carter?

AD: Yeah. Speaking of humility. (laughs)

LS: He was humble. Well, in those days, in '76 I thought he could win. Now he was appealing after Watergate. No, there were a lot of liberals in the race; I think I thought they were too liberal. Even though I was very liberal. I'm always very practical. Some of my friends were probably working for him too; I'm sure that was part of the reason.

AD: It seemed like the whole country wanted a breath of fresh air.

LS: Yeah, really.

AD: Okay, so after you went to law school, what was your -- where did you go to work?

LS: So I clerked for a private plaintiff's products liability firm in San Francisco. I went to University of California Hastings in San Francisco. And I clerked for this firm that focused on aviation, representing victims of airplane crashes. And I worked for them in between taking the California bar. When I took the bar in 1982, their rule was you couldn't get an accommodation, like large-print, unless you had medical documentation that you were legally blind. And at the time I wasn't. And I had a

hard time -- the essays I passed on the first try, cause I took exams on correcting Selectric typewriters, I remember that. And I was a fast typist, and I could use the correcting Selectric so I could convey that I knew more than I did. But I had a hard time with the Multi-State, because the answer sheet was a computer cards with small bubbles and the questions were printed in small font on cheap newsprint and the first time I took the test, I flunked by four questions. And then in those days, I just had to take the Multi-State again, and I flunked by two questions. So in between studying, I would work for this firm. The third time I passed the bar. You know, when I started working on the ADA, I would tell that as my disability discrimination story. But anyway, I worked for this firm, and I decided that I hated litigation. And I really didn't think that it solved all problems. It kind of soured me. So, in 1984, I was still working there as the Democratic Convention was about to be held in San Francisco.

LS: So, in 1984 I was still working there as the Democratic Convention was about to be held in San Francisco. A lot of my friends were coming, and it was very historic, because Walter Mondale was nominating Gerry Ferraro. So I went to a lot of convention events, a lot of my friends were there. Someone asked me if I wanted to be a scheduler -- I don't know how it happened, but it turned out that I got an offer to be a scheduling desk for Gerry Ferraro's campaign here in Washington. So I quit the firm, cause I really didn't like it. And then after to the campaign in January of '85 I moved back to DC to the Kennedy-Warren. So I've been in Washington since January of '85, in Cleveland Park. After 18 years I left the Kennedy-Warren and moved here.

AD: I'm trying to remember what year they built that second wing--

LS: It was about the time I left. That was part of the original design.

AD: Right, I remember. I remember. So you -- after working for Ferraro --

LS: Okay, so then I came back here, and decided I wanted to do policy work instead of litigation. So it took me a while to look around for a job, meet people, do information interviews, etc. And talk to people. And I wanted to do, if possible disability policy. The Epilepsy Foundation had an opening in their government affairs department. I had met one of their board members, Congressman Tony Coelho, back in the summer of 1980 when I helped organize a town meeting for President Carter in Coelho's congressional district. I spent time with the Congressman at the airport after the town meeting and learned he had epilepsy. In 1985 when I heard about the Epilepsy Foundation opening, I contacted him and he wrote me a very strong recommendation letter to the Epilepsy Foundation. Based on that, I got this government affairs job, a lobbyist job at the Epilepsy Foundation, which I started later in '85. And I worked on special ed issues and civil rights issues. And I worked on the Fair Housing Act, and attorney's fees issues, a bill to give parents attorney's fees for special ed cases. And then in 1988, I became the coordinator of lobbying for the coalition that came together to pass the ADA. And

from the Epilepsy Foundation, I did that for two years, which was very exciting. So, I coordinated the lobbying effort and basically spent two years on the Hill in cafeterias. It was challenging, because it was before cell phones and palm pilots, and you know, laptops. Anyway, but we were successful; it was very exciting. And then for two years, I worked for the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, going around the country as its training director, educating people with disabilities and parents of disabled kids about their rights. And large audiences of state and local government employees, and businesses, chambers of commerce, and other business groups about their responsibilities and the law. And the government put in a lot of money for technical assistance to train people with disabilities so they could train businesses in their communities, so we did a lot of that. And I did that for two years. And then President Clinton was elected and I went to the Justice Department. In 1994 And I had the mountaintop of jobs. I was special assistant to Deval Patrick, who was Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and amazing human being.

AD: From Massachusetts, was he?

LS: Yes, he subsequently became the governor of Massachusetts. And Janet Reno was Attorney General. And she was very excited about the ADA. She really had a social work component of her personality. And it was before 9/11, and the job of the attorney general was rather different. So she had time to focus on the ADA, and I was her ADA person and you know, she always wanted ideas, and you know, I'd call her, and she returned my phone call -- that was amazing to have the Attorney General of the United States return your phone calls. That was a great job. We did great things. So, but I stayed there throughout the Clinton administration. Deval didn't stay. Reno did. And I was there until midnight on January 20th of 2001, cleaning my office. And then I went back to the nonprofit world, working for an organization called The Arc, A-R-C, which lobbies on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And I worked on housing and healthcare issues. So I had worked on Obamacare. I also worked on housing issues. And then I went back to the Justice Department in 2010, to be a career person, a disability rights section of the civil rights division, and I worked on a technical assistance unit, until I retired.

AD: Which was just last year?

LS: Just last year. I'm sorry for that stream of consciousness.

AD: No. (laughs) It's fascinating. I could listen to you for quite a while. So you came, first you lived with a friend in Glover Park. And then you moved to the Kennedy-Warren?

LS: I went back to San Francisco to close my apartment, and I moved here.

AD: And then you moved to the Kennedy-Warren. And why did you pick the Kennedy-Warren?

LS: I looked at a lot of apartments. It had a lot of windows. It was next to the zoo for walking. It was a great location, on a bus, you know. When I was here before working for Carter, I lived on the Hill, which is kind of isolating.

AD: You mean the Capitol Hill neighborhood, or being --

LS: Yeah, Capitol Hill. You know, it's a great neighborhood, but when you live there, it's like going to New Jersey, you know? I liked the neighborhood, but I preferred the Cleveland Park neighborhood--the promenade with all the stores, it was better in those days. Everything was here.

AD: Why do you think it was better in those days?

LS: There was a great bakery. There were more -- you know, the stores --

AD: Oh, Uptown Bakers? Yes.

LS: Uptown Bakers. And the stores, it was more community-like. There were more stores that I think met the needs of the community.

AD: What stores are you thinking of in particular? I lived there at the same time, and I was curious --

LS: They were like -- didn't you love the Uptown Bakery?

AD: I loved it.

LS: My favorite restaurant was Sorriso. Pietro, the owner, was one of the most charming men --

AD: And his wife, too.

LS: Rosemarie. Yes. And I loved Yanni, the Greek guy. Remember him?

AD: Yanni, I'm trying to remember what --

LS: He was where Medium Rare is now, on the corner.

AD: Oh that's right, that's right, yeah.

AD: So why did you leave Kennedy-Warren and move here?

LS: Because it's a rental.

AD: Ah, and you were ready to buy something.

LS: It wasn't financially prudent for me to stay there.

AD: Right, and what did you -- so when did you move here to Sedgwick Gardens?

LS: Tilden Gardens.

AD: Oh, it's Tilden Gardens, it's not Sedgwick.

LS: Sedgwick Gardens is on the southwest corner of Connecticut and Sedgwick. I moved here in 2002 or 2003. 00:32:00]

AD: And you moved there in '85, that would be --

LS: Ninety-five.

AD: It would be 2003; that would be 2003.

LS: That would make sense. So I looked a lot; I only looked in this neighborhood.

AD: Why did you want to stay in this neighborhood?

LS: Because of all the reasons why I moved to the Kennedy-Warren. (laughter) I hate change. And -- so this is a funny story. So I looked -- and for a lot of the apartments, you know, I looked in Woodley Park -- across, on Devonshire, and I looked in the Broadmoor, I thought it was dark. And so a friend of mine was my real estate agent. And he calls me on a Saturday and he says, I'm taking you to this place in Tilden Gardens. I said, I don't want to live in Tilden Gardens. It's too close to Van Ness; I don't like Van Ness. And he said, I don't care, I'm taking you to this apartment. I want you to see it; it's been on the market. It's a really good deal, blah-blah-blah. So we come here, it was Columbus Day weekend. We come here, the leaves were out and I could see them. Out here, there's a dogwood tree, and the leaves go burgundy, kind of dark burgundy. And there were no shades or anything on the windows. So I walk around here, and I said, I have to live here; I don't care what it costs. (laughter) So I didn't even have a preapproval. The next day I got it, and we negotiated. Yeah, that's how. (laughs) It has many of the same -- this building was built at the same time as the Kennedy-Warren. And a lot of features are the same as the Kennedy-Warren. The archways and the tile in the bathrooms. It's very similar.

AD: And so you, obviously you wanted to stay in the neighborhood. So, what do you -- I want to follow up though on this idea that the neighborhood has changed. So you think, you said it was less neighborly?

LS: I don't know. I just think well now, you know, I have less vision. But just, like, it's depressing to me that the Firehook's not there. I used to love to go to the patio,

either alone or with friends. It used to be the Romas back in the day, in the late '70s. There was the patio with the fountain, and the grapevines around the periphery, with little tables under the grapevines?. I loved that. And it's not there anymore; I mean you can't get there. You used to be able to get there from --

AD: Al Volo.

LS: But you can't do that anymore. That's closed. So that, you know, it was a great hangout opportunity. There aren't many spaces where you can have coffee outside. Where can you do that now? You have to go to Starbucks.

AD: I guess there's that Eggerly place, but, I know.

LS: But you can't get coffee there. Okay, so, I really miss that terrace. It had that fabulous mural.

AD: So do you feel like that's impacted your social life, like you just don't get together with people?

LS: Well I get together with people, but it used to be an easier place to meet people.

AD: Right, what do you think hasn't changed about the neighborhood?

LS: Hasn't?

AD: Yeah.

LS: Plus the Uptown isn't there anymore. Oh, the one thing that thankfully hasn't changed is my dry cleaner. He's a wonderful person.

AD: Which one do you use?

LS: Uptown. Bobby, who's been there for a great -- you know, the original guy who owned it, Seymour, gave it to him cause his grandchildren -- his children didn't want it. It's a great story. Bobby dated Seymour's daughter and worked in the store, and when his children didn't want it -- Bobby became like a son to Seymour. And when his children didn't want it, Bobby got the store.

AD: Is that the one down on the corner of Macomb and --

LS: Macomb, yes. Bobby works really hard. He's a wonderful person. It kind of reminds me of my father's hardware store. (laughs) No, there's a lot that I like about the neighborhood. You know Vace and the Yes! Market and the grocery store.

AD: What's your go-to establishment? Where do you -- if you go out to dinner?

LS: Where do I go out to dinner?

AD: What's your favorite?

LS: In the neighborhood? I like the Indian place.

AD: Indique.

LS: Yes. I mean further down, I like Lebanese Taverna. What else? I used to go to Volo. What else is in the neighborhood?

AD: There's a new one that just opened. The Blackbird, that just opened where the Israeli place was.

LS: Oh I love that place.

AD: Oh no, where the Indian place was.

LS: I would go to the Israeli place a lot, that's --

AD: Sababa. Do you know your neighbors in this building?

LS: Here, in the building? Yes, we have a get-together every month. I know some of them better than others. We have a get-together Friday night, the first Friday night of every month.

AD: That's nice.

LS: That's nice, and there are a bunch of Village people here.

AD: So would you -- do you think it's been -- as you've gotten older, has it been easier or harder to make friends here in the neighborhood?

LS: Well because of the Village, I made a lot of friends.

AD: What -- in your own words, how would you describe the Village?

LS: How would I describe the Village? I think it's a brilliant network of people, neighbors who are very empathic, and want to help their neighbors. And the members are, I think it's -- the network allows members who otherwise would be isolated to interact with people in their community, their neighbors and others, that allows them to be less lonely, and have more social interaction. That's not why I joined. I actually --

AD: Yeah, why did you join?

LS: Well I joined for a very practical reason. I joined -- so three years ago, I was diagnosed with dry macular degeneration. And I started losing my vision. So now I'm almost totally blind, except for lights. So I knew about the Village, because some of my friends were on the initial board. And I actually co-hosted a get-to-know-you when they were starting, and looking for both volunteers and members, I hosted, co-hosted an event here in our big community room. That was several years ago, right when it was starting. So I knew all about it. And I also knew -- actually, the funny thing is a friend of mine knows the person on Beacon Hill who started the whole concept 20 years ago, and got so excited that I was a member. But the real reason I started was very practical, that I needed someone to open my mail. And I figured that it was a task, so I called to see if that was something that the Village could do, and you know, help take me to doctor's appointments. I never knew that I'd be so -- I'd have so many social opportunities. I have a lot of friends, and then most of my friends are retired. But I've had a lot of social opportunities that I never expected. I've joined one of the book groups, I go to lunch with people, and it's really great.

AD: Would you say like once a week you do a Village activity, or rely on it for something, or --

LS: Well the book group is once a month. I probably go to lunch with people twice a month.

AD: Well that's nice. How often do you have somebody take you somewhere, to the doctor or whatever, would you say?

LS: I don't know, it varies, sometimes once a month, sometimes twice a month.

AD: Has it changed how you perceive Cleveland Park, this area, or?

LS: That's an interesting question. It's nice to get to know your neighbors more. You know, I knew my neighbors who lived in my building, and I have some friends who live in Cleveland Park. But it's nice to get to know new neighbors.

AD: What's -- so you would say it has more to do with your vision than with just getting older? You're not that old. (laughs)

LS: No, it's aging. No, I'm only 68. No, I'm not socially isolated. I'm more isolated because of my vision impairment, I just can't walk out the door and walk alone. So I'm more isolated than I was before I became blind. So, I walk with a Village volunteer lives in the building and also helps me with my mail.

AD: And you go for walks together with her?

LS: Yes.

AD: How often, every day, or --

LS: No, it depends on the weather. But I didn't join the Village or the purpose of socialization. But it's really wonderful -- it's great to meet your neighbors.

AD: Does it -- so opening mail, social, and --

LS: And the book group.

AD: Oh, book group, and getting rides to doctor's appointments and stuff like that, that's pretty much how you --

LS: Yes, that's a lot though, don't you think?

AD: Yeah, that is a lot. What would you say, going to Village events, is there one that stands out in particular?

LS: I love a book, the people in our book group. We're becoming really tight. We've been in it for almost a year.

AD: How many people are in the group?

LS: I don't know, eight maybe?

AD: Is this the one you mentioned that your friend had written a book and was going to be talking at Politics and Prose?

LS: No, that's a different group.

AD: Oh, you're in two book groups?

LS: Yes.

AD: Would you say that the Village has done well, or not so well?

LS: Oh, exceptionally well.

AD: Okay. Any complaints?

LS: No.

AD: Do you think in terms of future, what it could offer more, or do you have any ideas --

LS: I think about programs or something. I'm trying to think -- I don't know, and I have to think about it. You know, I met a couple of people. One of the volunteers, who's this fabulous guy who lives here in Tilden Gardens, accidentally, he was taking me to

the doctor's appointment, it was the day of the vaccine clinic. And they had an opening; I never signed up. So I went to the opening, and he had to pick someone up on the way. And he picked up this woman, and he said to me, she never gets out; I haven't seen her in a year. And I felt -- you know, for people like that, you gotta wonder whether -- you know, those people are the ones that the Harvard study's writing about, that loneliness is really having an effect--damaging their physical health. But you gotta wonder whether, even if the Village designed programs to try to get people like that out, whether they would come?

AD: So you think have to be willing to meet it halfway?

LS: Yes, you've got to.

AD: How's retirement been for you?

LS: Oh I love retirement. (laughs).

AD: What do you see yourself doing in the next few years, or getting involved --

LS: Well I take Politics and Prose classes-- I really want, my goal, my bucket-list is to be well-read. So I'm taking two Politics and Prose classes this fall. I don't know, I might take more classes, I'll see. I love literature, and history. So, it's great to live in Washington, there's a lot going on.

AD: So I'm just curious when you -- it started to make me think, since I live in the neighborhood, about how the neighborhood's changed. What do you hope for the future of the neighborhood of Cleveland Park?

LS: Well I wonder, like I'm very disturbed -- I don't know if "disturbed" is the right word. It bothered me that the city made the decision -- I assume it's the city -- to close the service road in front of those stores, you know, between Macomb and Ordway. Because, it's bad for those businesses. You know, I'm very sympathetic to those small businesses. And parking is so limited already and they made it so much worse. And people aren't using it to walk. And so, they don't have -- last summer, there weren't any tables outside for the restaurants, right? So I don't know what the point is. And I can only see the negatives. I think that was really bad for the neighborhood, so I'm concerned for the businesses. And then, you know, it's gonna change. There's gonna be more housing. There'll be a multi-family housing somewhere, maybe in that parking lot near the Uptown, or who knows where. But, there'll be change. And the traffic will get worse. But I don't know, I think -- you know, parking will get worse, and that'll be bad for those restaurants. And for the other businesses. I'm not an urban planner, but it just seems like there were some stupid decisions made.

AD: But you don't have any plans to move? But you don't have any plans to move, do you?

LS: Oh no way, I hate change. No, why would I -- this is wonderful -- no.

AD: (laughs) Well is there anything else you wanna add?

LS: No, I don't think so.

AD: Well thank you so much for taking the time to --

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