

Interview By: Cayla Guadalupe

Interview With: Irene Kohut-Ilchyshyn

CG: When was the first time you came to Reston?

IKI: The first time I came to Reston was in the fall of 1979.

CG: What was the first thing that came to your mind when you came here?

IKI: How beautifully landscaped and how rural it looked here in this area.

CG: Why did you decide to live and work in Reston?

IKI: Two reasons. One is we've loved, my husband and I, we loved the area because we've always lived in Philadelphia in the big city and we loved that rural appearance and also because he wanted to start a dental practice here in the area.

CG: Did that go ok?

IKI: He um...started off small and rented a practice ah...from another doctor in the area and then he um...moved to Herndon, and then he moved back to Reston. We always stayed here he really loved it here. He is a periodontist here at Reston Dental Arts.

CG: Was it harder to start his own business here then somewhere else?

IKI: I think the challenges would've been the same whether he had started in Philadelphia or here. Just a matter of having some business savvy for starting from scratch.

CG: Ok, how long have you been an orchestra teacher?

IKI: Since 1975, when I graduated from college.

CG: Do you like the music programs in Reston?

IKI: I love the Fairfax counties public schools program. I've taught in Philadelphia's public school, I've taught in Anarundell public school, and also Prince William county as well and this one by far is the best program that I have come across yet.

CG: Do you see a difference in like stamina or willingness in students here then where you used to teach?

IKI: Students are pretty universal everywhere most of the young people I encounter are very enthusiastic hard workers and just a joy to work with.

CG: Ok what about Reston's development and planning?

IKI: Wow ah sense 1979 this place has become a little city um... sometimes I think back to 1979 and think if I were coming here right now at this point in time I am not sure if I would necessarily want to settle here because the way Reston originally looked and the small growth is what attracted us here to begin with.