

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript

Gyekye, Gladys. Interview date: 05/04/2022

dindria: [00:00](#) Hello and welcome. Please say your name,

Gladys Gyekye: [00:06](#) Please. My name is Gladys Gyekye.

dindria: [00:10](#) And the date?

Gladys Gyekye: [00:12](#) The date today is May 4th, 2022.

dindria: [00:19](#) And we are located in?

Gladys Gyekye: [00:23](#) No,

dindria: [00:24](#) We are located in the Tacoma.

Gladys Gyekye: [00:27](#) Yeah. Yeah.

dindria: [00:29](#) Community house,

Gladys Gyekye: [00:33](#) Please [inaudible]

dindria: [00:34](#) That's okay. So location means like where we are?

Gladys Gyekye: [00:41](#) Um, that's my son. Oh.

dindria: [00:44](#) Uh, no, where we are right now is Tacoma Community House.

Gladys Gyekye: [00:48](#) Yeah, I'm Tacoma class. Yeah. Yes, I'm Tacoma Community House.

dindria: [00:53](#) Okay. Okay. Okay. Um, question one. Where are you from before the United States. What country?

Gladys Gyekye: [01:07](#) Ghana.

dindria: [01:08](#) Ghana? Right on. Can you tell us about Ghana

Gladys Gyekye: [01:16](#) Please? What,

dindria: [01:17](#) What is Ghana like?

Gladys Gyekye: [01:20](#) Yeah. I'm like Ghana because of my hometown.

dindria: [01:24](#) Yes. What is your hometown?

Gladys Gyekye: [01:27](#) My hometown is Kumase

dindria: [01:33](#) Kumase? Yeah. Oh, I don't know. Yeah. [inaudible] Can you describe Kumase?

Gladys Gyekye: [01:42](#) Yeah. Kumase was a good place.

dindria: [01:48](#) Okay.

Gladys Gyekye: [01:49](#) Yes. Some people would live a village, come to selling things.

dindria: [01:58](#) Oh, yes. So, they would bring, um, they would have like market? Yeah. Yeah. They would come to the market. Um, what did you do in Ghana?

dindria: [02:13](#) Okay. So what did, did you sell anything at the market?

Gladys Gyekye: [02:19](#) No, I, I'm making a food, eh?

dindria: [02:22](#) Oh,

Gladys Gyekye: [02:24](#) What is? I'm making food parties.

dindria: [02:29](#) Oh yeah? Yeah. Was it like meat,

Gladys Gyekye: [02:32](#) Meat, meat. You fly meaty? Yeah. Salad.

dindria: [02:36](#) Oh, making it hungry. <laugh>. Okay. So you are a cook or a chef? Yes.

Gladys Gyekye: [02:43](#) Cook of chef. Yeah.

dindria: [02:44](#) Yes. <laugh>? Yes. Um, you're gonna like my question down here. Let's do this question. What is your favorite food?

Gladys Gyekye: [02:55](#) My favorite fo- Fufu.

dindria: [02:57](#) Yeah. Fufu. Yeah. Aw. Making me hungry. Okay. What is your favorite American food?

Gladys Gyekye: [03:10](#) Um, Sub away.

dindria: [03:12](#) Sub away? Yeah. What's that?

Speaker 3: [03:14](#) Subway.

dindria: [03:15](#) Subway. Oh, thank you so much. Sandwiches? Yeah. Oh, okay. The big ones? Mm-hmm. No. This one? Yeah. Okay. <laugh>. <laugh>. Um, how did, who is your family?

Gladys Gyekye: [03:36](#) My family. That's my son and my grandchildren.

dindria: [03:44](#) Oh, yes.

Gladys Gyekye: [03:46](#) And my brothers.

dindria: [03:47](#) And your brothers?

Gladys Gyekye: [03:48](#) Your brothers?

dindria: [03:49](#) How many brothers?

Gladys Gyekye: [03:53](#) It was, that's my father's side was um, four brothers? Yes. And my mother's side is one brother.

dindria: [04:10](#) Ah, yes. So you have five and all right? Yes. And then, um, how many grandchildren? Oh, now you have to think about it.

Gladys Gyekye: [04:20](#) Got that There's small, small some. Seven.

dindria: [04:26](#) Seven. All right. That's fabulous. Um, I love whenever the grandchildren have birthdays.

Gladys Gyekye: [04:35](#) Yeah. Yeah.

dindria: [04:36](#) Are they in Ghana or United States?

Gladys Gyekye: [04:40](#) The two was here.

dindria: [04:42](#) Two are here? Yeah. Okay. That's cool. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, why did you come to Tacoma, Washington?

Gladys Gyekye: [04:53](#) I come to, I come with my son. Yeah.

dindria: [05:00](#) And it was it, um, to come for family or for work or for, um, just want to change country?

Gladys Gyekye: [05:15](#) Uh,

dindria: [05:15](#) Like, why did your son come?

Gladys Gyekye: [05:18](#) My son come here. 12 years

dindria: [05:22](#) Oh, okay. Okay. And then you've been here three years?

Gladys Gyekye: [05:28](#) Okay. Yeah, three years. Three

dindria: [05:30](#) Years. But your son was here first? Yes. Oh, okay.

Gladys Gyekye: [05:33](#) Good. My son was calling me to visit

dindria: [05:36](#) Yes. <laugh>. And then he said, you stay <laugh>. Yes.

Gladys Gyekye: [05:41](#) Yes.

dindria: [05:42](#) All right. Um, let's see. What do you think of the United States?

Gladys Gyekye: [05:53](#) I think about here is a good place.

dindria: [06:05](#) Yeah. Is it, um, do you feel that it is what you thought it would be like in Ghana when you thought about United States? Was it the same?

Gladys Gyekye: [06:19](#) My father, you say?

dindria: [06:20](#) No, not your father. Um, before you came mm-hmm. <affirmative> to United States? Yeah. In Ghana? Yes. What did you think about United States?

Gladys Gyekye: [06:31](#) I don't think, because when my son leave me to here.

dindria: [06:38](#) Yeah.

Gladys Gyekye: [06:39](#) Some more. Yes. I didn't see him. Yes. So I come to see him.

dindria: [06:45](#) Okay. <laugh>. So it wasn't really about United States, it was about your son. Yeah. Yes. Um, let's see, what do you want people to learn about you? That might be a hard

question, but what do you want to say to people who are listening?

Gladys Gyekye: [07:18](#) I know it.

dindria: [07:19](#) Not sure. Um, what do you want listeners to think about your life?

Gladys Gyekye: [07:39](#) I, I Think, I think for my children. Yes

dindria: [07:51](#) Tell me more. What do you want for your children?

Gladys Gyekye: [08:00](#) I think for my children to grow.

Speaker 3: [08:06](#) Yeah.

dindria: [08:08](#) To grow and to go to school. Yeah. And to get, have a life Yeah. Of their own. Yes. Yes. Do you think they need to do that in the United States or in Ghana?

Gladys Gyekye: [08:21](#) Yeah, he think here.

dindria: [08:23](#) Yeah.

Gladys Gyekye: [08:24](#) Some because of here also a family, John family here. Yes. So Ghana was also, I think about the, that child, children to grow up to school and do something.

dindria: [08:43](#) Yes. We want them to do good things. Yes. <laugh>. Okay. Um, I think we are done with the questions. Is there anything you want to ask me?

Gladys Gyekye: [08:58](#) Okay. Um, please. When I, I came here to learn, to do, to communicate.

dindria: [09:12](#) Yes.

Gladys Gyekye: [09:14](#) Some you <laugh> and that Yes. To do something for my children in Ghana? Yes. Cause I don't listen anything. I can't do anything. I don't work, so I can't here to learn some more.

dindria: [09:35](#) Good, good. So I'm hoping that when we put this together, that they will be able to listen to it in Ghana. Okay. Yeah. That would be awesome.

Gladys Gyekye: [09:47](#) <laugh>. It's good. Yes. That's my talking.

dindria: [09:51](#) It's great. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you

Gladys Gyekye: [09:55](#) So much. No, thank you. Okay.

dindria: [09:57](#) I love you. Oh, I love you back.