

Narrator Biography

Lillian “Cookie” Lima

Lillian Lima was born at 10 Wickenden Street in Providence, Rhode Island, on January 2nd, 1935. Daughter of Joao and Joaquina Lima, Lillian, better known as “Cookie” to her friends and family, was a long-time resident of the Fox Point neighborhood. Although she currently resides at 217 Howell Street, several miles away from her childhood home, Cookie remains an active member of the Fox Point community.

Lima’s parents immigrated to Providence from the Cape Verde Islands, and the couple established their family in the Fox Point neighborhood. After sharing their home on Wickenden Street with four other families, the Limas moved to a house on Benevolent Street when Cookie was 8 years old.

Cookie grew up in a lively household of 10 children. She was one of the younger girls in a family of 4 boys and 6 girls. Cookie fondly remembers the many hours the siblings spent together. She speaks of her memories of her and her siblings walking to school, doing their homework, going to the Holy Rosary Church, and eating special meals that their father cooked.

After marrying Roger Valles, Cookie first moved to a house on Brook Street, then to the couple’s permanent residence on Howell Street. Valles, also a Fox Pointer, was a long-time director at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Cookie speaks about the many animals her and Valles kept in their home, including a chimpanzee named Camby.

In addition to her personal and familial connections, Cookie also established her role as an active member in the Fox Point community through her involvement in the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club. She was a teacher of ceramics at the club for 10 years, and remains a regular at the alumni events to this day.