Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: DEBBIE NGUYEN
Date: March 2, 2014
Location: Garden Grove, California
Sub-Collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, Winter 2014
Length of Interview: 00:50:00

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted at the California Reading Room in the Garden Grove Public Library located at Garden Grove, CA. The California Reading Room is a reserved educational space. I reserved it to host Debbie’s interview. A few minutes after 1pm, Debbie Nguyen, the narrator walked in dressed fashionably, with a t-shirt, high waist skirt and a black blazer. As I explained the project to her again, I set up the consent forms for her to sign.

Debbie set down her Starbuck’s tea, observed the room before picking up the pen and reading the consent forms. Debbie was very kind, sweet and considerate. We had changed the meeting date several time but did not hesitate to meet on a Sunday afternoon. Debbie spoke about the close relationship with her family, her father and her daughter and how they have always close to Westminster, CA.

During the interview, we explored her life story from her times in Saigon, Vietnam, the refugee camps in the Philippines and her vivid memories of Orange County, CA. Debbie describe her love for art and how she spends her time with her fiancé at the museum. Debbie is now a teacher at Chinese school teaching art and has a passion to teach art.

After the interview, we spoke about the interview and then decided to turn the recorder on again to document her passion for art. She continued to talk about how her daughter has played an integral part in her art and becoming a art teacher has brought her lots of happiness. Afterwards, we cleaned up and walked out of the library together. As we departed we exchanged hugs and contacts to stay in touch with each other. I thanked her for the interview and the time to share her story with VAOHP.