Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: NGỌC MỸ LÊ
Interviewer: Tiffany Ngocmai Le
Date: May 16, 2015
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Spring 2015
Length of Interview: 01:51:16

Narrator Life Map

1957 Born in Mỹ Tho, Vietnam
1972 Moved to Saigon, where her father opened a tailor shop near Saigon Central Market
1975 Finished high school and enrolled in dental school
1979 Left Rạch Giá, Vietnam by boat with her two brothers and colleague, who would later become her husband
   • Reached Malaysia after 10 days at sea, but turned away
   • Arrived to Ku Ku Refugee Camp in Indonesia, with help from Medical Doctors Without Borders
   • Transferred to Galang Refugee Camp in Indonesia for 2 months, after 11 months at Ku Ku
1980 Arrived in Poughkeepsie, New York after being sponsored by a church
   • Moved to El Cajon, California
   • Attended community college
   • Transferred to San Diego State University for medical technology
1981 Had first child, Julie
1983 Moved to New Orleans, Louisiana
1984 Attend University of New Orleans for medical technology
1985 Moved back to Los Angeles, California
   • Had second child, Robert
   • Completed her GED and passed the entrance exam for USC Medical Center School of Nursing
1988 Graduated from USC School of Nursing
   • Worked as a registered nurse at White Memorial Medical Center
• Sponsored her parents, Chíeu Đào and Bạch Lâm, to settle in San Diego, California

1989  Moved to Northridge, California
1990  Had third child, Steven
1993  Had fourth child, Tiffany
1995  Started working as a registered nurse at UCLA Medical Center
1999  Separated from husband and moved to Orange County, California
2000  Moved to Fountain Valley, California