Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: LOAN THI KIM NGUYEN
Interviewer: Kathy Le
Date: November 26, 2012
Location: Duarte, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 00:59:27

Time Log

00:00:45 Loan Nguyen describes her parents, and when they moved to Saigon.
00:01:12 She describes Saigon when she was younger and the other city she has lived in, along with what she used to do in those cities.
00:03:20 She talks about tet, and described what they did and what she liked about it.
00:04:05 Talks about schooling she had prior to 1975 and what she worked as post-75.
00:05:17 She discusses who took care of her as a child, her grandmother, and what her grandmother did to take care of them. Also discusses the rest of her family who was involved in her life.
00:06:55 Talks about why you cannot pass down names from generation to generation.
00:07:57 Talked about what kind of jobs and schooling her family had.
00:08:43 Begins to talk about family reunions and a family get together, and the type of things they do at these reunions.
00:09:59 She starts to talk about her and her husband’s relationship, how they met and their journey leaving the country together.
00:12:41 Talks about her three daughters and what kind of stories and things she chooses to share with her daughters.
00:14:08 Explains the traditions she keeps from her childhood and passes down to her children.
She talks about her religion and how she practices it.

She talks about what things she passes down in her family; food and photos. She describes the type of photos that were handed down, and how they were passed down to her.

She begins to describe how the Vietnam War affected her family, where she lived, who she lived with, and what she had to do during the war.

She talks about when she left Vietnam, how she felt, the process of leaving Vietnam and what the actual trip was like.

Describes the refugee camp she arrived at, what they did (for example: learning English), how they survived, and how long they were at the camp for.

Talks about the first place of settlement for her family, and what it was like in Canada.

Talks about how she came to live in Southern California, and how her and her family felt about her leaving Canada.

She explains how her and her husband survived living in Southern California, and what she did, her job, while her husband worked.

Talks about how she feels about her decision to come to America, a few of the challenges she had in America and Canada, and the jobs she had to work in both places.

She explains how she found a home in Southern California and the difficulties.

Talks about living in America, how she feels bout Little Saigon, and how it feels to be in those cities compared to living in Vietnam.

She talks about her views on racism and her experiences with it in her community.
today.

00:39:07 Starts to talk about how she sees herself as Vietnamese and why she views herself that way.

00:40:15 She talks about her process of becoming a citizen in America, what she was tested on, and what she chooses to do with that citizenship (voting).

00:43:00 She talks about her returning trips to Vietnam, what she did, what she recognized and did not recognize, what she expected, why she went back, and how she felt going back.

00:46:59 Talks about what she is reminded of and how she feels when she goes to Vietnamese communities like Little Saigon. She also discusses how Vietnam and these Vietnamese communities differ.

00:49:17 She provides her ideas on what should be passed down, knowledge wise about Vietnam, within her family.

00:51:22 Talks about her father and his part in the Vietnam War.

00:52:46 She talks about her and her best friend and how they found each other in America.

00:56:09 She talks about everything she wants her children to do, focusing on traditions and wanting them to visit Vietnam.