Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: SUZIE XUYEN DONG MATSUDA
Interviewer: Lena Nguyen
Date: November 26, 2012
Location: Santa Ana, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of interview: 1:03:59

Time Log

00:20: Narrator introduces herself and along with her parents name.

01:47: Narrator talks about family background.

07:58: Narrator talks about her mother’s struggles after 1975 and Vietnamese communist police intervention.

11:14: Narrator informs her mother’s stress due to trauma’s and grandparent’s loss. Consequently, she faces verbal abuse and neglect from her mother as a result of her mother’s stress.

12: 33: Narrator talks about her first suicide attempt and experience.

15: 46: Narrator’s mom decides to send her and her half brother out of the country in hopes of a better life and future.

17: 14: Talks about her voyage away from Vietnam as a “boat person.”

19: 30: Narrator’s discusses arrival at refugee camp and the turmoil of being a young woman alone without family.
20: 30: Narrator mentions her gratitude for America for taking her in and explains the reason for choosing the career path she’s doing at the moment.

23: 32: Narrator shares information about her religious background as a Catholic and gradually learning other religions as years go by.

26: 31: Narrator talks about some of the customs and traditions she still holds and she also compares and contrast the traditions from her experience in Vietnam to those in America.

29: 10: Narrator talks about her husband and their differences as two different Asians.

30: 46: Narrators informs about sponsorship of family members in Vietnam and financial difficulties.

33: 15: Narrator mentions her mother’s current residence and their relationship since the days in Vietnam.

36: 25: Narrator talks about her child, Ethan Matsuda.

38:00: Narrator shares imagery of her time during the fall of Saigon and the so-called “brainwash” education the Vietnamese communist government was giving her and her fell classmates.

44: 24: Narrator discusses about her first residential area and her apartment with her cousins.
47: 52: Narrator experiences name ridiculing in a video rental shop.

48: 42: Narrator explains her life after being taken in by a pastor family and her continuous exposure to church and Christianity at this time.

50: 36: Narrator talks about her involvement with organizations and activities in the Vietnamese communities—UVSA, VAC, Vietnamese Professional Society, etc. after leaving the pastor family.

55: 32: What the Narrator’s husband thinks about her involvement in the Vietnamese community and his views of the Vietnamese community.

01:01:20: Narrator shares experience about her trip back to Vietnam in 2003, including places she visited and describes the poverty that Vietnam still faces.

01:03:59: Interview ends.