Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

I Narrator: CUONG NGUYEN
Interviewer: Adrienne Nguyen
Date: November 27, 2012
Location: Irvine, California
Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 01:02:06, 00:35:49

Time Log

Track 1 (1:02:06)

00:00:23 Introduction, family, childhood, education.
00:12:36 What gets passed on to daughters—history, values, customs and traditions.
00:21:58 Talks about the war.
00:27:21 Talks about trying to escape and jail time.
00:41:07 “Reeducation camps.”
00:44:05 Feelings about the United States and being left behind in 1975.
00:52:59 Rebuilding process after the war.
00:56:03 Boat experience.
00:59:50 Process of going to the United States.
01:01:44 Feelings about leaving behind Vietnam for the United States.

Track 2 (00:35:49)

00:00:01 Continuation of how he felt about leaving Vietnam, and how he will not return to Vietnam so long as they have communism, unless it is for his daughters.
00:01:01 Arrival in the United States.
Early experiences and impressions in the United States.

College experience in the United States.

Challenge of finding a job, and employment history.

Issues of race and identity.

How he feels about coming to the U.S. today.

Why America is his homeland, citizenship, voting.

Lack of emotional attachment to Vietnam, and childhood.

Traditions and customs and acculturation.

The future of Vietnamese culture in America.

Involvement with the Vietnamese community in the United States.

His own Vietnamese community.

What future generations of Vietnamese Americans should remember.

Nostalgia for good memories of life before ’75.

Democracy in Vietnam.