Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: YSA LE
Interviewer: Andy Le
Date: November 10, 2012
Location: Santa Ana, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 01:02:09

Time Log

0:00:40  Ysa Le discusses her hometown Saigon, Vietnam and experiences before and post-Vietnam War.

0:01:43:09  She talks about her memories in Saigon, Vietnam from 1970-1975. The first five years was peaceful and after life changed for everyone.

0:05:17:08  Her parents received their college education in Vietnam.

0:06:52:04  Her experience living in France for two years.

0:08:49:09  She talks about the Vietnamese Community in Lyon, France.

0:12:33:08  She talks about her Husband and how they both started a Vietnamese book club.

0:14:10:05  She explains some family tradition, customs, and the role her father played.

0:15:55:04  The value of education was highly appreciated in her family. Her parents did not pressure her to suggested careers.

0:17:20:08  Her father tells her stories about his experience in the reeducation camp.
Her father was a historian in her family that kept journals. Most of it was lost or burned.

She discusses how the Vietnam War was a tremendous impact and it was miracle to leave and have a better life now.

It was easier for her family to rebuild their lives, a second time in the United States.

She discusses about her experience being captured twice and imprisoned in Vietnam.

Her father’s experience in the reeducation camp.

She shares her opinion on U.S. policy during and after the Vietnam War.

Her uncle passed away in the reeducation camp.

Starting a new life in Visalia, California.

Her father is chief editor of *Người Việt* Daily News and family moved to Garden Grove.

Her first job at Petco.

She had a difficult time making friends in high school because of the constant moving.

Young white men told her and her classmates “Japanese go Home!”
Vietnamese community in Vietnam versus the Vietnamese community in Garden Grove.

Different ways in keeping contact with family relatives in Vietnam.

Going back to Vietnam for the first time.

Traditional Vietnamese songs remind her of Vietnam.

Organizing programs and events in the Vietnamese community.

Culture shock with American food.

Brian Doan’s work in FOB 11: Art Speaks sparks controversy in 2009.

Cai Luong (Vietnamese Opera)

Simplifying some Vietnamese traditions.

Learning the experiences of first generation is important to future Vietnamese Americans.

Her opinions on Lil Saigon in Westminster today and future suggestions.

The importance of voting in the Vietnamese community.

Final thoughts.