Vietnamese American Oral history Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: ANNIE THUY TRAN
Interviewer: Suzanne Thu Nguyen
Date: February 2, 2013
Location: Tustin, California
Subcollection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2013
Length of Interview: 01:07:05

Time Log

00:00:47 Annie Thuy Tran describes the occupations that her parents held as business men and women.

00:02:05 She discusses how she is the ninth child out of eleven and how some her older siblings died in their childhood.

00:04:08 She talks about the places her family has lived in.

00:05:50 She discusses how she loved doing readings at funerals because she would receive candy.

00:06:20 Annie goes with her mom and sisters to buy new outfits for Tet and receives Li Xi money.

00:07:27 Annie compares her schooling from Vietnam to her schooling in America.

00:08:35 She shares a fond memory of how one time, her dad unknowingly left on a motorcycle to go to work without her mom.

00:10:50 She talks about going to church every day and her family routine.
She discusses of how the war between the communists and the republic of Vietnam affects her family.

Annie talks about how the United States had minimal involvement in the war in 1968.

Annie’s brother in law, Bac Nguyet, tells her mom to leave Vietnam because the communist are approaching their city.

She talks about how her mom has ran away from the communist before in 1954 and the difficulties of running away again with more children.

Her family and her neighbor’s family move to Vung Tau, a gateway city close to the ocean that allows them to leave to different countries.

Annie and her family leave Vung Tau and waits in the ocean for a week and eventually climb onto a U.S. Ship.

She tells the heart breaking story of leaving her two dogs behind in the boat in the ocean due to no animals being allowed on the ship.

The U.S. ship takes her family to Guam.

Annie and her family separated from her neighbors due to money issues.

Annie and her family leave Guam to go to Hawaii.

Annie tells the story of how she and her family picked up a business of selling coffee in Guam while living in the tents.

Leaving Hawaii, Annie and her family move to Camp Pendleton.

Out of the fifty states, her family makes the decision to choose a new life in California based off of experiences that foreign students have had in the United States.
Annie talks about her experiences living at a sponsor’s house.

Annie talks about one of her sisters being left behind due to her brother-in-law being involved in the military and how they eventually came over.

She talks about her first impression of America, the difficulty of language barriers, and the racism that she encountered as a kid.

She talks about recycling newspaper with her father in order to make ends meet for rent.

She talks about going back and visiting Vietnam.

Annie shares what her first experience with the Fourth of July and Christmas was like in America.

She talks about her children, and her grand children, and what she would like to pass on to them about her culture.

She reflects on how the Vietnamese community has changed over the years.

She talks about the process of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Annie explains how she went into business career-wise and the education she got in order to stay in that field.

She talks about the time when she would stay with nuns in Vietnam while her father was traveling and how she is a natural leader.

Annie recalls a time when she went to school in Cam Ranh and a traumatizing experience of seeing blood from a bad accident that affected her into not going into the medical field to become a nurse.

Annie shares one last memory of participating in Tet every year.