Accession Number: 3717

Accession Date: 2011.07.06

Collection MF 162

Collection Name: Immigrants and Identity 2005

Interviewer Maria Sandweiss

Depositor: Lily Alavi

Narrator: Lily Alavi

Description: 3717 Lily Alavi, interviewed by Maria Sandweiss, May 23, 2005, at Alavi’s home in Bangor, Maine. Alavi talks about being born in Iran; coming to the United States in 1993; her first impressions when moving to Maine; difficulties in adjusting to new culture; languages; food; Islam; celebrations and holidays; work as a real estate agent; self identity; different cultures in Middle East; difference between American government and American people.

Text: 6 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na3717_c2655_01 20 minutes

Related Collections & Accessions

Restrictions none
Accession Date: 2011.07.06

Description: 3718 Mohammad S. Dar, interviewed by Katherine Durbin, May 8, 2005, at the Stillwater Convenience store, Bangor, Maine. Dar talks about being from Pakistan; coming to the United States in 1983; his reasons for coming to the United States and then to Maine; arranged marriage; positive experiences; finding other Muslim families; teaching cultural values; comparison between his childhood in Pakistan and that of his children in the United States; Lahore; food and meals as a child in Pakistan; spices; food and meal schedule now in the United States; two identities Pakistan/America; tensions between Muslims and Hindus in Pakistan; social relationships with Americans; Eid; comparison between Pakistan and America.

Text: 19 pp. transcript

Related Collections

Restrictions  none
Accession Number: 3719

Accession Date: 2011.07.06

Collection: Immigrants and Identity 2005

Narrator: Maria Baeza

Interviewer/Depositor: Pauleena MacDougall

Description: 3719 Maria Baeza, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, March 28, 2005, in Baeza’s office, Bangor, Maine. Baeza talks about being born in Puerto Rico; growing up in Brooklyn, NY; coming to Maine over 30 years ago when she married a man from Maine; her first impression of Maine which was that there were so many white people; culture shock; rural setting after living in a large city; concern with safety; life in Puerto Rico before the age of 5 when she moved to the U. S.; difference between Puerto Rico and the U.S.; learning English; living in two cultures; living as a minority; institutionalized racism; ethnocentrism; speaking Spanish; Puerto Rican food; express love and caring through food; learning to cook; Catholic religion; ear piercing; sewing; children’s stories; meeting Spanish-speaking people; aspects of Puerto Rican culture most important to keep; experiences with racism; in Maine people have not grown up around diversity and are ignorant about the minority experience.

Text: 25 pp. transcript
Description: 3720 Olivia Saritvanich, interviewed by Katherine Durbin, February 18, 2005, at Saritvanich’s home, Orono, Maine. Saritvanich talks about being born in Thailand; emigrating to America with her husband; being the owner of Thai Orchid, a restaurant in Orono, Maine; immigration in the late 1970s; reasons immigrants can become citizens; immigrant-specific employment; early history of Thailand; European colonization of Southeast Asia; struggles of immigrating to America; American soldiers in Thailand; Thai meals vs. American meals; Thai lifestyle compared to American lifestyle.

Text: 36 pp. transcript
Recordings: mfc_na3720_c2654_01, mfc_na3720_c2654_02 95 minutes

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Accession Number: 3721

Accession Date: 2011.07.06

Description: 3721 Maria Sandweiss, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, April 19, 2005, in the library at the Maine Folklife Center, UMaine, Orono, Maine. Sandweiss talks about being born in Peru; moving to Maine in 1993 with her husband; her first impressions of Maine; speaking English or Spanish with family; living in two cultures; maintaining culture of Peru; Peruvian foods; typical dinner; food cooked in the ground; pachamanca; special cultural objects from Peru; languages spoken in Peru; language and family important parts of culture; stereotypes; diversity; differences and similarities between Peru and the United States.

Text: 13 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na3721_cd2510_01 49 minutes
3722 Maria Rave, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, April 1, 2005, at Thistles Restaurant, Bangor, Maine. Rave talks about being born in Colombia; coming to Ellsworth in 1985; moving to Bangor around 2001; being part owner of Thistles Restaurant; having two sons; language barrier at first in Maine; speaks Spanish and English; university education; difficult for younger son Santiago to adjust to school; sons graduating from Massachusetts College of Art; Santiago lives at home and manages Thistles; many relatives in the U. S.; helped with adjustment to new culture; difficulty finding ingredients for Colombian food at first; beans and plantains; Catholic religion; important personal objects from Colombia; ruined; climate in Colombia; needlework; dancing; tango; husband from Argentina; stories about Colombia; differences in the way of doing things in Colombia and the U. S.; many friends who are foreigners; more Spanish speaking people coming to Bangor last 5 years; celebrate New Year with friends at Thistles; encourages families to speak both English and Spanish; love for family; wants people to know the good things about Colombia; husband Alejandro is international chef who also sings, dances, plays piano. Also included: business card from Thistles Restaurant.

Text: 21 pp. transcript, 1 pp. copy of a business card
Recording: mfc_na3722_cd2510_01 48 minutes
Photos: P 9301 - P 9306
Description: 3723 Norma Peters, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, May 12, 2005, at the home of Peters, Veazie, Maine. Peters talks about being born in Cartagena, Colombia; the differences between living in Panama and Colombia; differences in education; learning to speak English; marriage and children; first impressions of Maine; difficulty finding work; lived in Hampden and 6 years later moved to Bangor; teaching children Spanish; discrimination in Maine; making friends; teaching children to be proud of their heritage; cultural traditions; favorite foods from Colombia; going to Spanish restaurants in Florida; celebrating holidays; family stories; smoking cigars; difference between living in Colombia and the U. S.; what to tell people in the U. S. about Colombia and what to tell people in Colombia about the U. S.; trips to visit Colombia; attending Catholic church; learning to drive.

Text: 19 pp. transcript, 2 pp. document from internet in CF folder
Accession Date: 2011.07.06  T#  C#  P  D  CD
Collection  MF 162
Number:
P  S  V  D  D
Collection  Immigrants and
Name: Identity 2005

Interviewer  Elizabeth Hardink
/Depositor:

Narrator:  Eric Li

Description: 3724  Eric Li, interviewed by Elizabeth Hardink, June 5, 2005, at his home, Bangor, Maine. Li talks about being born in Hong Kong, China; living there until he was 8; comparison of Chinese and American cultures; favorite foods; came to the United States with his father around 1989; lived in New York; moved to Madawaska, Maine when he was in sixth grade; father owns Chinese restaurant in Madawaska named Tang’s Palace; comparison of city life in New York and Hong Kong; discrimination toward Asians in Maine schools; change in Hong Kong when People’s Republic of China took over; past communism compared to communism today in China; Chinese adapting to American culture.

Text: 27 pp. transcript

Related Collections
& Accessions

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Description: 3725 Delia Michaud, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, June 21, 2005, at Michaud’s home. Michaud talks about being born in San Juan, a province of Argentina; coming to the United States in 1970; living first in Houston, Texas and then moving to Maine; cultural differences between Argentina and the United States; struggle of switching over from speaking Spanish to speaking only English; first experiences with Maine winter; highlights of Argentinean culture; family life in San Juan; importance of knowing many languages; artifacts from Argentinean culture; tango and milonga dances; crafts from Argentina; needle crafts done by Argentinean women; preparation of matambre; guiso; Maria Rave from Brazil and Hernan Rave (brother of Alejandro Rave) from Argentina.

Text: 17 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na3725_cd2510_01 40 minutes

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Description: 3726 Mihail Margaronis, interviewed by Maria Sandweiss, May 31, 2005, at the Bangor House of Pizza (which is owned by Margaronis). Margaronis talks about being born in Greece on the island of Aegina; coming to Maine in 1976; adapting to Maine after growing up in Greece; cultural Greek items; being a citizen from multiple countries; Greek community in Bangor, Maine; Greek national identity compared to American; Greek opinion on American government and American people.

Text: 10 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na3726_c2656_01 20 minutes
Description: **3727 Lilian Lo**, interviewed by Elizabeth Hardink, April 16, 2005. Lo talks about being born in Hong Kong; spending her first twenty four years there; coming to Maine in 1981; owning Oriental Jade, a Chinese restaurant in Bangor, Maine with her husband Victor; working for a real estate business in Hong Kong; Hong Kong becoming more liberal; cultural differences in China from the ‘70s to the ‘90s; Hong Kong’s shift toward international food in recent times; Hong Kong immigrants during the ‘90s from political instability; adapting to American culture from Hong Kong; women’s rights in Chinese culture, past and present; Chinese opinion on education and its costs; change of importance of marriage and kids in Chinese culture; American media in Hong Kong; Chinese view on American work ethics; popularity behind the Oriental Jade in Bangor; difficulties of having a Chinese restaurant in Bangor.

Text: 29 pp. transcript
Description: 3728 Aniko Fulep, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, May 16, 2005, in Fulep’s home, Hampden, Maine. Fulep talks about being born in Hungary in 1971; coming to the United States in 1996; emigrating from Budapest, Hungary to Maine; benefits of rural Maine compared to life in Budapest; view of Maine people compared to most American people; learning English in Hungary; life during the fall of Communism in Hungary; adjusting to American culture; speaking English around children vs. speaking Hungarian around them; typical Hungarian dishes; traditional Hungarian items in the household; Hungarian crafts and media; aspects of Hungarian culture that are important to keep in America; unique qualities of Hungarian language; European views of American culture.

Text: 18 pp. transcript
Description: 3729 Iolanta Biderman, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, February 14, 2005, Pauleena’s office at UMaine, Orono, Maine. Biderman talks about living in the USSR until she was 4; living in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan; Kazakhstan culture; moving to Moscow at 17 for college; Soviet turmoil and the effect on Russians in Latvia in 1989; working for a shipping company in Latvia; Russians being removed from Latvia; meeting her US husband in Latvia through the Coast Guard; depression in Moscow leading to loss of jobs; moving to the US and wanting to teach at a UFL.; moving with her husband to Maine for his job; raising her Latvian son in US culture; wanting her son to learn world literature and history like she did in school; going back to school at UMaine; Russian culture’s less strict structure for young people; economic struggles in Maine and her job as a tutor in Bangor Education Department; difficulty finding a job in Maine due to being Russian and a woman; desire to leave Maine because it isn’t for Russians; Russian vs. US cooking.

Text: 20 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na3729_c2657_01, mfc_na3729_c2657_02 57 minutes
Accession Date: 2011.07.06  T#
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P S V D D
Collection Immigrants and Identity 2005
Name: Nuam Wen “Mabel” Cen

Interviewer Elizabeth Hardink
/Depositor:

Narrator: Nuam Wen “Mabel” Cen

Description: 3730 Nuam Wen “Mabel” Cen, interviewed by Elizabeth Hardink, May 31, 2005, in Mabel’s apartment, Bangor, Maine. Mabel talks about being from Canton, China and being born in 1984; differences in the Chinese and American education systems; Chinese people want to be rich; hard workers in China; prostitution is common there; Chinese dress is very modern and similar to American dress; Mabel’s family chose to come to the United States because her uncle lived here; her uncle opened a Chinese restaurant in Madawaska, Maine; Mabel’s family came to the United States to make money; difficulty of not speaking any English; easier for younger generations to learn English; women’s role in China; employment for women in China.

Text: 19 pp. transcript
Description: 3731 Katya Begitova, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, May 11, 2005, in her home, Trenton, Maine. Katya talks about being born in Moscow; moving to Bar Harbor, Maine in 2000; difficulty of working in Maine without being able to speak English; meeting her husband while working in Maine; being multicultural as a Russian in America; struggles and strategy to learning a new language; meeting other immigrants with similar backgrounds; Russian cooking compared to American; Russian crafts; differences in Russian holidays and dress; generosity of Russian parents; kids in Russia compared to America; diversity in Russia and the United States.

Text: 15 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na3731_cd2510_01 37 minutes
**Description:** 4205 Annia Warner, interviewed by Darlene Metcalf-Bergeron, February 22, 2008, in her house in Bangor, ME. Warner, age 48, talks about her early life in Costa Rica (CR); her family; moving to San José; meeting a Maine family; visiting ME on vacation; meeting her future husband and staying; the scarcity of Costa Rican immigrants; her parents’ reaction to her staying; becoming pregnant; getting married; her husband and two sons; learning English with Mr. Rogers; raising her sons bilingually; differences between CR and the U.S.; standing out in ME; maintaining her foodways and other traditions; adapting to life here; the commercialism of the U.S. Christmas; being away from her CR family; adapting to ME climate; visiting CR; making friends; being viewed as a foreigner; the pros and cons of each country; maintaining her CR identity as a U.S. citizen; and her sons’ national identities.

Text: 23 pp. transcript
Recording: mfc_na4205_c2714_01&02 60 minutes

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