

Oral Histories of the Post-1965 Lives of Asian Americans in Idaho

The Reminiscences of
Lois Liu Naftzger

Asian American Comparative Collection
University of Idaho
2020

PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of recorded interviews with Lois L. Naftzger conducted by Kathy M. Min on July 29, 2020. This interview is part of the Oral Histories of the Post-1965 Lives of Asian Americans in Idaho project, conducted in partnership with the Asian American Comparative Collection.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose. The following transcript has been reviewed, edited, and approved by the narrator.

Transcriptionist	GoTranscript transcript reviewed and edited by Kathy M. Min
Narrator	Lois L. Naftzger
Interviewer	Kathy M. Min
Session Number	1
Location	Virtually through Zoom. Naftzger called from Newbury Park, California, and Min called from Boise, Idaho.
Date	July 29, 2020

00:00:00

Q: Okay, today is July 29, 2020. I'm Kathy Min, the interviewer, and I'm interviewing Lois today. We're calling through Zoom. I'm calling from Boise and Lois is calling from southern California. The subject is going to be an interview about Lois's life for the Asian American oral history project. First question, what's your full name?

Naftzger: Lois Liu Naftzger.

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Q: When and where were you born?

Naftzger: I was born in Taiwan in 1967.

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Q: Where in Taiwan?

Naftzger: Oh, sorry, Taichung.

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Q: Okay, cool. And what is your current occupation/educational background?

Naftzger: I'm the Health and Group Benefits Director for a company called AECOM. I've been with that company for about, well, exactly 15 years in April this year. My educational background is I have a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

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Q: Very cool. And what are the names of your parents?

Naftzger: My parents' names are Martin Liu and Eunice Liu.

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Q: And what do your parents do/what did they do for a living? And what is their educational background?

Naftzger: Okay, so my dad was a pastor. He actually went to school both in Taipei, Taiwan, and in Tokyo, Japan. And then my mom also went to Bible school, I think it's in Hualien in Taiwan, and then she worked as a—I don't know if it's a host or something of a radio show—I think it's the Far East Broadcasting Service. My father passed away 22 years ago now—no, more like 24 years ago. And my mom is still living and she is retired.

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Q: And what years were your parents born?

Naftzger: My mom was born in 1938 and my father was born five years before that, so 1932.

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Q: Do you have any siblings? What are their names? Where are they living? What do they do, if you have siblings?

Naftzger: Sure. I have four siblings. My older sibling's name is John. And he lives in Singapore with his wife. The older sister, the second in the family, is Ruth David, Ruth Liu David. And she lives in Eagle, Idaho. And she's actually a registered nurse—but oh, not Eagle, sorry, Meridian, Idaho. She is currently a Mary Kay beauty consultant and Pampered Chef consultant but she does have a nursing degree. She's a registered nurse and worked at St. Luke's Downtown in Boise. I can't remember for how many years. But that's what she did before she decided to be a stay-at-home mom and then decided to be an independent consultant for two different products, so to speak.

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Naftzger: I have my younger brother. His name is Mark and he is a doctor. And he currently is in Tucson, Arizona, just moved there not too long ago. He's been a Navy doctor for some time and served in the Navy and then worked as a reserve Air Force flight surgeon, but really served in the military for quite some time now. He's the VA—what do they call it? Like, medical director or chief of staff is what they called it at one point. But anyhow, he works for the VA system. Then my younger sister lives in Seattle and she works for the University of Washington doing student development and she has a master's degree in, yeah, student development. And that's it. That's my four siblings.

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Q: Yeah, and maybe describe their personalities a bit to me, like siblings and parents, what they're all like.

Naftzger: Oh, okay. Well, my parents, they're wonderful parents. They taught us a lot and raised us well, I think. My dad, he's a bit boisterous but he's a very charismatic person, gets along well with everybody. And so, he would do a lot of visitations with different people. And everybody just really likes him, because he just is very friendly, outgoing, so that's his personality.

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Naftzger: My mother is more reserved but she's also very caring, so everybody—and you've probably met her—but everybody that meets her always feels good, because she's just friendly and warm and she enjoys meeting people and talking with people. And she's very—sorry, we have a dog so you'll hear the barking from time to time—but my mom's very pleasant, I guess I would say. She's always the more caring person in the family. She never really spanked us. That was my dad's job. My dad's more of the disciplinarian. My mom's more of the caring, nurturing, helping us. She's a remarkable woman. That's all I can say. She really took a lot of care on the children, because my dad had travelled quite a bit, essentially a travelling preacher, so to speak as well. So she's the main person that took care of all the children at home and she's done a really good job, I feel like.

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Naftzger: Then my older brother, he takes after my dad. He's also a pastor and a musician as well. And he writes a lot of music. He actually has a master's degree in music and Christian education and then a master's degree in teaching. I can't remember now exactly, but more like theology, I think. And so he takes after my dad, and very charismatic as well. And everybody really—people who got to know him like him because he's just outgoing also, but he's very talented. Very good voice things, sings, gives concerts and all that.

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Naftzger: And we actually sing together, growing up as a family, as siblings. And we all sing different parts. And I failed to mention my dad also is quite musical. My mom plays the piano too. And he taught us how to sing and we sang together as a choir growing up too, because we all have different parts. I'm a soprano, my sister is alto, my mom's alto—so I guess I should say, I'm first soprano, my sister's second soprano, my mom's alto, my older brother is tenor, my younger brother's baritone, and my dad's bass. And my younger sister came way later—she came 14 years later—so kind of missed out on that growing up singing time. Yeah, so that was a lot of fun. So that's kind of the dynamics of us growing up.

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Naftzger: And then my older sister, Ruth, she is—how should I describe her? She's also very talented, smart. But she's—her Chinese name is Rongmiao. So that's kind of like “wonder,” “miao” is like the wonder part. And she's a little bit mysterious and a little bit—like you can't figure her out, sometimes, that kind of thing. So she's very peculiar in the sense that she's particular. She wants—everything has to be done a certain way, you have to dress a certain way, her clothes are very well preserved growing up. So I'm the one that tries to borrow her clothes and she would say, "No, you dirty them too fast." So that's her.

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Naftzger: Then my younger brother, you know, he's the doctor and he's very, very caring. All his patients love him. They all think highly of him. He has excellent bedside manner. He's just very gentle. And growing up, he's kind of always the cutest child in the family, if you will, and everybody just loves him. He has very good smiles, very kind person, and just very intelligent as well—and you know, going to medical school and all, you have to be, I guess.

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Naftzger: My younger sister, she's the baby of the family, because she arrived much later than everybody. And she was kind of a surprise, that my parents thought they couldn't have any more babies, and here comes Deanne. So she's great. She is very friendly but she'll consider herself to be introvert, although I think people that got to know her think she's an extrovert. She's also very, very strong and somewhat opinionated. So that can [be said of] both of my [sisters] as well, but everybody that knows Deanne, my younger sister, also really loves her and cares for her just because she is very lovable. Is that all?

00:10:38

Q: Yeah, that works, yeah. And then, your parents, they've obviously lived through a lot of history. And so, were they also born in Taiwan?

Naftzger: Yes, yes, both were born in Taiwan. Yup. I think my mom's family emigrated from China, the Canton Province, I believe, because she's Hakka, 客家人 (Kejia ren). So she grew up with a lot of her relatives. She's from a large family—12 siblings—and then her uncle also lived in the same kind of compound. So the Hakka people are very much like cluster people, I guess. You're your family unit, not just your immediate family, but also your uncle, aunts, all that. So she grew up with cousins and siblings, and so they're from generations past—like many, many

generations ago—when the Hakka people moved and emigrated to Taiwan.¹ She's been, I don't know how many generations ago, so long, long time ago.

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Naftzger: Then, my father's side, either his parents or the grandparents, emigrated from Fujian Province in China to Taiwan. So he's not as further back in time, if you will, where the ancestors moved from China to Taiwan. They, yeah, all born in the '30s and raised in Taiwan. And then when I was 10 years old, actually—and that was before my younger sister was born—we all migrated to the Philippines.

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Naftzger: So we were actually in the Philippines for six years before our family—and then that's where my younger sister was born, in the Philippines, in Dumaguete City, where the Silliman University, which is the second-best university in the Philippines. So all of my siblings and I went to Silliman University. They have elementary school, high school, and then college. So my brother, my older brother, graduated from the school of music at Silliman University for his bachelor's.

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Naftzger: And then my sister and I were in high school. My sister actually graduated from high school there. I was short of two months to graduate from high school there, but then we moved to the States in 1984. So, yeah. And then my younger brother and I went to school in Monterey High School. So I went there for—well, we came in February of 1984, and then I went to Monterey High for February, March, April, May, and I graduated in May, from Monterey High School. And then my brother was put as a sophomore there. So, let's see, what was your question—mostly about my parents, right?

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Q: Yeah, yeah, I mean, all the additional information is really interesting too. I kind of want to dwell a little bit more about your family story. So, yes, I think the time period that your parents were born in, I think there's a lot of history that happens with World War Two, the Depression, Japanese occupation, all the stuff going on with mainland China and Taiwan. So have your parents ever told you about what that was like for them growing up with all these different nodes of history?

¹ Hakka people, whose name literally translates to “guests,” originate from the central plains of China. The Hakka diaspora, formed by multiple migrations over the past several centuries, consists of over 100 million people across Taiwan, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and beyond. Hakkas have lived in Taiwan for over 300 years and have developed distinctive, albeit complex and hybridized, Taiwanese Hakka identities. From Lijung Wang, “Diaspora, Identity and Cultural Citizenship: The Hakkas in ‘Multicultural Taiwan’,” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30, no. 5 (2007): 875-895.

Naftzger: Yes, absolutely. So my dad speaks fluent Japanese, or spoke fluent Japanese. Part of the reason is because, you're right, the Japanese occupied Taiwan for 50 years. And my grandparents—my dad's dad and mom, especially my grandfather, my dad's dad—was put in a so-called concentration camp by the Japanese. And I think part of it is because he refused, maybe, to bow down to the Japanese when they came and occupied. And he also owned some land and maybe he refused to give them up, I don't know what happened exactly. But I just know that my dad said that my grandfather was very similar to his personality, gregarious and happy and friendly and outgoing. But then when he was put in the concentration camp by the Japanese, he came out and he was not the same. He was a lot more quiet, more reserved, things like that.

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Naftzger: We weren't as close to them because we didn't really [live near them]—we'd go and visit maybe once a year. [...] So we're kind of very distant. Sometimes they'd come visit us but we're not, again, very close to them. So that's my—so the Japanese rule changed my grandfather, apparently, his personality. And then my dad was very, very close to this other couple, and they're distant cousins is what I understand. They are—so my Ah Ma, I call them Ah Ma, Ah Gong. I have three sets of grandparents, because I have my dad's real parents, biological parents, and then I have these other ones that's really super close to my dad, that eventually actually adopted my dad—because my dad's original last name is Koh [in Taiwanese] or Shiu in Mandarin. And he got adopted, because my adoptive grandparents, their son died when he was a baby. And so they wanted someone to carry the family name, so my dad became their son, if you will, to carry the family name. So that's why our family name now is Liu [Americanized pronunciation], Liu [Mandarin pronunciation], because of the fact that he became somebody else's son to carry their family name, sort of thing. It's very interesting.

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Naftzger: And then my dad, he was a very intelligent man. He was going to go to—and I guess he did attend—Taiwan University in Taipei. And he was kind of there freshman year as a medical student, in their medical school, very hard to get into. And so my grandparents were very proud of him. But apparently, he—and this is all from memory so I don't know exactly if really what I'm saying is accurate, you know—but essentially, he decided his freshman year that he didn't want to be a doctor. He wanted to be a preacher instead. So he left medical school to go to study, become a preacher or a pastor.

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Naftzger: So I have two sets of grandparents. My other set of grandparents, the one that adopted him—my grandmother, I call Ah Ma, she's the best. The best and the kindest and the most loving person I've ever met. And she actually became mother of the year as acknowledged by her community. It's a small rural town and she—I'm sorry, the dog is whining here. No, [unclear]. So she taught me. I'm very, very close to them, because I spent all my summers with them in the

rural town. And she cannot read Chinese because she was educated by the Japanese. So she can only—she speaks Japanese and Taiwanese, and then she can't read Mandarin, the Chinese language, she can't read it. So we have to do the bopomofo thing or the alphabets, actually—the English alphabets—to kind of do the pronunciations for hymns.² We would sing Taiwan hymns in Taiwanese, and then that's how she can read. Yes, anyway, it's very interesting. So she can't read Chinese but she can read the English pronunciations of the words.

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Q: Yeah, definitely. I'll also just say I'm not that familiar with Taiwan history, but I guess my understanding is just like, I would say those decades of the 20th century are some of the most tumultuous times in Taiwan's history.

Naftzger: Yes, well during—not the revolution—but when the communists took over China, General Chiang Kai-shek came over to Taiwan with his army and all that. And my dad was a little bit active in that, because for every—it feels like, okay, the Japanese came and occupied, and then you have the Chinese army came and took over. So it's like another form of occupation, so to speak.

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Naftzger: And so, when you're a kid, you're idealistic about things. And so, anyway. And it's mandatory that you have to serve in the army as well. And my dad with his broken English taught in the Republic of China Army for a brief time or something, to teach people how to speak English. Very, very interesting. And so he has a knack for the languages and whatnot, learning different languages. Since my mom is Hakka, there's a different dialect, right? And he learned the dialect after meeting my mom and is able to speak it, but at the same token, he knows Japanese, he knows English. And he actually taught in the Army. But there was a time of military and there were some rebellious teenagers, idealistic, if you will, and didn't like the Chinese army that came over. And so he got in trouble.

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Naftzger: So yeah, they were tumultuous times for sure in Taiwan history, but at the same token, Taiwan has raised above and took off. I mean, they've become a very strong industrialized nation and not only that, technologically, they have just advanced incredibly fast. And I just remember

² Bopomofo is a form of phoneticization for Chinese characters most commonly used in Taiwan. (Bopomofo is also used for some Indigenous languages in Taiwan.) Unlike pinyin, which uses the Roman alphabet, bopomofo uses the zhuyin fuhao (注音符号) alphabet to represent phonetics. Zhuyin fuhao bears some resemblance to Japanese hiragana and katakana alphabets, which some believe reflects Japan's colonial influence in Taiwan. From Zoe Stephens, "Bopomofo: Using Zhuyin Input on a Taiwanese Keyboard," *LTL Taiwan Mandarin School*, January 16, 2019, <https://ltl-taiwan.com/bopomofo/#chapter-4>.

there were ten things that President Chiang Kai-shek wanted to do and that was, modernize Taiwan and he did most of them.³ So it was pretty impressive.

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Q: Yes, definitely. Is there a reason why your dad was interested in becoming a preacher and why he chose to drop out of medical school to do that?

Naftzger: Yeah, yeah. So he got really sick one time, and he remembered that his parents were Buddhists and they prayed for him to get better, but then he didn't get better until a traveling preacher came, a Christian minister came through town. And he prayed over my dad and my dad got better. At that point, my dad's like, "I want to dedicate my life to minister Christ to others, similar to this preacher." And so he went away because he got accepted to go to med school.

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Naftzger: So he went anyway, but then he felt like his freshman year that he shouldn't become a medical doctor, but instead should be a preacher to honor what he had said to that preacher. That yeah, when he gets better, he does want to dedicate his life to the Lord, and so that's what happened. I mean, not to say that you can't be doing that as a doctor, but he chose the harder life.

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Q: Yeah. Do you know where the traveling preacher was from?

Naftzger: China, I think.

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Q: Oh, interesting. And then—I always forget the questions that I want to ask. Have you ever heard or are there any stories that stand out to you about either your grandparents' generation or your parents' generation that have been passed down to you?

Naftzger: I just have been talking a little bit about my dad's side, but my mom's side is pretty remarkable. She came from a long line of a very successful family, if you will. So my grandfather on my mom's side, he started the first electric company for his city. So everybody knows him. We went back to Taiwan a few years back with my family. My mom gave us a tour of their hometown. It's called Chishang. If anybody asks, it's like everybody knows my grandfather. They know all about him because he was pretty prominent in that city. He was a

³ Chiang Kai-shek was the leader of the Republic of China (first in Mainland China, then in Taiwan after 1949) between 1928 and 1975. Beginning in the 1970s, Chiang Ching-kuo, the son of Chiang Kai-shek and the premier, then president, of Taiwan from 1972 to 1978, launched the "Ten Major Constructions" infrastructure project, developing highways, power plants, harbors, and more to promote Taiwan's modernization and economic growth. From Jiunn-Rong Yeh, "Constitutional Reform and Democratization in Taiwan, 1945-2000," in *Taiwan's Modernization in Global Perspective*, ed. Peter C.Y. Chow (Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2002), 50-51.

hunter even. He goes on hunts and he has hound dogs. That was kind of memorable for me. I just remember us visiting them—and they also have a Komodo dragon in their yard. As a kid, you're like, "Whoa! That's a pretty large lizard."

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Naftzger: So really memorable for me was just that my grandfather's grandfather, I guess—or no, my grandfather's father or grandfather. No, it must be great-great-grandfather—on my mom's side became a Christian first, and then pretty much led the whole family, the whole clan, if you will, to become Christians. So they held different positions, elders and deacons, within the Presbyterian church. So it's kind of interesting. And then my mom had a big family reunion for the Chai family, and it's like you have all these doctors and lawyers and teachers and nurses and pharmacists, and all this. So many of them just are successful and they are all still Christians to this day. A lot of them just remained in the Christian faith and they all come to know the Lord on their own and they stayed. Anyway, sorry for the background noise. I don't know if you can hear them.

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Q: It's pretty small, so you're good. And then, how did your parents meet?

Naftzger: They were actually matchmade. They had a matchmaker. So I told you about the second set of grandparents that adopted my dad when he got older. He was very close to them. Before he got adopted, my grandmother was the one that did the matchmaking, my adopted grandmother. So my adopted Ah Ma, she really also liked my mom a lot. She got to know my mom and then she, of course, loved my dad. She's like, "You guys will be a great match." They corresponded by mail first, but the first time they met in-person, was their engagement party. Then the second time they had a chance to be together was their wedding. That's how they were introduced and matchmade by my adopted grandma.

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Q: Wow. When were they married?

Naftzger: So they must have married in the early 1960s, because—okay, yes, it would be, is it 1962? I want to say 1962, because my brother is five years older than me and then I think they had him right away, like a year after they got married. Yes, there about, yes.

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Q: And you were saying that you spent the first 10 years of your life in Taiwan. I was wondering, maybe could you give me a little summary or just what your impression of life was back then?

Naftzger: Yes. So I was born in Taichung—and that's the southern-middle part of Taiwan—and then when I was a baby, my parents prayed and got this feeling that they need to move to Jilong [Keelung], which is a northern city, northern part of Taiwan. North of Taipei, not too far off Taipei, but it's a fishery town, if you will. Lots of fishermen there and it's right by the tip of Taiwan, so the ocean is very close, but it's a rainy city as well. But they felt like the Lord wanted to lead them there to preach the gospel there to that city. So we all moved to Jilong when I was a baby, like I said.

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Naftzger: I remember we were pretty poor in a sense, in the beginning. And then more and more people came to the Lord, and then my dad planted the church in Jilong and then they were able to have sufficient funds to build a meeting place, a church building. And so we were in the—it's a four-story building. From the hillside, you can see from one side of the hill, which is on the side of the hill, you can see four stories. On the other side, that place you have to drive up. On the other side, it's two-story. We live in the top story. If you look at it from the hillside, I'll put it that way, the main level from the top side is the meeting church building, church meeting place. If you look at the other side, it's the third floor. There's a third story that is.

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Naftzger: The bottom stories, we would always have guests staying with us and so there's guest quarters. Then there was a recreation room, but all of us lived in the top floor. Then we have a balcony. I just remember, in the summertime, the upper balcony was all flat. We would go sit out there and just enjoy the moon and enjoy eating fresh fruit. Our family was pretty close growing up with me and my three siblings. Then, of course, enter the Philippines where we added the fifth child. But what else is fun about Taiwan?

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Naftzger: So I grew up talking in Taiwanese at home. Then when we went to school, all of us, We were school age—maybe, what is it? First grade—was when we started learning Mandarin. That's the language that we learned. But my mom started a kindergarten school in the church building facility. So that was the lower second floor, not the bottom one, but the bottom part of the second floor from the other side. She would teach and I think I was probably one of the first graduating kindergarteners from that school. Lots of fun memories. It's just nice.

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Naftzger: Then, like I said, in the summer, we would go visit my grandparents. We would go to the river and catch whatever we can catch, a fish or whatever that might be. Lots of playmates growing up. I remember roaming the hills a lot and then going to the ocean or the beach. Pleasant carefree days, you know. And then when I was in fourth grade, was when we all left Taiwan, the whole family.

00:31:20

Q: Why did your family end up moving from Taiwan?

Naftzger: Yeah, so my dad, he's known as a good speaker. He gets invited to different parts of Asia. He would travel to—even before Vietnam became a communist country, he actually went to preach there. And so he would go to Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines. And there's a lot of Chinese people in those Asia-Pacific countries. So he went to preach in the Philippines, and was invited to go. And one of the churches there was looking for a pastor. And they liked my dad so they invited my dad to become their pastor. And that's how we left Taiwan.

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Q: Yeah, and then, remind me how long you were in the Philippines for?

Naftzger: Six years. Yeah, we left in 1978, and then we left in 1984.

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Q: And sort of a similar question as earlier, but tell me a little bit about life in the Philippines.

Naftzger: It's kind of like my formative years, right? Because I became a teenager there and I learned a lot. It's kind of that development of your brain and all that happened there. Love the Philippines. We first got there in the summer of 1978. My younger brother and I went to Dumaguete first. We were in Quezon City, which is very close to Manila, so in the island called Luzon. The Philippines is an archipelago country. There's over 7,000 islands or something for that country. Then the first part is Luzon, the middle part is Visayas, and the bottom part is Mindanao.

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Naftzger: So the church that my dad was going to pastor is in the middle part and it's called Visayas and the town is called Dumaguete, or the city. The Dumaguete Christian Church is the name of the church that my dad went to pastor. We were in Quezon City for—I don't know why—but we were there for two, three months first. I think there were some other paperwork that had to be done. So my younger brother and I were the ones that went with my parents to Dumaguete at first and then my older siblings followed later.

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Naftzger: So I remember we got a lot of attention. They were very kind people. They really took us in. My parents had tutors for us so that we could learn English. So we had to learn English and Bisayan, which is the local dialect at the time, and then Tagalog is the national language for the Philippines. So we had to learn a lot of languages all at the same time. And then in the Philippines, most of the Chinese there speak Amoy, which is similar to Taiwanese but not 100

percent similar. So there are some words that are very different. So we also had to learn Amoy. So it's kind of like four languages at the same time to learn. We had tutors and then we eventually went to school.

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Naftzger: But we were placed in the first and second, all my siblings—my younger brother, my older sister, and I—were placed with the second graders to learn English. It's an English-taught university, Silliman University. Like I said, they had elementary school, high school and college. So we were placed there first and then we had exams administered to us, like, I guess, psychological exam as well, and reasoning, and some other—I just remember it's a psychologist that administered the tests. And then she placed us into where we need to be. So eventually, my sister was placed into seventh grade and I was placed into sixth grade. Then my younger brother was put into fifth or fourth grade.

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Naftzger: Yeah. So it's very interesting times. But we learned everything. I remember going to Christian camps with our church groups. That was very memorable and that's actually where I got saved. Even though I grew up in a Christian home, I remember my counselor asking me, "So, are you a Christian?" I said, "Well, yeah, I grew up in a Christian home." But then she kept saying, "But are you a Christian?" And so eventually, I'm thinking, "Wait, am I Christian?" So in one of the Christian camp meetings, the speaker said, "If you want to accept the Lord as your personal savior, you can come forward." I just remember there was such a peace that came over me when I made that decision for myself that I want to be a Christian for myself and I wanted to accept the Lord Jesus as my personal savior. I just remember there was such an overwhelming sense of peace that came over me.

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Naftzger: So that's—in the Philippines. The Philippines is such a sweet, precious place to me, because of that as well. And then, Baguio City is another city that we really treasure because that's where the camps were. It's in Luzon and it's [in the] mountains and cooler and very nice and pleasant. And then, of course, my baby sister came, that was very memorable. She was born in 19, what is it? 1982 or 1980. Yeah, 1982, because when we came to the States, she was about two years old.

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Q: Yeah, that's also interesting. What languages did your dad preach in?

Naftzger: Mostly in Chinese and Taiwanese or Amoy. Yes, and then there's a translator who translates.

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Q: And do you remember the move? What it was like for you just moving from Taiwan to the Philippines? Was it difficult or did you feel you settled in pretty easily?

Naftzger: You know, we were all very adventurous, I feel like. My siblings and us and my parents. I mean, maybe it's the way they pumped it up for us, maybe. I don't know, but we all were feeling excited to go for a new adventure, going to the Philippines. So we were very excited to go.

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Naftzger: And when we got to the Philippines, it was hard because there was a language barrier and we're all trying to learn things at the same time. But you know, kids are resilient and you learn to adapt. And that was the biggest thing that I think my parents taught us well, was that you adapt. You go to a new place, you learn their culture, and you live the way they do. So for us, even though it was hard, but it was also easy. Just give me a moment. Our dog is whining.

00:38:40

Q: Yeah, I can pause the recording.

[INTERRUPTION]

00:38:45

Q: So we were talking about you adapting to life in the Philippines, is where we left off. Is there anything else you wanted to add to that?

Naftzger: I don't think so. I think, overall, the Filipinos are very friendly and welcoming. At least the place that we went to, the city is called the City of Gentle People.⁴ And I just have developed so many good friendships there. So I think adaptability is one thing that I think my whole family—key thing for us, a skill that we've developed, I guess. So that was really helpful.

00:39:24

Q: Yeah. And then, maybe we can move forward to the journey from the Philippines to the US. What was the reason behind that?

Naftzger: Yeah, and let me kind of go back a little bit to the Philippines. My older sister and I got to—my parents' wisdom—was put in a home with an American family to learn English. So that really helped us a lot. And then in that timeframe, we developed excellent relationships with the family, because that family that had us over and stayed with to learn English, they have four girls

⁴ The website of Dumaguete even declares itself the “City of Gentle People.” From “Dumaguete – The City of Gentle People,” *dumaguete.com*, accessed January 7, 2021.

about the same age as my sister and I. And so to this day, we remain very close. So that's another thing about the Philippines that we really treasure. So a very positive outcome from that.

00:40:18

Naftzger: My parents, similar again, I think my dad was invited to come to the US to speak, because he was well-known and there's a large Chinese population in the Bay Area. So he came and became a pastor at the Chinese Baptist Church in Salinas, California. That's northern California. He came first and then the pastor of that English-speaking side knows the then-congressman of California, Leon Panetta. And Leon Panetta became the CIA Director and eventually Secretary of State—I think he was the Secretary of State under, is it Obama administration?⁵ I think so.

00:41:13

Naftzger: But anyhow. So he, at the time, as a California congressman, sponsored my family to immigrate here to the US. So in 1984, my whole family then immigrated, even though my dad had been in the States already, and then the rest of the family immigrated. No, he came back to the Philippines to take us and then we all came then together here to the United States in San Francisco.

00:41:48

Naftzger: So in 1984, when we arrived, we were welcomed by President Ronald Reagan's picture. You know how President Reagan has such a beautiful smile, just a good smiler. And his picture is right there prominently displayed. And so I remember coming through the customs and I'm like, "Whoa, what a nice president!" Picture of the president anyway. Then my first impression was there were a lot of African Americans and I was in awe of them because they're so tall. They're tall and large and I just like, "Wow." You just see so many of them at the San Francisco International Airport. So we were sponsored by Leon Panetta and we were in the Bay Area for, let's see. So for me personally, I was only there for February to August, because after I graduated from Monterey High, I applied to go to different universities.

00:42:58

Naftzger: I got accepted to UC Santa Cruz but then I decided after visiting there, I'm like, I'm not going to go there. It seems too radical. There were people that were topless sunbathing and beer bottles on the windowsills. I just felt like, "Oh, I don't think I like to come here." And my dad took me there to visit. And so my dad says, "Well, why don't you apply to some Christian schools?" And so I went back to the high school, the career counseling center, and I asked the counselor there, and said, "Are there any Christian colleges nearby, near Monterey where my

⁵ Leon Panetta served in the US House of Representatives between 1977 to 1993 for California's then-16th district. He served as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (2009-11) and secretary of defense (2011-13) under the administration of President Barack Obama. From Encyclopædia Britannica, "Leon Panetta," June 24, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leon-Panetta>.

family lives?" They said, "Oh, yes." Then the counselor says, "I would recommend two places. I would recommend you go to either Westmont College in Santa Barbara or go to Biola in Los Angeles." I said, "Well, which place is closer?" I mean, I had no clue. I just came to this country. I don't know the geography, and I don't know where is where. So she said, "Yeah, I would recommend you go to Westmont."

00:44:04

Naftzger: So I applied to Westmont and got accepted and the rest is history. I graduated there four years later. So '88, I graduated, and it was in '86—or no. Or '85. Fall of '85 is when I met my husband. He transferred in as a junior. He had gone to UCSB and decided to come to Westmont. And so that's where I met him and we courted for about two and half years before we got married.

00:44:38

Q: Wow. Yeah, that's all so interesting and cool to hear about. Some similar questions, and I know you said you've been very adaptable in the past, but I'm wondering what it was like settling into the US, which is, again, another culture and place.

Naftzger: Yeah. It was very different, because the schools that we went to in the Philippines were private schools. So coming to the US, Monterey High Public School, it was eye-opening. I felt very out of place. And I remember just going into the girls bathroom and there's all these young girls smoking and putting on makeup. Then in the hallways, you see couples kissing. Just like public display of affection is not something I see coming from Asian culture and Asian countries. So that was a shocker. And people doing drugs was also a shocker to me. I'd never seen that.

00:45:47

Naftzger: But I didn't feel out of place, either, though. I felt, how do I put it? Even though I didn't feel comfortable and it's a new culture to me, I just feel like, "Okay, I need to adapt. This is the place where God placed me and I just need to go through my academics and get that finished, my high school, and then go on to college." I just didn't feel like I was discriminated against or anything like that, and maybe because it is a pretty diverse place.

00:46:36

Naftzger: I just remember I was put in classes with honor students. Like in my math analysis class, I had people that were—and I was invited to go to the scholarship or the honors celebration night or something, somehow, because I applied to all kinds of scholarships and I got some. But when I went there, nobody knew who I was because I was so new. My classmates that were in that math analysis class were the top 10 students of Monterey High. So they were all in front and I'm like, "Oh, I know all of them." But just because they were all in my class. And they were all very kind to me. There were Japanese, Korean, a few Caucasians, one African American, and

they're all very nice. It was diverse enough, I guess, that there was no—I didn't feel like they were looking at me any different. They just don't know me, but they weren't that unwelcoming either. I didn't feel that whatsoever. So that was good.

00:47:43

Q: Yeah, definitely. And then, you said you were in Salinas, California, is where you were, I think?

Naftzger: We actually lived in Monterey, which is one town over, but the church my dad pastored was in Salinas.

00:47:57

Q: I see. And what was your neighborhood and your house like in Monterey?

Naftzger: Oh Monterey, it's a very small house. We were so poor. We didn't have much income at all. There was no washer and dryer, so my mom actually washed the clothes in the bathtub. My sister didn't go straight away to college. My mom and my sister had to get house-cleaning jobs so that we can get bills paid and all that stuff. It's only a two-bedroom house. So we were a very large family really and yet, small quarters. So some of us slept in the living room. It was a very humble beginning. Very humble beginnings. But the neighborhood, it's older houses nearby, but it's very close to a bus stop so that my brother and I can go to high school and take the bus. I think my parents strategically rented that location, that house. And Monterey is not too small a town, but it's a nice town, really. So it was good.

00:49:15

Q: Yeah. And did you and your other family members ever become US citizens?

Naftzger: Yes, we did. Yeah. So five years after—we came in because we were immigrants, we held green cards. And then we all were issued social security cards and green card, so we were all able to work. And then five years after you held a green card, is when you're able to apply for citizenship. So my parents actually applied first. They took their citizenship exam and became US citizens first. And we were so proud of them, because they were still learning English. I mean, my dad's English was better than my mom's, but my mom still did it. So we were so proud of them. Then I can't remember who got it next, but my siblings all eventually got it. I got mine in 1980. No, I got mine in 1992 and that was a special moment. You study for the exam, and then you do the oral interview, and when you pass you're like, "Yay." Then I became a naturalized citizen then, yeah, so it was good.

00:50:31

Q: Then tell me a little bit of what life in college was like. You said that's where you met your husband and it's also, you were studying sociology. And so yeah, I was wondering a little bit of what was like for you.

Naftzger: No, it was good. My freshman year, I think was the hardest because I was still new in this country. And I was getting to know people and becoming a college student. First time away from home. It was the hardest year. I think also the best growth happened during that year. The Lord put a wonderful roommate for me, my freshman year roommate, her name is Susie Hallberg, and now she's Susie Hicks. But anyway, she was just God-sent. She was very understanding. She knew that I was an international student, so to speak, because I had just come here from the Philippines. She was just very understanding, tolerant, very kind, and she's also very smart. She was a math major. And a dear Christian believer as well. And her whole family was great. I got to meet her then-boyfriend [now husband], who went to San Luis Obispo Cal Poly while she was at Westmont.

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Naftzger: So my freshman year was difficult but good in a sense. And then I always enjoyed singing, so I was in choir for the majority part of my college career. I started out to be dual major. I still remember this one professor in music. So it was music and pre-med, I was hoping to do that. Of course, after I took human physiology anatomy, I'm like, "Oh my gosh, this is too hard." And then I was taking that class and music composition at the same time. And then I was also getting private lessons on piano. So I had to spend so much time doing music lab and also the human physiology anatomy lab. Between all of that, that was like, all I can do was the labs, being in the piano room practicing. It was like, I'm going, "Wait, why am I doing this? I don't want to kill myself here."

00:53:03

Naftzger: So eventually, I'm like, "Okay, I don't think that those majors are for me. I can minor in them if I want to, but I don't think I want to." So I did a lot of music courses, but I ended up getting more interested in sociology. I took introduction to sociology class, and then I was just like, "Wow, this is so interesting. I want to do this. I want to study this." And that's what happened. Then I became a resident assistant my sophomore year—no, my junior year rather.

00:53:34

Naftzger: Actually, my sophomore year was really fun, because that's when I met my husband. And then I had two roommates and both of them were of mixed racial background. Let's see. My sophomore year's first semester, it was Debbie Katekaru and she's half-Japanese and half-English. I had her as my roommate. No, that was my second-semester roommate. Anyway, and then my first-semester roommate as a sophomore was Faye Fong and Faye is half-Chinese. Her father's Chinese from China—and I'm trying to think here—no, he was born in

Chinatown actually, but his family came over from China. And I want to say actually more like Hong Kong, but anyhow. He became a Christian and went to a Christian school, and then went to Iran to be a missionary and met his wife who happens to be Armenian. So he got married and they moved back to the States and then Fay was born in Ohio. So anyway—so Faye is also extremely intelligent, very talented. So she became my roommate and it was a fun year because she loves to laugh. She's a giggly person. She eventually, though, decided that she wanted to transfer out to go to Berkeley, because her parents were in Berkeley and she has an elderly grandma that lives with her parents. So she wanted to be closer to family, so she actually transferred to UC Berkeley.

00:55:11

Naftzger: And then my sophomore year, second-semester roommate was Debbie Katekaru and her father is a Japanese professor or Japanese American who taught at San Luis Obispo as a chemistry professor, I think. And then her mom was a dietician, but from England. So I remember her mom would make nice rolled oats, granola type of stuff to share with us. Anyway, I felt like the Lord prepared me to have kids that are biracial, because my roommates my [sophomore] year, both were biracial. Anyway, I really enjoyed that.

00:55:56

Naftzger: So then my third-year in college, I became a resident assistant. I also was the vice-president for choir. That was a fun year, but at the same time was also a hard year because you're responsible for a lot of the students in my section. And we have one very difficult mental health case that happened while I was the resident assistant, so that was hard to deal with a little bit. And I had to talk with the school psychologist, and then my resident director, and then eventually she moved out. Her parents came to get her at school. And so that was hard because I felt like it had a huge impact to the rest of my section. So all my girls are impacted by that. So that was another growth experience.

00:56:44

Naftzger: And then my senior year, I lived off-campus. One of our assistant chaplain's home, they rent out their basement to some college students. So I rented one of the rooms and, kind of the upperclassman, get my own place. My last semester, I decided part into it to get back to campus so I can be closer to everything on campus and not miss out on the campus experience. Then I graduated in May—eighth of 1988.

00:57:23

Q: That's also cool. I think also just because I'm going through my college journey, so it's fun to think about. Tell me a little bit about what happened in life after college?

Naftzger: Oh, one thing that I thought you would find interesting. Sorry, just going back to the college, because I was in choir most of the time and every summer we'd do choir tours. So the first summer we went to the Midwest and we sang in many different Christian churches, Christian schools. And one of the schools we went to was in Iowa. Now, mind you, in the Midwest at that time in the '80s, it's all very white. There's hardly any Asians. Then in choir also, because it's a private Christian school, majority of the people are Caucasians. There's a few African Americans, but majority are Caucasians and probably five Asians.

00:58:26

Naftzger: I was the only Asian in choir and then we had two African Americans in choir. And so we did the tour and we got to this place, a private Christian school in Iowa. And the class is—I mean, they're all Caucasians and the kids have never seen an Asian. Have never seen an Asian before. So what happened after the choir sang, the kids were supposed—their parents gave them extra lunch so that they can share with a choir person—so after we sang, all these kids came toward me and they all want me to go to their classroom and eat with them. And they're all like touching my hair, because they're all blonde hair kids there and blue eyes. They'll touch my hair and kind of go, "Oh, whoa, can you come to my classroom?" It's just the funniest thing. So I had a picture taken with all these kids surrounding me that are blonde hair, blue-eyed kids, and they all wanting me. It was really cute, I thought. So that was a fun little experience in college too.

00:59:34

Naftzger: So after college, I didn't know really what to do. So I went back to the Bay Area. My parents then at that time were living in Santa Clara. So they moved further north from Salinas, Monterey, to Santa Clara, San Jose area. So I started applying to go to get a job. And I actually applied to HP, where your mom works. I tried to get into an entry-level and I couldn't get in. So what I did was I worked at temp jobs, and in the meantime, my husband decided to propose at that time—so [my last year in] college, he was actually at a Bible school in Wisconsin. He had finished college. He graduated a year before I did with an economics and business degree. Then that summer in 1988, he came to visit me, and then his mom urged him to propose to me. He proposed, I accepted, and we got married that year as well, 1988.

01:00:49

Naftzger: We had a short engagement, seven weeks only, but while we were in that engagement period in that whole summer, I worked temp jobs. I actually worked at Siemens and Applied Materials, all the prominent tech companies in the area, and fill-in whatever I could as a temp, doing mostly administrative work. Then after that, after John and I got married—we got married actually here in this town we live in now. So it's funny how things circled back. So after we got married, we moved to Wisconsin and finished up Bible school there for a couple of years. The most cold in the winter and hot and humid in the summer. The only nice time is during the spring

and the fall, but it's a nice four-seasons place. You experience that in New York, I'm sure. Or not New York. Yale is in?

01:01:54

Q: New Haven.

Naftzger: [New] Haven, yes, yes, yeah. Anyhow. Then, after we finished Bible school, we came back to the Bay Area, and then both my husband and I got decent jobs. And we had some college loans to pay off. So we were able to put money away each month and pay off all of our student debts within a year. That worked out really nice. I worked in the semiconductor industry as a data administrator for them for a year there in Milpitas. Then my husband worked for 3Com. I don't know—they're the first company that developed fiber optics and then the e-mail was first thing that came out there in the early '90s.

01:02:44

Naftzger: Those were fun times. We were there for a year and a half. That's where our son was born, in Mountain View, California, at El Camino Hospital, in 1990. Yeah, 1990. Yeah, that's right, yup. Then we went from there to Oregon. We were in Baker City, Oregon, which is again, predominantly a white area. We finished what we call—it's a missionary training place and they call it boot camp because you have to do everything from scratch. You can't have a microwave. You can't have washer-dryer, or washer, or anything. You have a wringer washer because they're trying to train you for jungle missions and that's actually where we were heading. My husband wanted to go to Papua New Guinea. So we were there for a year and then it was there that my husband felt led by the Lord to step out and go to Boise. So we ended up in Boise, Idaho, and we ended up being there from 1991 to 2014, about 22 years there, about. That's where our daughter Katie Naftzger was born, Katie Joy. Yeah.

01:04:08

Q: What year?

Naftzger: At St. Luke's in 1995.

01:04:14

Q: Wow, I'm trying to think of what follow-up I want to ask. Before I move into life in Boise, I was wondering what language do you consider under your belt since you've had such a multilingual upbringing?

Naftzger: Yes. Taiwanese, which is similar to Amoy but not exactly, and then Mandarin and then English, Tagalog, Bisayan. I guess if you count Amoy, this is a little bit different dialect, that will be six. Yeah. Not very fluent in the Filipino dialects languages anymore, because it's a

use-it-or-lose-it. I can still understand some phrases and some words, but I don't think I can speak it. I can understand some, but I don't speak.

01:05:12

Q: Yeah. And then maybe we can just keep moving through your life, so tell me a little bit about what life in Boise was like for you.

Naftzger: I love Boise. When we moved there, Tim was 18 months—our son was 18 months old. And he definitely got a lot of attention. He just grew up there. He is so cute to see. I just remember even though—well, I'll back up a little bit. When my husband said, "Let's move to Idaho," and I had heard about the skinheads. And I thought, "Wait a minute, aren't they like the Aryan Nation people and they just don't like any other race but their race? You're going to take me there? What if I get discriminated against?" That was my first initial thought.

01:06:11

Naftzger: But then when we finally moved there, I didn't have any sense of that at all. Even though there were few Asians around at that time, but I felt, again, I wasn't discriminated against. I never felt like anybody looked at me different just because I'm Asian. Actually, there is one situation where this one cashier at the grocery store asked me, "Are you Japanese?" That kind of thing where I'm like, "Well, no." I'm like, "Why do I have to tell you my race, in a way?" I just said, "Well, Asian American." She goes, "What's your heritage?" So then I said, "I'm from Taiwan originally, [and also] from the Philippines." It's just funny that people do wonder, "Okay, you're different. What's your background?" That kind of thing.

01:07:04

Naftzger: But I've never really felt treated terribly or differently or anything like that. Maybe it's the group of people I surround myself with, perhaps, I don't know. Then there was a Chinese school actually, believe it or not. When my son was young, about five years old, I sent him to the Chinese school every Saturday. He learned how to read and write a little bit, but then he has assignments that he had to do, but it's hard to get him to finish them. Eventually, I gave up and he didn't want to go. Like agh, okay. So there were a few Chinese people that we've got to know in the community. Not very many at that time, but they were, our experiences, it's all really positive. Five years later, after Tim was born is when Katie was born. And I think they identify themselves more Caucasian, more white, than Asian. But in school, what's interesting is that people do look at them a little different, like, "What are you exactly? We can't quite figure out." But they never come home and say, "I got treated wrong." And they're both pretty smart. And they both have a good set of friends that they hang out with, so I guess that helps.

01:08:42

Naftzger: And I got a job at the Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in their HR Department. So I worked, first, in the employment side and then I moved over to compensation

and benefits within HR. And that was a wonderful opportunity and good experience. In the meantime, my husband went to nursing school at Boise State and got his second degree and then became a registered nurse working at the hospital at first, at Saint Alphonsus of all places. Then went into specializing in dialysis. So he's a dialysis nurse. Lots of growing experiences there. Professionally, I grew a lot and I studied for [many] of the certifications in human resources management. I have seven certifications. All are very difficult to obtain because you have to pass exams and some of them you have to take lots of classes. I was afforded opportunities by the company. The company actually paid for all of those certifications in education. So I probably took a total of about 25 different classes and passed all of those exams to get all my various certifications.

01:10:03

Naftzger: So I worked at Saint Alphonsus for six to almost seven years and then I went from there to Jabil Circuit, which is a company based in Tampa, Florida—St. Petersburg, really to be exact. They opened up a factory. They actually bought parts of the HP formatters factory where they make the printers and all that, the circuit boards for the printers. So Jabil bought that part out and then I went to become their compensation and benefits person and then got promoted to become a manager. And it's from there that they provided me a lot of opportunities to get my certifications. Got my Certified Compensation Professionals certification and my Certified Benefits Professional certification, and then eventually my Global Remuneration Professional certification through WorldatWork.

01:11:02

Naftzger: So I was there for about five years and then they closed down the plant, because it was after 9/11 and all the—you know, the economy tanked a little bit. They moved the formatter, the factory part, manufacturing part of it, of the circuit boards, over to Malaysia, China, and Mexico. We had to lay off everybody, close the plant. And then I was able to find a job pretty quickly, thank the Lord, because at first, we were thinking, "Okay, should we look at every state? Where should we look?" Because John pretty much can go anywhere with his nursing degree and mine is more specialized. So what should we do?

01:11:49

Naftzger: And I was offered a job in Cottage Hospital here in Santa Barbara, close to us now. But I was thinking, "It's so expensive in California and I don't think we can afford." And so, I had another job interview in Boise. Anyway, I got a job as HR manager for Carlson Leisure Travel, which is not in existence anymore, but for a couple of years, I was their HR manager there. I was very active as well in the community with the professional organizations. I was involved with HRATV [Human Resources Association of Treasure Valley] and also with SICBA, which is the Southern Idaho Compensation & Benefits Association. And I served as the president for a couple of years for that association. So it's really nice.

01:12:35

Naftzger: I mean, I developed a lot holistically as a person in my HR profession, but also motherhood, because I became a mother to two children and they're just a joy to raise. I mean, there's a lot of pain too in disciplining your children, raising them, but at the same token, there's a lot of joy in it. So I matured as a person holistically.

01:13:02

Naftzger: And, let's see. From Jabil to Carlson Leisure and then from Carlson Leisure Travel Services, I was hired at Washington Group International as their benefits manager. Then Washington Group, the company prior to them becoming Washington Group was Morrison-Knudsen. I don't know if you've heard of that, MK. [Min shakes head no.] Okay, they were pretty large and very prominent in its days. It's the leading company that built the Hoover Dam. There is a seven-company group that came together to build the Hoover Dam and Morrison-Knudsen was the leading company that managed the whole project. It was a pretty big deal. Then, unfortunately, it went through some downturn, had some bankruptcy happened.

01:13:55

Naftzger: And then Dennis Washington—who is from Montana was mentored by Mr. Knudsen—then he came and rescued the company in a way. Then the company bear his name, Washington Group International was the company. It raised out of the ashes so to speak and became public as well. Then it acquired other companies, but then in—I can't remember which year it was—but URS, the company that is based in San Francisco, an engineering construction firm as well, bought out Washington Group.

01:14:33

Naftzger: So my company there got acquired and it was based in San Francisco by URS. We went through a merger acquisition type of deal. We doubled their size and then probably only two years, two or three years later, or maybe, yes—AECOM, a company based in Los Angeles bought out URS and doubled their size. So the company I worked for originally in Boise got bought out twice. Now I've been with the company (all these legacy companies now) total of 15 years. And I continue to grow in my career, got promoted from manager to senior manager to director.

01:15:22

Q: Wow, that's all so cool. I have quite a few follow-ups. So first, you mentioned having some stereotypes and misperceptions about Idaho, and I was wondering, do you know where those came from? Was there a news story or something at the time?

Naftzger: Exactly, yes, there were news stories and people think Idaho is predominately white. There was a story about skinheads and they had a protest or parade or something of the sort going on.⁶ And then we had some friends that were from northern Idaho and they would tell us stories that there's no Asians, no diversity whatsoever in those towns. Of course, Boise [is in the] southeast, you know, of Idaho. We're like, "Oh, well, jeez. We're not in the northern part of Idaho so we're okay."

01:16:24

Q: Then you also talked about—first, I'm aware that your family has come to Boise over the years. Were you the first, and if so, how did everyone else get there?

Naftzger: Very good, yeah, good question. We first arrived in Boise for, let's see, it was 1991. Then my older sister had just finished her industrial psychology degree from San Jose State. She's older than me but it took her seven years to finish college. And she adores my son. She absolutely loves Tim. He went by Timmy at that time and she just loves Timmy. So she called me and she said she's thinking about going to nursing school and one of the schools she's looking at was either Boise State or I think a school in Oregon. I said, "Well, why don't you come here? You have family. Why don't you just come?"

01:17:32

Naftzger: She moved, got accepted to Boise State, and then moved to Boise to go to school there. Eventually, of course, she met her husband at Boise State. And so they stayed, but she definitely came to Idaho because of us. Again, adaptability is key for our whole family. We all adapt to Boise. Love the town. I love the city of Boise. It's just a great place to raise kids. She came, then established her roots after she met her husband. Again, they're also a biracial family. You have her marrying an international student from Malaysia of Indian descent. Their kids are very exotic-looking, very cute kids.

01:18:22

Naftzger: Then my in-laws, when they retired, they also came to Idaho, to Boise. They basically helped raise our kids when they were young so that I can continue my career development and growth also. Because they really helped watch them and take care of them, so I can do my work and not feel so guilty that I'm not with my kids. So that's the two family units that came to be and had the Boise history so to speak and lived there for a while, is because my husband and I moved there first.

⁶ Richard Butler founded the Aryan Nations in Hayden Lake, Idaho, in 1977. The violent actions of the Order, an offshoot of the Aryan Nations, became "Idaho's Bull Connor"; extensive national news coverage during the 1980s and 1990s of the Order's killings, bombings, counterfeiting, and robberies across the Mountain West gave Idaho a "national reputation for racism." From Jill K. Gill, "Idaho's 'Aryan' Education: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day and Racial Politics," *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 102, no. 4 (Fall 2011): 159-163.

01:19:00

Naftzger: And then my mom came too. My mom, eventually, after she lived with my brother and his family in Washington—and when my brother was deployed to Okinawa and be the Navy doctor there, my mom didn't want to go to Okinawa. So she moved to Boise and was in an apartment, Carriage Crossing, I think? Was it Carriage crossing? Yes, the one in Southeast Boise, very close on Apple Street and Boise Avenue. And she—very close to us at that time, but she had her own place, which is great that she wanted to have some independent living for herself. That was really good for her, but she was close enough to us, so if she needs anything we can just go over. I think she was in that apartment for three, four years or so.

01:19:50

Naftzger: Then Ruth's first house that they have built, they decided to build another place in Meridian. They asked if my mom can live in that house for her, and then there was another roommate that my mom had. That's kind of how it all came to be. And then we're like, "Uh oh." After the kids all graduated and Katie went to UCLA, we became empty nesters and that's when my husband's like, "Hm. I think we can go other places now that we've been in Boise for 22 years." And they also had really bad allergies, unfortunately, both my son and my husband. Terrible allergies to cottonwood trees in Boise, along the Boise River. Anything like the grass there somehow also has this stuff that they are allergic to. So my husband said, "Yes, let's move," and he felt to go to Hawai'i. That's why we left in 2014.

01:20:56

Q: Yeah. A follow-up I have with something earlier you stated as well was that, I think when you came to Boise in '91, there just weren't that many Chinese or Asian families. So I was wondering, do you know the number? Could you count the families on your hand? And yeah, what the community was like then.

Naftzger: Yeah. So I remember Panda's Restaurant was one on Boise Avenue. It's now the Sage International School building but there was that Chinese restaurant. The owner was so friendly, and that's where we had the Chinese school too actually on Saturdays. That's one family. I guess him and his wife and I think they had two kids. Then there was a family from Taiwan and then there were a few engineers that worked at Micron. So yeah, it was very few. I didn't know if there were any in HP. I'm sure, there were—oh yeah, I'm sure there were, but we weren't familiar with those. We were mainly in Southeast Boise. Yeah, we could probably count on our hands, maybe 10 families. Or less. So there weren't that many at all, until Micron imported, if you will, more Asians to work at Micron. That's probably not the right word, but they sponsored to have more Asians to come over and work at Micron. And then HP also had more people come and work there of Asian descent. So yeah, very few.

01:22:48

Q: Yeah. I'm wondering also about that change over time. So do you know around what years that was, and also since you've been in Boise so long, how the Asian community or Chinese community transformed that you observed?

Naftzger: Yeah, no, that's a good question. So 1991, '92, not very many. And I almost feel like it was '95 that we started having more people. And then actually in probably 2000s is when we started seeing more Indian families too, and they were placed in townhomes close by us. And so we'll see a lot of the Indian engineers that just take walks at night or after work around, again, that southeast Boise neighborhood. Yes, I think it's around early 2000 and then to maybe 2010, it just seems like there were a lot more Asians that immigrated to or migrated—I should say, not immigrated—but migrated to Idaho. And possibly from other parts of the country, of the United States too. Maybe they finished school at other universities and then were offered opportunities to come to Micron or HP.

01:24:13

Q: Yeah. And then you've also talked a lot about you being in an interracial relationship, your sister as well. And so I'm wondering, obviously, it's hard to summarize a marriage, but maybe what challenges either you've encountered being in an interracial relationship or things you've learned along the way?

Naftzger: Yeah, that's a good question. I think—okay, you'll find this interesting. When I met my husband in college, I told him that when he started to ask me to go out with him, I asked him, I said, "Are you dating me just because I'm Asian, or are you dating me because of my personality and who I am as a person? Not as an Asian woman?" He told me, "No, I don't. It's not because you're Asian I'm dating you. It's because of who you are, how you came across." He thinks I'm a very nice person and have a nice smile and cute personality. So that's why he was dating me. It wasn't because I'm Asian.

01:25:21

Naftzger: Because I told him, I said, "If you're dating me because I'm Asian, then I don't want to date you anymore." That, to me, was like race doesn't define us per se. I feel like it's the person holistically. I don't feel like we should—and maybe because of my belief that I felt like we're all created equal, no matter what race you are. I'm not any special than someone else who's non-Asian. So that's what I believe in. We started our relationship knowing that it wasn't because of our race, it wasn't because of my race that he wanted to get to know me.

01:26:04

Naftzger: But of course, because I grew up in Asian culture, I have that inherent culture and that makes up who I am. So when we first got to know each other, of course, there's—it's not a clash. It's more like learning from each other. I mentioned about adaptability being very important and

being able to adapt. My dad, he's a perfect example. When we came to the States, he's very Asian. He likes his rice. He likes his Chinese food. He doesn't like the American food. He doesn't like Mexican food. But when he's with certain people, he behaves like them. He adapts and do what they do. So when we're with American families and they're eating pot roast or something, whatever it might be, he would eat the way they do. And I would observe him and he would adapt into the way that they do things. So we learned that and we're like, "Oh yeah, we just adapt," and learn to enjoy the things that are put in front of us.

01:27:17

Naftzger: But he would never say that out loud to say that he doesn't like it. And maybe at home, he'll say, "Oh, that didn't agree with me." The Chinese food agrees with him more, right? I remember when—and he's very courteous, when John made a meal, he [John] thought, "Oh, yeah, I'll make a Chinese meal." He made broccoli beef, but what he did was just cook the broccoli and he cooked the beef and he just poured a bunch of oyster sauce on it. There was no—not the right way to cook really, right? But we're all enjoying it and happily enjoying it, because we're also very polite. The Asian culture, you don't ever pointedly say, "Oh, terrible, terrible." At least in certain groups, I guess. But that's how we are. We're very polite but we're also adapting. My dad, he eats like this, like, [holds up imaginary bowl to face], slurps and all that. When you're with the other American culture people, that you just eat very slowly and sit up straight. You adapt to the way they do things in a way.

01:28:22

Naftzger: That's how—I don't know—did I answer your question? So interracial marriage, not too difficult in a way, because I felt we started out with the person and then we learn each other's culture and we appreciate each other's culture. He loves Chinese food now. He used to not love it. He also respects my family. He loves my mom very much. He loves all my siblings. We're all just part of the family. Then he knows that I honor his parents and I take care of his mom. His dad passed away three years ago, but we all have mutual respect for each other.

01:29:12

Naftzger: So race aside, I feel like there hasn't been much conflict. I mean, a few times, a few comments that my mother-in-law would make was like, "Oh, I always wanted to have blue-eyed babies." She didn't get that because both of her sons married Asians. It just so happened to be like that. All of her grandchildren, four of them, are all biracial. They call it hapas in Hawai'i, so half-Asian, half-Caucasian, or whichever. It's just half-and-half kind of thing. Those are just interesting comments that she'll make but isn't because she's racist. It's because she just had that dream always and it's not coming true. But anyway. And you have to take it with a grain of salt, with some of the comments, because it's not pointed at you. Those are just comments.

01:30:13

Q: Yeah. And then, you've also said, your kids, they seem to identify more as Caucasians than Asian per se.

Naftzger: Yes, I did.

01:30:21

Q: And I was wondering if you could elaborate on it?

Naftzger: Yeah, you bet. It's because in high school—for Tim, when he was growing up, because he's older, there are very few Asians. And so when he's with white people, they kind of considered him as Asian. But there's just so many more Caucasians, so he identifies, of course, with the Caucasians more. When he left to go to Hawai'i for school, he went to UH, University of Hawai'i, for freshman year of college, and most of the people there are Asians. So then, he felt like, "Oh, okay." There's the other side of him that he hasn't really experienced. So then, he identified then with Asians, but again, it's not—I think, he feels because if he grew up in a place where there are more Caucasians, he could identify more with Caucasians than with Asians. But it's neat that he has both cultures, and he did get to experience where there are more Asians. But what's funny is that he'll say, "In Hawai'i, there's so many Japanese Americans that are older, and so they walk very slow." Tim is very, like, "Go go, go, go go." It's like he doesn't like to wait for people going slow, especially coming—because he had been in California too, before he went to Hawai'i. He was just like, "Oh, people are too slow there."

01:31:52

Naftzger: So anyway, then, for Katie, I think by the time she graduated high school at Boise High, there are a lot more diversity. I mean there are so many more Asians—and from all parts of Asia, even—and then a lot of Africans that also went to Boise High. And also Indians, so she has a group of people that she hang out with, mostly Caucasians, but there's Neha, who's Indian, and then there's a Korean girl, that were in her core group of people. Then, there's the people that live in our neighborhood are mostly white, Caucasians. I just felt like she had more rounded, well-rounded, if you will, in that regard.

01:32:46

Naftzger: But she made a comment, it was funny, because she went to UCLA for college. And when she was in Boise, she said her friends would call her Asian, because she looked different than the rest of them. But she identified with them more as Caucasian, because that's where she grew up. But then, when she went to UCLA, all the Chinese people and all the Asian people that she hang out with told her that she—I should say Chinese Americans—will say that she is Caucasian, not Asian. See what I'm saying? It's like, when you're with Caucasians, they think you're Asian, but when you're with Asians, they think you're Caucasian. It's funny.

01:33:38

Q: Describe a typical family dinner to me. What did you eat, who does the cooking, et cetera?

Naftzger: Okay. So in my early marriage days, I do the primary cooking. But then we got busy, and so, it's a lot of convenience type of stuff. So recently, really it's my husband and I, but my daughter's back, because she's in grad school. But when she came—because of the COVID-19 and everything, she's here with us too—so typically, Katie would cook, because I'm too busy working from home, and my days are very long with work and projects, et cetera.

And then, my husband also, right now, he's not working as much, but he's not as good as a cook. But he can cook; he's just not as good. So Katie normally cooks for us.

01:34:33

Naftzger: So at dinner time, she follows a lot of recipes, so sometimes we cook Asian food.

Sometimes we have Mexican food. Sometimes we have typical American food. Yesterday or the day before, she made shepherd's pie. And that was really good, lots of potatoes and ground turkey and corn and peas and all. And so it was fun cooking with her, because I helped her out a little bit, and enjoy cooking that kind of food together. A typical meal would be us sitting down around 6:30-ish or so, and enjoy a nice meal, whatever cuisine it is—but she normally cooks pretty healthy for us, so it's nice that she takes good care of us.

01:35:20

Naftzger: And just for fun, my son just got engaged four days ago in Hawai'i. And the funny thing is, because he majored in Spanish and business—and he speaks fluent Spanish, and he traveled to Latin America and South America many times—I thought, "Oh, he's probably going to marry a Latina. I'm probably going to have to learn Spanish to speak to my grandchildren." Well, he ended up being engaged to a second-generation Chinese girl from Taiwan. Her last name is Chang. And it's just the funniest thing. Her parents immigrated to the States in the early 1970s. She was born in California, but she moved to Hawai'i when she was—well, actually she moved to Hawai'i to go to University of Hawai'i. Anyway, they've known each other for seven years, but they just started to develop strong feelings for each other, and just got engaged four days ago.

01:36:30

Naftzger: And so we FaceTimed with my mom, and it was so important for my mom to get to know her, because Tim is the first grandson for her. And she kind of raised him a little bit when he was a baby, because I was working at Xicor, which is a semiconductor company in Milpitas. When I gave birth to him, I went back to work part time. So my mom took care of Tim Tuesday and Thursday, while I went to—no, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—when I went back, three days a week kind of thing. So he's extra special to my mom's heart. When she learned that this is an Asian American, whose parents came from Taiwan, she was thrilled. And so we FaceTimed with my mom yesterday, and she was able to speak to Grace, my son's fiancé, in Mandarin, and

Grace was able to respond back in Mandarin. So my mom was just so happy, so glad. Yes, which is, it's funny how things turned out.

01:37:34

Q: Yeah, I guess, a question more about identity. Has there been a role that gender has played in your life?

Naftzger: What do you mean? Like being treated differently, because I'm Asian woman, or?

01:37:52

Q: I think that counts. It's kind of an open question. Yeah, if there are certain expectations being a woman. Yeah, stereotypes, encounters—yeah, I think it's open.

Naftzger: Okay. Of course, we were taught in the Chinese culture that women are less important than men, but I think things have changed quite a bit over time. But because men carry the family name, and then the women don't and they marry into another family, so to speak and not carry on the name, I think that was ingrained in us that girls are just not as important as boys. But I think, with us leaving Taiwan when I was 10, going to the Philippines, where it's still male-dominant somewhat, but it's not as male-dominant, I feel like there's a lot more matriarchs that are stronger figures, so to speak.

01:39:08

Naftzger: But I'm trying to think. Did I ever feel suppressed or—I feel like because we had to adapt and be in new places and new environments, we just strive to do more, to do better. And so as an Asian woman, I felt like I just wanted to achieve something, where—and maybe then you're competing. That's not just an Asian culture thing. It's kind of a gender, male and female type of thing. Even in Caucasian world, and in American society, women are still trying to break the proverbial glass ceiling, so to speak. But I felt like I needed to prove myself, that I'm very competent in what I do, by obtaining all those certifications and passing all those exams. To feel like, "Hey, I know what I'm doing, and I'm happy that I can prove that I'm competent," so to speak, and that people respect what I say, because I know what I'm doing.

01:40:30

Naftzger: So I don't feel that I've missed out because I'm a woman. Of course, in HR, predominantly, it's women that are in that role, but my boss is a man, and I respect him. But I felt like I've been given opportunities along the road here in my career to be promoted, so I never really felt any kind of—I don't know. If I say that a male has been promoted over me, maybe I would, but I just haven't ever get that sense. I guess, maybe I'm also content in my own skin, kind of thing, like, "Hey, I can't complain. I've been promoted four or five times." And I'm very pleased to know how my career has turned out in that sense. Yeah, I guess, I don't feel any

difference in a way, even though I know other people have been experiencing that gender inequality.

01:41:40

Q: Yeah, definitely. Then, I think I'm going to restrict this question to more of your time in Idaho. You've touched on it as well, but while in Idaho, did you ever encounter stereotypes, or discrimination?

Naftzger: Yeah, it's funny. I'm trying to think. To be honest, I really don't think I ever encountered stereotypes or being discriminated against. And again, it may be the circle of friends that I am around with, and my coworkers, like at St. Alphonsus and at Jabil and at Carlson, everyone just seemed to be polite.

01:42:36

Naftzger: So the one thing I have to say is that Carlson Leisure Travel Company is part of a larger company called Carlson Group of Companies, they call it. And they're based in Minneapolis, Minnetonka. And one time I had to go for training, or it was an HR managers conference or something, and I do have to say that it was predominantly all Caucasians. I was one Asian there, of everybody. And I did feel like I was treated differently, in the sense that nobody really talked to me. [Except for] one person, nobody knew about where Taiwan is, or anything like that. [...] It's very interesting that I got that sense. And one of them, there's only one person in the whole entire—there was probably 50 people that know where Taiwan is, and that Taiwan is not part of China, in a sense, politically speaking, and knew even a little bit about the history with Taiwan.

01:43:45

Naftzger: So then, I felt a little bit out of place there, but I think that's the only time I felt uncomfortable. That's not even Idaho. I was sent to Minnetonka, in a Minneapolis area, for training. But really in Idaho, I don't feel, honestly, that I was really ever treated differently, or that because I'm Asian that I'm a certain way or anything like that. I didn't get that sense. I think maybe people bypassed or not looked at that, because I talk more American and I act more American, perhaps. I don't know. Because you have some Asians that have a heavy accent, and then they perceive something different, like you would be a certain this way and that way.

01:44: 41

Naftzger: I do have to say, one funny tidbit is that—and this really isn't in Idaho, but in college when I was taking the science class—I went to my professor and I said, "Oh, I'm really struggling. I don't think I'm going to get a good grade." I ended up getting a fine grade. But he said, "Oh, Lois, I am not concerned about you. You're Asian. Asians are all smart." I'm like, "Uh-uh. Not this Asian [points at herself]. This Asian is not that smart." Anyway, that's what I

thought was funny. If you think of the stereotypes, that's one comment that I heard that might be the stereotyping.

01:45:27

Q: Yeah, definitely. I guess, moving to some more current events and sort of the looking forward section of my questions, COVID, obviously, is a big thing. So I'm wondering, has that affected you or your family in any way?

Naftzger: Oh yeah, big time, actually. You know that my daughter had leukemia in her junior year of college, and so, she's still recovering from the treatments. So she went through three and a half years of chemotherapy. She's still taking some chemo pills on a daily basis, so her immune system is very compromised, so it's important that she doesn't get COVID.

As as a result of that, one of her doctors, who is also a dear friend of ours, called us and said, "Hey"—and this is in the early stages of the COVID breakout, like March, February timeframe, I think was late February. She called and said, "This is going to get worse." And John at the time was working in acute setting at a hospital. So she said, "Can John not work as a nurse there in the hospital setting? Because the chances of him getting the COVID is high because of where he work."

01:46:54

Naftzger: He quit his job, because Katie was with us, so that he doesn't bring home the virus. We were very cautious, very cautious with that. As a result, of course, we went from two-income household to one-income household. That's a little big change, but he's able to get another job quickly as doing home health. But it's just like maybe one day a week type of job. At least it's something, right? And it's so nice to have him home, because he can help take care of us. With me, my job is so intense right now. So he just takes care of me, bring me some tea or coffee or water, while I'm just going from back-to-back meetings constantly. So that's nice. I feel very cared for that way.

01:47:49

Naftzger: And then, with Katie, our daughter here, I think she's getting stir-crazy, because she's such a social person, and she wants to be with other people. But we're trying to restrain from that, especially with the surge with COVID, especially in California. California has surpassed New York, and there's just a lot more cases that popped up here, and now we know of people that hear of people from—like my colleague's friends died, because he worked as a nurse. He's just in his early 40s, and two young children, and he contracted COVID-19. And he just died. Like that one day went to the hospital at 9:00 in the morning; at 6:00 PM, he's gone. So we're hearing more and more stories like that, that it does worry me, because with her condition. So yeah, it changed our lives quite a bit. We just mainly try to stay home, and make sure we wear our masks when we go out, and try to avoid people as much as possible.

01:49:02

Q: Hopefully, your family stays safe. I think one other current-events question. I think maybe like a month or two ago, we were seeing a lot of protests around the country. And so I'm wondering, was that something you're following, was it something that affected you, or just how you're processing news?

Naftzger: Yeah, actually, it is a very current event. And it actually caused some division within, not my immediate family, but with my nieces. So all this protest about Black Lives Matter or the Black Lives Matter stuff, it's so emotionally-driven and emotionally-charged. Even with my younger sister, she lives in Seattle, and she's actually very pro-protesters, if you will, to the extent that, on July 4th, we always celebrated Fourth of July. I love this country. I became a citizen of this country. I love this country. I love what it stands for, the Christian principles it was founded on with the founding fathers. I just absolutely firmly believe. And then, my brother served in the military, right? I just feel I have a right to celebrate Fourth of July.

01:50:30

Naftzger: Well, there was a string of emails going on—or not emails, texts. The family that I told you about that I grew up with in the Philippines to learn English, these four sisters, one set of twins. Their dad was in the military. They're all very charitable people. Three became medical doctors and one became a dentist. And they all serve the poor. One is a pediatrician in an Indian reservation. The other dentist is also in an Indian reservation taking care of the—I can't remember what tribe names they were—but one in Arizona, one in Kentucky. And then the other served in a community-based clinic as a primary care physician. They're all very, very true patriots, if you will.

01:51:29

Naftzger: So, anyway, so this string included my nieces, to just that I'm wishing them happy Fourth of July. Well, one of them started spouting about Black Lives Matter. And "we're not celebrating Fourth of July because we're not free, because there were Black slaves," dah-dah-dah. So there was a lot of, you know. Once that happened, it was my other sisters—I call them my sisters, my American sisters. They started like, "That's not right." They started a string of arguments. I had said to my niece. I have two nieces in Seattle.

01:52:10

Naftzger: I told them, and I said, "Listen, you have your beliefs. You have your opinions. You're free to express them. But also, you can't impose on us not to celebrate the Fourth of July, because we believe the country of America stands for freedom. We're founded on Christian principles, and I think that we ought to celebrate it. You cannot impose on us." They keep saying, "It's slavery, it's not right." Of course, it's not right. But this happened how many years ago? You

know. And we actually have improved over the years. Are there police brutality? Yes, but not all police are bad. But that's all they were focusing on. It's like, "Oh, we need to defund the police. The Blacks are being slaughtered by the police in daylight." I'm like, "Really? Have you gone to Chicago?"⁷ Have you seen that the Blacks are killing Blacks against each other?"⁸ Again, there are maybe a few bad apples in everything, in every race, in every occupation, but you can't lump all the police as bad.

01:53:18

Naftzger: I mean, If they get in trouble, who do they call? 911. You get police officers to come. When there's a car crash, what happens? The police officers come to help. Ambulance, first responders come to help. You can't just say all of them are bad. Anyway, it definitely caused a terrible divide for us that day. And I was just so sad. I was like, "Ah, it's a day that we get to celebrate and watch the fireworks on TV and listen to patriotic songs." It's a wonderful day. It just saddened me a lot that this whole racial protest thing became the center and it caused a divide within our family.

01:54:06

Q: Thanks for sharing. I know I'm coming up towards the end of our time, but I did have about 10 minutes of questions left. Would it be okay to cover them?

Naftzger: Yeah, sure.

01:54:19

Q: I guess the first question is, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

Naftzger: I think having my kids. That's my biggest accomplishment, and how they turned out. I feel like they're very good kids. It's not about success or what occupation they go into, but I felt like they both have a heart for the Lord. They both love the Lord. They're kept in the Christian principles and the boundaries that we've set for them, and they stay within the boundaries. That's for their safekeeping, so I'm proud of them for keeping that, and living the Christian life.

01:55:09

Q: And what was the most important and meaningful event or experience of your life thus far?

⁷ The use of "Chicago" here may reflect recent political history. During the 2016 presidential election, then-candidate Donald Trump invoked Chicago's violent crime rate at least 42 times. From Safia Samee Ali, "In Discussing Chicago's Violence, Trump Generalizes About Race," *NBC News*, October 12, 2016, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/discussing-chicago-s-violence-trump-generalizes-about-race-n660541>.

⁸ According to the Department of Justice, most violent crimes are intraracial for white, Black, and Latinx Americans. From Rachel E. Morgan, "Race and Hispanic Origin of Victims and Offenders, 2012-15," *U.S. Department of Justice*, October 2017, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rhovo1215.pdf>.

Naftzger: Ooh, the most important and meaningful? Well, my husband and I met in a Christian college. We both share the same goal that we want to share the gospel and we want to live and be a good testimony. I think that decision point and that the time in college, we really consecrated and we both wanted to serve the Lord. I think that was very meaningful.

01:56:02

Naftzger: And then, we sponsored through World Vision some children. And to us, that's important to give back. We wanted to do that. I think, giving back to the community, helping others. We often times give hospitality. We just recently had a dear Christian girl [from Nigeria] that just finished her graduate program [...] at UC Irvine. She stayed with us for—it was supposed to be two weeks. It turned into two months. And so I think just the joy of helping other people, and able to help people who are in need is one thing. I mean there's no one particular event, but it's just living our principles out, I guess. That's making a decision to help other people, and then try to live that. So I guess, multiple things. And we always had offered hospitality and we enjoy doing that.

01:57:20

Q: And then, what are your dreams and visions for the future?

Naftzger: Ooh, dreams and visions for the future. Actually, I'm looking forward to retirement. My dream is that this is the last company I work for and hopefully I can retire with this company. My vision is that my husband and I will get to travel around the world and maybe do some charitable stuff. If we can offer our services to wherever there's a need, humanitarian type of efforts. That's our goal and vision. And then, retire to a place where it's a lot less expensive than here in California. Maybe hoping to retire somewhere in the South, where housing and living is a lot less expensive.

01:58:19

Q: And then, just the last question. Is there anything you'd like to add to this interview that we haven't covered already?

Naftzger: Yes. I don't think so. It's fun to reflect back on what's happened and transpired in my life's history. And I have to say, so far, I'm just very grateful and very content for everything that's happened because everything happened for a reason.

01:58:55

Naftzger: Even the most difficult times, when our daughter got sick with acute leukemia, you still learned from it, and you benefited so much. John and I, we felt like we oftentimes offer hospitality and help to other people, but we're not at the receiving end. And it was very humbling when my daughter got sick, how the church in LA really helped us. They organized meals to

bring to the hospital for me, because we were in hospital for five weeks with her initial chemo treatments in hospital. And, then, I was on intermittent leave of absence, not making as much money. And then John moved from Hawai'i to here. And we were in between jobs, so there was not much income. We got a lot of help that we're like, "What? This is amazing." We were not on the receiving end, and now all of a sudden, we were. And it was just overwhelming. It was very overwhelming. Then, the Lord provided. And housing, West LA is very expensive, but we were able to find furnished homes near the hospital, because she had to have more treatments as an outpatient, and we have to go to the clinic every other day it seems like.

02:00:16

Naftzger: And so even through very difficult times, I can say, I'm still content and I'm happy that the Lord spared my daughter's life and she's doing well. So we're—I have nothing but gratefulness for what it has been so far. So it's fun to reflect back on the events that have occurred to make up of who I am today. I'm definitely not the same as I was when I was in high school. My husband and I will be celebrating our 32nd anniversary this year, wedding anniversary. Yeah. And, then, I got a son that just got engaged, so I'm relieved.

02:01:00

Q: Yeah. Wow. It's all so amazing. But yeah, do you have anything else you feel like you'd want to add to this interview?

Naftzger: I think that's it. I think you've done a nice job with your questioning. It definitely felt very free and unscripted in a way, so you did a nice job, Kathy.

02:01:19

Q: Thanks so much.

[END OF SESSION]

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Narrator	Lois L. Naftzger
Interviewer	Kathy M. Min
Session Number	2
Location	Virtually through Zoom. Naftzger called from Newbury Park, California, and Min called from Boise, Idaho.
Date	July 29, 2020

00:00:01

Q: I was curious about—obviously, you've talked about Christianity and religion—and so I was wondering, did you participate in church life in Boise and what that community was like for you?

Naftzger: That's such a good question. Yes, we definitely participate in the church life very actively. That was wonderful. I love everyone that I meet with. It's not a very big local church, but it's, how many—there were probably, if everybody gathers, it's about maybe 75 or so. But because of the size, we know each other. We all get to know each other very well. I taught. I was in the children's meetings or Sunday school (as most people are known as). We teach the third, fourth, fifth-grade kids and then eventually to help with the young people, the high school kids.

00:01:07

Naftzger: Both my husband and I are very involved and very active and so were my kids. I think that is a huge factor in how positive our experience had been in Boise. We just absolutely love that. It was definitely a very positive experience. Not to say that it's all rosy, if you will, but because we were pursuing together on the same things and studying the Bible and being in the ministry—and that really really helped us be built up and definitely grow a lot together.

00:01:48

Q: So you weren't really as much a part of the Chinese church in Boise?

Naftzger: So my brother was more involved when he was in Boise, in Eagle and then my mom attended as well. We would occasionally visit. But most of the time, the Chinese church speaks in Chinese and my family, unfortunately, my kids don't speak it and neither does my husband. But we would visit occasionally.

00:02:17

Q: Yeah. Okay, I'm going to hit stop recording.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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