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Sankary, Celine Interview

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

SANKARY, CELINE **(Egyptian Jew; Lebanese and French)**

July 8, 1980

Interviewed by Mary Wedegaertner

Transcribed by Unknown

Start of Tape 1

Wedegaertner: [being as close as we are being okay] First where were you born and how long did you live there?

Sankary: [Where I was born?] I was born in Cairo, Egypt and I lived there until the end of '56

Wedegaertner: When was your birthdate?

Sankary: That I do not divulge. Let's say I was in my late teens when I left.

Wedegaertner: [When you left there okay] What did your father do and how many were there in your family?

Sankary: My father was self-employed was a [merchant on his own] we were I have three brothers and I don't know very much about him because he died when I was a kid and there was four of us and my mother five of us in my family

Wedegaertner: Did your mother work while your father was living?

Sankary: No

Wedegaertner: Did she go to work then after he died?

Sankary: No no no no no women there don't really work especially her age because you know [her] culture is completely different and no when he died it was up to the oldest brother to take care of us

Wedegaertner: I see

Sankary: And that's about it and [I went to work very early in life at the age of 12] it was

Wedegaertner: Oh what type of work did you do?

Sankary: When I went to work? Oh nothing really much [I think the first job I had an old man needed something it was a family] [] [we knew we knew him] [and he gave me a job starting to teach me he manufactured handbags and wallets you know for women] and wallets for men as well as women he made them in the factory upstairs and he just started to teach me about the letters and the patterns involved and before I knew it he trusted me with just about everything there [and I don't think he's answering the telephone] [education] [is not compository]

Wedegaertner: So how much education did you have there?

Sankary: Up to the sixth grade and that's because my father died otherwise I probably would have continued because most of my cousins had but since I had like my oldest brother was already married and the second one was [already left in fact for] England for his education and there was the third one which [we were] about three years apart and he had to continue because there [was] you know the boy have to have as much education as he can because [he can be the head of the household]

Wedegaertner: [What were was] your particular family's views on your education? Would you have been allowed or encouraged to go on?

Sankary: Oh yes yeah my mother [is a] educated herself and so was my father but since he died and we had to have food on the table [and her culture did not dictate to her that she can not go back and face the world and work] but the new generation can was already out there working and children take over and the culture [where she come from all] [] the children takes over but she believed in education in fact she encouraged me to go at night if I wanted to but we had to live

Wedegaertner: Right, so then how long did you work for the man the man with the

Sankary: For this guy oh it was a short time because then he sold his place and he left but then the people that bought it [] had me work there and she did she changed the whole thing it was more of a [] type of a thing and then she taught me you know she sold perfumes, handbags you know boutique [pretty] things and then she taught me that kind of business and then my mother didn't want me to work there because it was it was afraid my head get turned you know over something because the people that [frequented] it were very influential people and the owner [] she was a nice lady and she in fact herself got me a job at a department store because she understood how my mother felt she was very strict and I worked for the department store for a short time and in the meanwhile I learned at night and also my mother taught me most of my education was from my mother at home

Wedegaertner: Which [had she had a college education had she? Would she]

Sankary: No because she is pretty old and I don't know how far she went in her education I know her older sister yes is a graduate and her other sisters are graduates but her I don't really think so because the others hold a profession and she you know never did and theres women there you either a nurse is acceptable to work and they were all registered nurse but they didn't even work after they were married you know that wasn't acceptable they didnt have to anyways

Wedegaertner: Right

Sankary: So no I don't think she went she had any degree because [if] she did it would have been [she would have probably would have gone to work] that was an acceptable thing so I dont think so no

Wedegaertner: Right, okay you were there in Cairo till you were about 17 you said

Sankary: In my late teens

Wedegaertner: Late teens right [Im sorry I dont know where I got 17, late teens] right and where did you go from Cairo?

Sankary: From Cairo I went to Bayroute for a short time

Wedegaertner: Did your whole family go or did you

Sankary: With my mother yeah and part of my family because we were [] and we had to leave cause you know Im Jewish and I carried a French nationality cause my father was French but my mother is Leabanese so even their cultures were different apart

Wedegaertner: I see so you were forced essentially to leave Cairo?

Sankary: Yeah yeah and so actually migrated and were going to Canada but you had to go to Bayroute in order to wait for our papers and since my mother is from there she wanted to go there but [didn't work out there] because there was no jobs for the Jewish people they [] either and I couldn't take it without any work without any money so we went to France there you know I was accepted like any citizen since I carried French nationality and there I studied I think I became a [] and I got a job there that wasn't hard there to get a job office work [substituting] until of course I did a lot of office work after [Egypt] you know working in a department store for a short time and my mother had [] me with the languages and I was able to get secretary work so it wasn't hard in France to get myself a job

Wedegaertner: I see did your mother what language did you speak?

Sankary: I spoke I grew up bilingual you know French and Arabic

Wedegaertner: Right I see

Sankary: And she taught me the Arabic and I taught in school I learned the French and then through her teaching because her French was [bad news]

Wedegaertner: I see

Sankary: So through that I was able to get myself to a pretty good level because I was it was very rare for people there to find them like typing with both languages in Egypt and I did and that was because she taught me that the Arabic language you know reading it well, writing it well and what it takes to form you know [the] letters and [] when I went to France I didn't have hard time except [] because [] I didn't get paid very good but [] was a need and it was a top [] salary so [] and there we waited for our papers then to finalize and come from Canada and then I stopped in the United States and got stuck in the states and stayed

Wedegaertner: You say you went first to Texas?

Sankary: Yes

Wedegaertner: [What did you get to go there in particularly?] Did you have relatives there or?

Sankary: No I knew some people in France that had relatives in there and that were willing to put me up cause I didn't have money to but just for a short time as a visit and then I came by myself because I had a passport and I was the only one that had a visa

Wedegaertner: I see your mother stayed in France?

Sankary: No she went to Canada I just [] went in [one way] was going to Canada and just [went to the United States] and happened that there would be people to accept me in Texas you know give me a home there for my length and meanwhile I met Sam while I was there and you know we got married so I stayed in the United States

Wedegaertner: Did your brother remain in Egypt or?

Sankary: No no no they've all gone they all had left before I did in fact the first one went to England he went when things were still okay because he went on a study you know he went there to a college and then you oldest one left when there was trouble and we wanted him out when [] because he was very light complected and the blue eyes that he took from my father and it was bad for him to stay in the country me I can pass for an Egyptian [] nobody would bother me and so he left and he started the papers to get us and myself and my other brother

Wedegaertner: Did you have any regrets [] mother about being forced to leave?

Sankary: Well being forced to leave is not a good thing you know

Wedegaertner: Did you want to return any time to Egypt or? Or hoped you could?

Sankary: No not really no because I grew up with a lot of fear there and I don't have anybody there you know sometimes the nostalgia of the language you grow up with the is there sometimes I think its maybe the family type of thing but not the country in itself because just the family because the family went all over the world because []

Wedegaertner: So you don't have friends there at all still?

Sankary: In Egypt? Oh yeah I have very close friend of mine that we grow up together Im sure she still there she is not forced to go but she is not Jewish she is Christian herself and so as far as I know she is still there

Wedegaertner: Okay, well back to when you met Sam how did you the two of you meet?

Sankary: Just [an accident type of a thing] you know we just met we didn't think anything of it then a couple days later he said well Im sorry for that girl maybe I should take her out she's not from her she dosen't know anybody she dosen't know anything and but we couldn't talk because I didn't know the language but then I guess it was odd or funny but then after that it was okay

Wedegaertner: Did you decide at that point that you were going to stay in the United States or you still didn't know [at that point]

Sankary: No no no no I didn't know [excuse me]

Wedegaertner: Did you find living with these friends of yours pleasant or it was hard Im sure because of the language?

Sankary: No I didn't know them and it really wasn't too bad because they spoke a very limited Syrian type of a language and I could understand them but they couldn't understand my language even though there is a big similarity in the language but really in the beginning [it didn't bother me] because everything was new I was anxious I wanted to see so much and but then and of course after that you know Sam asked me to go out more and then it was a 1,2,3 thing and we got married

Wedegaertner: About how long would you say after you arrived did you get married

Sankary: Oh one week

Wedegaertner: That was fast

Sankary: Yeah yeah well he didn't have any money [for one thing] and I didn't have any money and all I had was my ticket to Canada and like the way he tried to explain it to me there was no way he could get me back from there once I go [or him going there]

Wedegaertner: What was he what type of working was he doing at that time?

Sankary: At that time he was managing a supermarket and that's about it really and he was working quite a bit many many many hours you know

Wedegaertner: What part of Texas does his family live in?

Sankary: In Fort Worth and Dallas

Wedegaertner: Do you have any recollections of your first impressions that week of [the] United States [and] Texas area and American people in general

Sankary: Not really because first I was exhausted and then I was very disappointed because I guess I was expecting to see cows in the streets and cowboys and didn't see that

Wedegaertner: [Oh I see]

Sankary: And there were no people in the street when I asked to walk in the park I thought I was crazy or at least that's how I felt I thought I was crazy I wanted to go out for a walk you know I was used to walking seeing people and there was nothing

Wedegaertner: What year was this when you arrived [in Canada and Texas]?

Sankary: In Texas I think it was December of [57] [nineteen fiftyseven] yes and I mean people were there but they needed cars to go someplace and I didn't drive and I'm not used to that I'm very independent and I think that was one of the worst part in my life is to know that I had to wait for somebody you know because walking was not allowed

Wedegaertner: When you say it wasn't allowed why was this?

Sankary: Oh because nobody walked there you didn't see anybody in the street and if you want to go someplace you have to walk five miles to get there from one live in the house

Wedegaertner: [It really depended on cars]

Sankary: Yeah extremely dependent on cars and this I

Wedegaertner: There was no public transit transportation buses or anything?

Sankary: Nothing if I nothing unless I had to walk to go to it because it was strictly residential areas so and then finally I decided to take the call and drive it

Wedegaertner: Without any lessons?

Sankary: Nothing just took it and went and that was of course after we were married [] but I think it's that or having a chauffeur who can afford that

Wedegaertner: Right where did you and Sam live or what type of [apartment did you have]

Sankary: We lived in Forth Worth it was a very tiny the smallest and the cheapest you can get and that's what we had I think it was a one bedroom apartment all our bedrooms [were] one room until you know we had Gary and then we graduate to a two bedroom

Wedegaertner: Right like everyone else. Was Sam of the Jewish faith as well?

Sankary: Yeah

Wedegaertner: Did [religion play a large part in your early life]

Sankary: In my life yes definitely yeah I come from a strong Jewish home and I know my identity and I know I grew up under prejudice and hate but I never denied my religion you know I always were very proud still am and I guess always will be of that fact and as far as I know I will always follow the traditions

Wedegaertner: Did you go to a Synagogue in Texas while you were first married

Sankary: Yes we got married in fact at the Synagogue and we got married in the Rabbis office I still wanted to be under the I guess the American terminology for it would be the

canopy and that's about it you know it wasn't a big wedding or anything like this it was just Sam and I and his brother was a witness or best man and his girlfriend and yeah I think his parents decided that they didn't want to be left out [] of this wedding and his sisters came [sunk in] [] came to [the thing in the office]

Wedegaertner: [] [] []

Sankary: [] bit shocked [quick marriage quick courtship] [they didn't they thought that it wouldn't last [well my family didn't think it would last either] cause when I called Canada to say well my plans has changed I can still hear the big sadness on the other side of the telephone [I think] my mother passed out and my brother took over because he thought there was something terrible [he didn't know] what was going on and when I told him he said [I never forget that] he said how long did you write the contract for I said what did you mean he said all American people divorce the first question is he Jewish yes is there a Jewish marriage yes [] papers [isn't that terrible] that's how he is I think I still have my wedding certificate you know or whatever but that's very protective you know with everything and that's when I really afterward you know when the really hard time came I guess [] when I had to go out and work of course I was very independent we were very limited in our funds so I felt like I had to act and do something [from being total independence to total dependence is awful] and we did I saw and add on television about I think it was about doing hair my mother came to see how her daughter got married and who he is and things like that and how she was able to come because she was an immigrant in Canada I guess my brother booked it but she knew english she translate to me what ever they saying whenever

Wedegaertner: Now where did she learn English

Sankary: oh she learned [] translated it to me from commercial I didn't even know if there was a movie or something I don't know if there was a commercial [going to do] [] was a commercial very backward as far as because I was never exposed to things like that I saw the television in France but it very different [it was a certain time and a certain show] and not like here all day and anytime things like that and that's where I find out I can be a manicurists for like five or six weeks

Wedegaertner: Manicurists did you say?

Sankary: I figure one I don't have to talk for that

Wedegaertner: You didn't pick up any english words at that point?

Sankary: No I wasn't exposed to anybody except my husband

Wedegaertner: How did you basically communicate then?

Sankary: It's not hard and of course his family and other people you know in the family [anyone else] and you know that's where I want to [] he thought I was crazy we didn't have any money for tuition I have some money I had some gold bracelets so I sold them and at the school the woman told me there's no way she can't talk a word she can't make it six weeks so she suggested the hairdressing to put me in an environment where I can be there all day it's a longer period of time like six months and then she said maybe I pick up some of the language and it didn't cost that much different really so I decided okay anything and this is where I actually I was forced into it I was in a complete English speaking environment and with the help of the dictionary and I was able to learn the [theory] and pass the board everything memorization of course I was young and could memorize everything I memorized things and I didn't even know what they meant just to pass the board

Wedegaertner: Right

Sankary: And the practical part there is nothing to it you know you see what's supposed to be done and you do it the teacher when she explained I didn't listen to anything she said I just watched her fingers moving and it wouldn't have done any good to listen because I didn't understand it but the theory book and the dictionaries [] they help and then some of the kids there were also very [I call them kids now they weren't kids then] they were very helpful there were a couple of them in fact one of them we are still friends up until now yeah because he helped me he used to say [oh I'm glad you're so dumb] and we ended up working in fact together there for a while and up until now my sister in law goes to him twenty some odd years later and he he was nice [] because he even went for my citizenship I needed witnesses he came as a witness with one of Sam's sisters for one of my witnesses I guess and that's how I started to be in the American world I guess and learn the language and [I pick it up]

Wedegaertner: So you never took any formal classes for English did you or?

Sankary: No then when we moved to Sacramento after four years in Fort Worth Sam decided that the economy there depended not on Aerojet but on [general dynamic there] and I don't think it was very good and he decided that he wanted to move to California so we settle in Sacramento and I got my license here to first thing I did was same company I work for in Fort Worth they offer me a job wherever there was wherever they had a shop in the United States I could work and I know that [winestock] the beauty shop there was belonged to them it's a big corporation they have their big beauty salons all over and once I got my license which didn't take me very long I worked in the shop and

then we and then after we had Gary then I was home then for awhile and then I decided [then] my english was really lousy and having a son I better improve on it I didn't know how to improve on it that's when I decided to go to American River College and I think they had me take [what they call the SAT test] I took it anyway I didn't understand it [I flunked it] and I told them you know I hope they didn't expect me to pass because I am a foreigner this was not geared to me it's geared to the American people which they understood so I started on probation of course I lied there I said I was a high school graduate which I wasn't but that's the only way I didn't care I said try and get my records and I stayed there until I got my Associate of Art and then my first semester was a [probation] thing because I didn't pass the SAT I had no proof nothing but it was okay and after I got my Associate of Art I went to Sacramento State and that's when Sam decided that we were moving to Stockton and then

Wedegaertner: Did you have friends here or something?

Sankary: No [] just opening the business and that was an open territory where he knew he could come and open it

Wedegaertner: What did he do when he was in Sacramento?

Sankary: He was managing a chain of shoe stores and but he always want to go for himself and his boss offered him a partnership but he didn't want it he said no has to be my own and only my own and then I just stopped my schooling completely because he needed me in the store

Wedegaertner: What year was this when you got to Stockton then?

Sankary: I think it was 71 [nineteen seventy one] yeah and then I turned into a business woman

Wedegaertner: Your a good one I think

Sankary: Thank you

Wedegaertner: Of course you put some of your earlier experience to use probably

Sankary: Right yes

Wedegaertner: Boutique experience [as far as the purses and things]

Sankary: Yes right yeah no I had really when I was in Egypt I was always interested in I guess when you don't have something and you knew that all the family had it and you are denied it then you are always want it so I tried like so I studied designing and to actual [sketch] from paper you know take people measurement and all they do is show me a

picture for maybe a dress or a suit and like take their measurement and divide and add and whatever and come up with the pattern you know to fit them and this I enjoy very much [in fact] that's what I want to work into in France but I advised not to because I'm starting [that job is temporary] it's good for awhile but its bad the rest of the year and I had my mother to support besides myself so I couldn't chance anything not like that so really as far as the retail type of business have a lot of experience there plus the office you know work [add the two] together plus the certain classes that I took were geared for business so it really helped everything really helped all around and now I'm back to school

Wedegaertner: Right, and how much longer do you have?

Sankary: It depends

Wedegaertner: Depends on how many [courses you take thats true huh]

Sankary: It all depends I don't have really all I need is 30 units to finish but you know to get to my objective but [I finish in two semester, three semester, four semester] I don't know

Wedegaertner: Did you and Sam become associated with the Temple Israel here right off or?

Sankary: Yes yeah

Wedegaertner: And what have been pretty active in it?

Sankary: Yeah were active at the temple Im more than Sam because I enjoy it and Sam is active to [but] you know he is coming with me and being there and our son is active there Gary in fact he was confirmed about a year ago and [right after] that he became a teacher aid at Sunday school and that's where he was all last year and he was [bar mitzvahed] there at the age of 13 confirmed at the age of I think 15 yeah and he right now he is not active but like I say he has been active right now he has girls in his mind nothing else

Wedegaertner: Would you say that you or you and Sam have carried over a lot of traditions from your families as far as customs and holidays and things?

Sankary: Yes [they] they are carried from my family this is true because you know as far as the holidays and the Friday nights and the things like this [] the woman is usually the queen of her home and pretty much I am like I keep my Friday nights you know dinners traditional one that I'm used to and the holiday in the same ways even though they are not quite maybe the American way [what did you loose]

Wedegaertner: [I was just looking for something to write]

Sankary: Oh [maybe actually] [] by making it you [] making a custom run on you not a custom a culture that you live in to also you know like [] [absorbed from what's around you] and me being here longer than where I have come from I am sure I have absorbed a lot of the Jewish-American tradition that maybe I have incorporated with my own you know but basically I still keep my maybe improving them [do we know improvement] and I guess that's about it as far as

Wedegaertner: What other organizations have you and Sam been involved in in Stockton?

Sankary: Well organization [well I guess most of them are really Jewish organization] that were active in just about all of them and besides that we have our work organization which is you know [the merchant association] you know [] and I think that's about [we do all the organizations in Stockton]

Wedegaertner: In raising Gary were you and your husband pretty much in agreement in discipline things like this?

Sankary: No but I don't think this really have anything to do with my background or his because it can be the same thing like here it's two different type of growing home I come from a very strict atmosphere he come from more of a [] type of a thing which may be to me and to him is confusing because maybe I to strict well I grew up to strict so they use quite a bit both of them Sam and Gary use mom your a foreigner you just don't understand that's not the way so before he used to drive me crazy but now [] they tell me that I tell them listen your the foreigners and that's how it's going to be you guys so but yes it's you can't help treat your children and expect the the same thing you grow up with and the same thing with Sam his you know hes [] I'm not so we are actually extremes but we are able to meet talk things over to understand you know how I feel and I can understand how we feel and we most of the time after screaming and hollering we come to agreements

Wedegaertner: [] Gary was probably very small when you were working or?

Sankary: Gary is adopted and I worked until they day we went and got him from the hospital [] was three days old [this is when I stopped working] so I went back to work Gary is born in nineteen sixty three and I went back to work in nineteen seventy one full time [I have always made arrangement that I pick him up from school] and I don't know for some reason I felt like more comfortable knowing that he was with me than leaving him to babysitter so actually when I went back to work I think Gary was seven or eight somewhere around there I used to pick him up from the school and take him to the store [] we have back rooms in the back for stock and I have one of the backroom fixed up you know for Gary with a television all kinds of toys and an area to play [] and I used

to bring him to the store and sometimes he used to bring friends with him [all there] and sometimes there was no need because I was able to just come home after 2:30 or 3 depending and no he I was working right but I was fortunate that the businesses is our business and I was able to take off you know when I wanted to take off to give him either pick him up from school when he's sick or didn't feel good I stayed with him things like you know I think I would have felt bad because if I didn't not because it would have been wrong it just would have I would have felt bad because that's how I grew up the mother helped take care of the children until they are full grown

Wedegaertner: That's what I was wondering whether you were completely content staying home where he was young or whether you wished you were working

Sankary: I was when he was young this is when I went to back to school

Wedegaertner: Okay so you were busy then and you were fulfilling your goals [there]

Sankary: [] I got [] I am the typical Egyptian person really because of my parents culture and because I was forced into the working world at such an early age in fact even right now I don't think I could stay home if right now if I can stay home I can afford to stay home I can afford to not go to work but I don't think I can because I worked for so long so I feel like a part of me is lost somewhere you know cause even when Gary was a baby I started going at night I think he was about two or three years old something like that I start by one or two classes and when he went to Kindergarten I went in the day time you know to finish up so I guess you would call I'm career kind of person

Wedegaertner: Right I think so, has your mother ever lived with you at any point in time?

Sankary: Yeah yeah she used to come [] in fact spend the whole winter time from Canada she used to come to Fort Worth and she used to stay anywhere between four and six month it was hard for her because she was dependent on me and until in fact the last few years [which she was able to] I think she made the excuse that it was very cold there and she had to go come get away from the cold but I think it was hard for her just to bring [] you this is my thinking but Sam is pretty nice person pretty good and we just let her come and stay

Wedegaertner: It wasn't a comfortable situation while she was here as far as you were concerned was there any problems? [Any interference or]

Sankary: No she is not the kind of person that will interfere with anything no the only that she especially as she got older she wanted my attention you know I don't think she did it intentionally it just [] me maybe she just wanted it I don't know you know even if Gary

talked to me or something she would interrupt and talk and expect me to but she didn't do it in any bad way or anything like this

Wedegaertner: Did Gary now lets see now did she live with you since you since Gary was born?

Sankary: Oh yeah

Wedegaertner: Yeah, has he enjoyed having her here?

Sankary: Oh yeah yeah in fact she spoils him you know even though she likes my attention when I'm at home she spoils his rotten

Wedegaertner: That's one of the disadvantage but I think there's a lot of advantages to

Sankary: Oh yeah yeah yeah she has right now she can not travel and because you know she's quite a bit up there and I guess her health isn't that good but she can't I think the last time she was here was about two years ago and even the past few years its been like a shorter and shorter because she feel like no she have to go back there she adjusted well now by then to Canada and she has her I have a big family there you know a lot of cousins and my brothers are there so to her Canada is home now it took her a very long time really but you know for her it was hard because she's dependent on her children and [being in a complete foreign world] and it was hard you know when your forced in a situation you do the best of it and you know you sooner or later will adjust I think she have adjusted now

Wedegaertner: Did you and Sam have any particular problems as far as Stockton that you can recall anything that's been a problem since you moved here?

Sankary: To Stockton?

Wedegaertner: Or anything you dislike about Stockton especially like or?

Sankary: Oh well we didn't care much for it because it was in the beginning because we have already got used to Sacramento and we already [had] our friend there and we were very familiar with our surroundings there you know where to go to the grocery store you know Gary's pediatrician you know you set certain habits and certain familiar things around you and we came here I hated it and he hated it worse [and I was waiting to leave everyday but we couldn't]

Wedegaertner: Did you ever think of moving back to Sacramento? []

Sankary: Yes yes well he thought of that I didn't want to because we had moved already in Sacramento within the city we have made a move like a year or two before moving here

because we were [pre-planning] but moving moved us from a district and this moved Gary from the school he started with and we didn't want to you know you know having him relocate again it's not good for [a young boy to] jump from place to place and that's the only thing that kept us and that's why Sam open the store in the town and country after we moved here [] Sacramento because the location when we were there were not available and after one of the stores that Sam managed there was in the town and country in Sacramento and the management of the center called him and ask him if he would open you know because they knew him and he opened it he said okay honey I'm opening a store now would you like to go back I said nope you know were set its not good to move around too much in fact we sold the store yeah just something I guess we had to get out the system our system and make sure that this was going to be our home and it is you know but you know nothing is easy in the beginning you know I can speak about it very easily know but in any move or anything it is very very hard and I remember many many

End of Tape

Start Tape 2 July 9, 1980

Sankary: I needed and this was very frustrating, extremely frustrating and I felt like leaving the United States and maybe in time over and over but then you – I guess it becomes easier when you know you don't have a country to go to and you accept that adjustment. Your forced into that judgement so you accept whatever is there and you just fight it and I know I fought my feelings many times and said, "the hell with everything I'm getting out of this place." But then I said, "No, because there the living is not that easy especially if you are broke, it is not easy to get a place to live in and life is hard there and to go there and start, no. It is okay for people that maybe have something behind them to go there but I've been there and if I would have stayed there it would have been okay but since I have left and I knew how it is there to start I wasn't willing to start because I've started in Beirut and it then was very rough, I started in France it was hard but I made it so I know what it is like to start someplace and I started in Texas and it was rough. So I wasn't about to start again. In fact in Sacramento it was bad because there I wouldn't make friends I didn't want to talk to anybody and I didn't want to make any friends because everybody I know somebody I end up leaving them.

Wedegaertner: I see so it was basically you who didn't want to make friends.

Sankary: I did not want to – the period I lived in Fort Worth finally when I was able to communicate I made some friends with some beautiful people and then I left them to come here and of course I separated from all the family and all the friends in Egypt and

them I separated again in Beirut and I separated again in France and then in Fort Worth and I think maybe the timing was too close and in Sacramento it was rough for a while because I wasn't going to talk to anybody and I was not going to make friends. I was going to work, not talk to anybody and go home. And actually a neighbor who forced herself and that was my first friend there in the apartment, she had a little girl. She always dressed up the little girl real pretty, early in the morning you know, just a baby and put her in the infant seat there while she does her thing and so I used to see her when I go down to go to work and then one day she knocked at the door and she says. "Well, aren't you going to say hello" and then it wasn't easy to even talk to her. I think it took me after that I don't even know how she put up with me I could just say hello and good-bye and gawd I bet it was after, yeah because Linda is a year older than Gary. I think it was finally after we brought Gary home from the hospital and again she says I never seen you pregnant. You have a kid, when did it happen and then she realized I told her what was going on. I was embarrassed because and I think this is when it was my first friend, yeah. She was a very nice girl cause she would never ask the questions or nothing really you know there was you know I never asked her neither. There was never any question asked and a friendship started but she was only one for also a long time when you know I wouldn't accept people I guess because the parting was very hard and I think Gary must have been about three years old or so before another friend maybe came into the picture or it was even friend it was just Sharon we met you know I was out with Sam, we went to the I think it was an affair there at the synogague something that was the only place wherever I go I join and I just attend services and go home and not talk to anybody. She pushed herself, she said what's the matter with you are you sick or something.

Wedegaertner: Did this present a problem with you and Sam, did he want?

Sankary: He didn't care.

Wedegaertner: Oh he didn't care in particularly.

Sankary: No, no he works you know.

Wedegaertner: So he didn't always want people to come over and things like that.

Sankary: No, no he's not like that at all. He's a very satisfied person – just not even have anybody because he works and comes home and no didn't bother me really but I still couldn't accept friendship at all. But then I guess I broke down like anybody else and I started to accept the people and in fact all the friend that I made or we made in Sacramento they're still our friends and even we are here in Stockton they're still our

friends. We have been here since '71 and they'll call and they come and we go down there.

Wedegaertner: Are most of your friends those you have made through the Temple?

Sankary: No. Through school perhaps, friends? Some through school, some through the temple, some through neighborhood, I am very easy you know, easy person to talk to and you know once I decide everything is okay – the grocery man is my friend, the milkman, the paper kid is my friend. No and we're here in Stockton now you know we have a lot of friends here as well so really we're very wealthy when it comes between aunts and cousins we always had a home full of people and who came and want to spend the night was welcome so when you grow up in that kind of atmosphere. You enjoy being surrounded by people.

Wedegaertner: You had a foreign exchange student that one year too didn't you?

Sankary: Yeah, we had Michele. He is from Rio de Janeiro that has been almost three years. Yeah, this year it be three years he's gone. I promise him some day I'll go there. He just went to Israel himself and he send me his card he said, "I'm in the holy land, when are you coming to Rio de Janeiro."

Wedegaertner: It's probably hard for you to get away isn't it owning your own business like that?

Sankary: Yeah, yeah and besides it is very expensive to go from here to Rio de Janeiro. And we can take, Sam and I cannot take time off together for a long period and to go to a place like this we need at least two weeks too and we can only take like a few days and we always fall for the business everything is okay they need us.

Wedegaertner: Would you like to travel, both of you later on?

Sankary: Yes, yes that is our plans when we retire. He wants to take a trip first by car. I don't know if there will be any gas by the, to travel the United States and then after the United States then he never been outside the United States except for Victoria you know British Columbia and Hawaii, but Hawaii is not outside the United States, part of the United States. But then he wants to go out and he wants to take a trip to Israel, he wants to go to Egypt and but I am not very sure if I want to I don't feel comfortable here. But maybe it won't bother me to go but I don't know I just don't feel very comfortable. And oh, I took a trip. I took Gary and went away a couple of years ago. I went to Israel with Gary and friends in England and I enjoyed going to Europe and that was really my first opportunity since I came back I came to the United States you know to go to Europe so and I wanted Gary to see how other people lived in other parts of the world and how things are and that was quite an experience for him. He really he thoroughly enjoyed it

because I let him. England was the third place we were in and by then he led the whole trip then in England you know because he already had experience into the traveling and by then mother was very tired so I told him to take over, wherever he wants to go I'll go I'll follow just plan. And he did a good job planning you know. He exhausted me but it was good. No, I enjoyed traveling that's why I hope when we retire we can afford it and I'll travel all the time. Where Sam would want to travel I'll go. Yeah I like it.

Wedegaertner: Are there some other things like the labor union that you really are against as far as the United States in general?

Sankary: I'm against – not really I think the whole set-up itself really politically is very dynamic the only part maybe I don't agree very much with is the office terms. You know because it's on a short term planning so I don't see that any President elected can do really such a tremendous job because all his planning is far a short term type of a thing because his term is a short term. So he can't do anything in the long term to benefit you know but this is just a personal kind of a thinking you know what can a President do in four years. He is elected in September, he made a lot of promises so and I think that the President that leave is still there until January, right. That is until the inauguration and then by the time he started he starts to adjust becoming comfortable and then its time for him to go out and campaign so what kind of a job can he do on the long term. But as a whole I guess it's alright. You know he has to worry about being reelected.

Wedegaertner: Would you consider yourself an activist at all. Are there some causes that you would get out and support?

Sankary: You better believe it! I will support the women cause all the way. I support the equal right amendment all the way. You know the right way it being very misunderstood by many people but I would like to see more women up there in politics cause we are a minority up there.

Wedegaertner: How does your husband feel about it?

Sankary: Oh he's a women liber before the liberation movement started.

Wedegaertner: Do you do things like write letters for causes or anything?

Sankary: Well, I would you know if I felt the need to, yes but if the need arise I think one time I was angry and I did write a letter to the congressman, yeah but oh yeah when I am angry about something I write about it. If I am please about something well I'm satisfied.

Wedegaertner: One of the things you probably touched on just a little bit, but what would you say your greatest concerns as a mother were or what were you especially proud of in running your home?

Sankary: In running my home, I think I am really satisfied in the way our son is growing up. I think he is a fine young man and from what I hear from other parents and from what I see that's quite an accomplishment. And I am and Sam is also we are extremely proud because Gary is I think we can just about trust him completely and I think more than that there is nothing to say.

Wedegaertner: Does he have plans for after high school?

Sankary: Oh yea, he has his own plans. Yeah he is planning on going to Humboldt State, that's what he says now. That's what he tells me I've never been there so Sam maybe will take him and go up there maybe next month to see what the area looks like. He tells me, he says he's never been there himself just what he reads he enjoys fishing and he enjoys the trees I guess they have those things there. But as a college and then there is, there was a guy I think he was connected with UOP that he is the President of Humboldt now.

Wedegaertner: I think I know who they are, yeah, I worked with her.

End of Tape