



Guide to the Sanje Sedera oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Sedera, Sanje, 1970-
Contributor:	Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project
Title:	Sanje Sedera oral history interview
ID:	OH-03761
Date:	2021 April 16
Physical Description:	2 Digital Files (0.126 GB) MP3, PDF/A
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>Oral history interview with Sanje Sedera conducted by Kristel Peralta, Cecilia Winchell, Ayrton Yamaguchi, and Stefani Evans on April 16, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Sanje Sedera discusses growing up in Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, with his family. He shares his educational history, moving from Sri Lanka to Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia as a high schooler to learn English before immigrating to the United States to attend Idaho State University. Sedera discusses the political unrest and civil war that took place in Sri Lanka between the Tamil and Sinhalese people, and how he grew to appreciate political activism instilled in him by his paternal grandparents. Sedera shares his employment history working as a manager for K-Mart, an opportunity that brought him to Las Vegas, as well as his entrepreneurial pursuits of owning a mortgage business and becoming a realtor. He talks about the financial crisis of 2008 that led to losing his business, his attempts to run for public office, and how he helped to form Nevada's Asian American Democratic Caucus. Sedera concludes with a discussion of his Buddhist practice and how these philosophies have shaped his life.</p>

Preferred Citation

Sanje Sedera oral history interview, 2021 April 16. OH-03761. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with Sanje Sedera conducted by Kristel Peralta, Cecilia Winchell, Ayrton Yamaguchi, and Stefani Evans on April 16, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Sanje Sedera discusses growing up in Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, with his family. He shares his educational history, moving from Sri Lanka to Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia as a high schooler to learn English before immigrating to the United States to attend Idaho State University. Sedera discusses the political unrest and civil war that took place in Sri Lanka between the Tamil and Sinhalese people, and how he grew to appreciate political activism instilled in him by his paternal grandparents. Sedera shares his employment history working as a manager for K-Mart, an opportunity that brought him to Las Vegas, as well as his entrepreneurial pursuits of owning a mortgage business and becoming a realtor. He talks about the financial crisis of 2008 that led to losing his business, his attempts to run for public office, and how he helped to form Nevada's Asian American Democratic Caucus. Sedera concludes with a discussion of his Buddhist practice and how these philosophies have shaped his life. Digital audio and resume available; no transcript available.

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Administrative Information

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2022. Kelsey Mazmanyman wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio and resume files.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Sri Lanka
- Darwin (N.T.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Family histories
- Immigrants
- Education
- Student passports
- English language -- Study and teaching -- Foreign speakers
- Sinhalese (Sri Lankan people)
- Tamil (Indic people)
- Sri Lanka--History--Civil War, 1983-2009
- Developing countries
- September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001
- Global Financial Crisis, 2008-2009
- Real estate agents
- Entrepreneurship
- Politics and government
- Political activism -- Nevada
- Buddhism
- Idaho State University
- K-Mart Corporation
- Obama, Barack (1961)
- Titus, A. Costandina, 1950-