



## Guide to the Stella Kalaoram oral history interview

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f15469>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special  
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Names and Subjects .....	5

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Kalaoram, Stella, 1969-
<b>Contributor:</b>	Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project
<b>Title:</b>	Stella Kalaoram oral history interview
<b>ID:</b>	OH-03792
<b>Date:</b>	2021 August 02
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 Digital Files (0.822 GB) MP3, MP4, JPG, JPEG, PDF/A
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history interview with Stella Kalaoram conducted by Kristel Peralta and Cecilia Winchell on August 2, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Stella Kalaoram discusses her childhood in Singapore, the occupations and ethnic diversity of her family, and the four languages she speaks: English, Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil. She shares her immigration journey to the United States with her husband, from Singapore to San Bernardino, California in 1990, and their move to Las Vegas in 2000. Stella also shares her employment experiences as a dental assistant, a housekeeper for the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino, and as a shop steward for the Culinary Workers Union. She also talks about contracting COVID-19 and her hospital experience, her family's differing religious faiths, and her translation work to empower the Asian-American community. Subjects discussed include: insurance benefits; Volunteer Organizer (VO); mask mandates; vaccine hesitancy; food traditions; language barriers; Baba and Nyonya cultures.

### Preferred Citation

Stella Kalaoram oral history interview, 2021 August 02. OH-03792. [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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Scope and Contents Note

---

Oral history interview with Stella Kalaoram conducted by Kristel Peralta and Cecilia Winchell on August 2, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Stella Kalaoram discusses her childhood in Singapore, the occupations and ethnic diversity of her family, and the four languages she speaks: English, Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil. She shares her immigration journey to the United States with her husband, from Singapore to San Bernardino, California in 1990, and their move to Las Vegas in 2000. Stella also shares her employment experiences as a dental assistant, a housekeeper for the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino, and as a shop steward for the Culinary Workers Union. She also talks about contracting COVID-19 and her hospital experience, her family's differing religious faiths, and her translation work to empower the Asian-American community. Subjects discussed include: insurance benefits; Volunteer Organizer (VO); mask mandates; vaccine hesitancy; food traditions; language barriers; Baba and Nyonya cultures. Digital audio, video, photographs, and transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Advanced notice is required.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Some transcripts do not exist in final form, therefore any editing marks in a transcript (deletions, additions, corrections) are to be quoted as marked.

### Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted and transcribed 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 2021. Kelsey Mazmanyman wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio, video, photograph, and transcript files.

## Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives. See call number: F850.A75 K35 2021

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Singapore
- Thailand
- San Bernardino (Calif.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Chinese
- Asia--Languages
- Immigrants
- Emigration and immigration
- Emigration and immigration law
- Manners and customs
- Cooking
- Catholics
- Catholic Church
- Buddhists
- Buddhism
- Chinese New Year
- Dental assistants
- Hotel housekeeping
- Women labor union members
- Labor union locals -- Nevada
- Shop stewards
- Translators
- COVID-19 (Disease)
- COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020-
- Culinary Workers Union Local 226
- UNITE HERE (Organization)
- Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino