

## Oral History Interview

Edited Transcript

**Interviewee:** Nicoletta Sorice née D'Avanzo (NS)

**Interviewer:** Viviana Pezzullo (VP), Domenica Diraviam (DD)

**Date:** February 19, 2019

**Place:** NS's house in Deerfield Beach

**Transcriber:** Viviana Pezzullo, Domenica Diraviam, and Federico Tiberini

**NS**

Nicoletta Sorice

0:47

My name is Nicoletta Sorice.. D'Avanzo, nata, I was born December 16, 1936, and I came to this country in 1950. I was born in 1936, and my father left when I was a month old, he came to America. And we thought we would follow him but it never happened; it took 14 years because of World War II. And between - after World War II and the paperwork to come legally, it took about another five years. So I left in 1950, which was the Holy Year in Rome. And I came by myself because my mother and brother were able to come before me and the Consulate found that I was underweight and it would not have been wise to me to take a trip, especially in December; that I might just not be able to make it. So I had to get fattened up. Another 20 pounds - I was in anorexic. So after I really got fat, I finally finally came to America, they approved the visa and I came on the boat; the Saturnia. Once I arrived in New York, my aunt and uncle came to meet me, and I didn't know them. So my last name is Davanzo. So we were told to go in a letter D. And I see this woman smiling and mean she says *Si tal e qual a pait* [laughter] *sei proprio come tuo padre* You look just like your father. And I said to her, *Ma spero che lei è 'a sorella di mia mamma. Lei ha detto: "E comm no, t'amm venut a piglià"*. So anyway, we left and my first time ever to see New York City skyscrapers. I thought they were gonna fall on me. You know, it was so threatening that city was too big. My aunt lived in Astoria. So I stayed a couple of days and my cousin showed me around. I went shopping at Macy's. I got my first bra at Macy's. Anyway, finally, they put me on a plane to go to Louisiana. Because my father was a businessman in Louisiana. And that was my destination, Shreveport. So from Fiorello LaGuardia Airport, I went to Atlanta. But once in Atlanta, I needed a sponsor because I was 13 and a half. I could not wait idle at the airport. So I need someone to look after me. So this beautiful American stewardess, just perfect blue eyes, blonde hair, and she had a convertible outside. And she takes me around Atlanta for three hours. I don't speak English. She doesn't speak Italian, and every now and then sign language "Do you want to eat"?

**NS**

Nicoletta Sorice

2:59

I said, No.

**NS**

Nicoletta Sorice

3:01

No, no like that [makes clicking sound and shrugs]. She says, but you're gonna be hungry. "You wanna eat?" [repeats clicking sound].

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

3:09

Well, finally we get back to the airport to catch the second flight out to Shreveport. And she says, "Order something".

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

3:19

And she's showing me all these eateries you know, so the only thing I recognize really, that I might want to enjoy was banana split.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

3:28

So I eat it. And she says, "Good". Anyway, get on the plane and I get to Shreveport. I had never met my father. I didn't know who he was. So once we came down just few steps in those days, flights were small, a DC3, I mean, it was a small plane. So my mother and brother who had been here before, my mother says, "*Eh, e saluta a papà*". So I extended my hand. I was embarrassed. I was shy. I don't know what I was. I was emotional, you know. So we get to know each other. And that night, which was midnight, as the night places that are open, you know, my father says, I think you need to eat something if you haven't eaten anything from this morning. I said "*No, però... una banana split!*". So I had my second banana split. And after that the very next day, my brother shows me the sound, I get fine. I go to school, and he enrolls me in a private school where I could have diction I could have a fine education and learn English as fast as I could. And I did. And but my mother and father had not seen each other for 14 years. So there was no romance there. They were not getting along. And so after two, three years of this accusation, "*Si m pigliav a te, si tu t pigliav a me*", you know, it was so we thought it was time that we split. And we went back to New York to stay with my aunt who welcomed us. So it was in New York that I began my career. I finished high school and went to work. And I worked at the World Trade Center. I worked for the finance and taxation. And I liked everything about New York. So we lived for 30 years in New York. And it was a New York that I built my life and my family. And so I took a vacation, I went

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

5:28

to Italy and I met my husband and

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

5:30

that's how I married an Italian men.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

5:34

So the children were very well brought up by me I was a good mother in many ways. I was always wanting them to do higher and better. And so I volunteered to be a school teacher at this school where they attended so that I could watch them. I was always picking them up. So, I had a good life in New York. New York was where my children set up roots. And well, they were ready to go to college. And my husband got very ill. He got a heart attack. And so the weather in New York is not suitable for him. So one was going to Buffalo University for architecture. The other one was going to Binghamton. And my youngest one was going for art and photography at St. John's University. So I said to my husband go to Florida, see if you like it, I'll stay with the children. The house is ours. You know, we don't have to really, he says, "No, everyone, everybody". So my children says, "Okay, Daddy is right. We'll go to Florida". And we all go to Florida. Okay. So once we got here, my daughter became a teacher. She graduated FAU. My other one went to the University of Florida in Gainesville. And my son went this way, that way, the University of Miami, I don't want to do it, I want to do it. So next, you know, he moved to go to California.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:08

So my daughters married here in Florida.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:13

And they found wonderful husbands and in many ways, it was a good move for us. Just the thing that we should have done. And it was, my husband died here.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:25

I've been in his home for 38 years. We arrived here, and he died.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:33

We were still in this house and he died. So I was a widow. Yes,

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

7:38

In which year did you move to South Florida?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:41

in 1982.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

7:43

And it is from that day on that I've been in the same home. And so then my children finish college. Now the weddings. And we had them both here. One got married at Boca Point and the other one had the affair at Polo Club. My son, of course I told you that he went to California. And my youngest daughter moved to Seattle, because her husband was with Microsoft. So I on the other hand, becoming a widow and not wanting to lose my home. I went to work part time at Burdines/Macy's. And then I was doing other works. My brother had a restaurant I used to work as a cashier there. So I had three jobs for 11 years. And

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

8:39

Meantime, my youngest daughter didn't have any children. So they took me along on skiing. I learned how to ski at 65 years old. And so we went to Vail we went to Aspen,

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

8:52

we went to Breckenridge, we went to all kinds of vacations. We took vacations, but as soon as they had the child, at two months old, they took her to Lake Louise in Canada. And I keep telling my granddaughter, "After you were born, I didn't go on vacation anymore". But anyway, my three children one is not married. My son is not married. But the two girls, one has a son. They live here in Florida and he's going to graduate next week from the University of Nova Law, law school. We are very proud of him. He's 26 years old. He did well. He attended FSU and then he went to... My daughter in Seattle, she has two children. The girl is 20 and the boy is 14. The 20 year old attends University of San Diego. So two months ago was parents'/grandparents' weekend and I went to see her. And I loved it.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:00

Florida for me was a small town after been living 30 years in New York. Specially Deerfield Beach, I thought like,

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:09

there's no way I'm gonna adjust to this place.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:12

But it took its toll on me. This is the

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:17

city I live in.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:18

I mean, you know, and I would have liked to have lived in Boca. And I looked for lots of houses in Boca. And just when we were ready to put a bid, somebody outbid us. Just when I thought I wanted that house, it was not - anyway. So that's Boca. But Florida in itself

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

10:41

for us, for my husband was wonderful. He got another 10 years of life from New York to here. So, many things happening in my life, I started traveling. And then of course, in the year 2000. The whole world is celebrating the new century, the old - now the new and out of nowhere.

11:10

My girlfriend who had died five months before, or six, Bob calls me and he says it's a new century. And I think we need to start living our life in a whole different way. If you don't mind, I'll take you out to dinner. And I said no, I don't think so. I've never been out with a man. I've just been out with my husband. There's no way you can take me out. My kids have me on a pedestal, I'm their idol. And he says, "Well, I always thought you deserve to be on a pedestal, I'm certainly not going to bring you down. So it's, it's okay. I'm not going to bring you down from the pedestal". And I said, Actually, I can't even begin to tell my children why I'm dating. So he says, "Well, okay", and he pulls out two tickets. And he says, "What about if you go to Paris together"?

12:05

I said, "I been already to Paris twice. This would be great!

12:11

It would be great". So from that time on, we've been a couple we've been together since the year 2000. So this is 2019. So we're working on our 20th. And I've been very happy. And many, many things that I always wanted to do. But Bob, once, twice, three times, he says, "So what are you going to do after you retire"? I said, "Well, I don't know. I'll volunteer. I'll

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

12:41

go watch babies. I'll go to a hospital". He says, "Why don't you, go back to school"?

12:47

I said, "You wouldn't mind if...?" He says, "I'll take care of dinner. Don't worry. You just go. You have nothing to worry about. Just go to school". And so I started going to school. And I went to Broward Community. And I thought that I might be embarrassed with the young people, you know, "what is this little old lady doing in our classroom"? But I found that the teachers were very,... they were clamoring for me to come to the class. So I finished I got my AA. And I said to Bob, "I did it, that's it". And he says, "Why don't you finish and get your BA"?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

13:31

I said, "No, there's no way". Anyway, I went to BC and I said to my sponsor, the man that was always behind me.

13:43

I said, "What do you think if I finish my BA?" He says, "Let me do it right now. FAU has a program, linguistic Italian. And that's for you. And that's for you. And with that I took, I met Ilaria, who was very receiving in many ways. Welcomed me. So I started taking everything that I needed to take. I knew the 120 credits, I don't care how you slice it. So I did it. That was the absolute highlight of my life to get that piece of paper. And to walk on the stage that was for me, because I've been to 11 graduations of my children. Who's got a masters here who got a masters there. Who's a teacher. Who's this and so I wanted to do the same thing. Finally, I bought my own garment, you know the black. And that was just... And so these are the things that I treasure the most. Go ahead.

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

14:49

And why did you decide to study Italian?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

14:52

It was easy for me because carrying my Italian roots, my Italian background it was not going to interfere with learning. The other subjects I could get by. I mean, you know, found algebra a little hard, but I managed. I took everything I was supposed to take. I took some night classes. I took some day classes. I started with six credits a semester. But then I wound up taking 15.

15:25

So 13, one year and another year I took 9-9-13-15.

15:31

Finally I finished.

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

15:33

And let's talk a little bit about your childhood. So where are you from? Where were you born? And tell us a little bit.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

15:41

Yes, from the small town that I grew up in. There's about 3500 people and the village was my, my everything. The village takes care of children, you know, go from one house to another. But I had a wonderful grandfather. Since I didn't have a father, my grandfather, who was a father of seven children, took us in; my brother, myself and my mother. We were 10. And unfortunately, my grandfather had lost his properties. And he had gone through bankruptcy. So they settled in two rooms. But we were proud of these two rooms. These two rooms were crazy, but wonderful, full of love. My grandfather

made us prime, respectful loving. At the dinner table, there was never a time that we were not allowed to talk. He wanted us to express ourselves. And he just says, "Ma ij teng duje neput" (I have two such amazing grandchildren).

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

16:47

And he shook his head. So we will always his favorite. And they treated us like we were royalty because se ne vann l'ann ch bben [they are going to leave next year] you know, everything was gonna go next year. So we had great toys, great books, everything was special. And my mother at times would say to my aunts, "Ma che, ate asciut pazz, tutt sti pazziell." *E ess.* "Eh vabbè, chill po' se ne vann a Amerec" you know "s'anna arrecurdà e pazziell" [But you are insane! Too many toys! And she says: Well, they are going to go to America, they have to remember these toys].

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

17:18

So we were envied. But my grandfather was the one that just loved us to no end. And I loved him more than life. And so we bloomed because of this great love. So we had seven aunts and uncles, and my grandfather loving us. So we were like full of joy. We were not mistreated. And everything was that we were...chill po' se n'anna jì a Ammereca [they have to go to America]. We were like the royalties of that household. And I had lots of friends in Italy and I was very serious studious little girl because in the family we had a monk and he was the person that we needed to answer to. *Prima far vedere le lezioni* I mean, you know... And he wanted *lode*, and everytime we had 6 e 7 [C and B] he said "Dove stanno 'e lodi? 8, 9 e 10!" [A-, A and A+]. And so he was very serious but my grandfather says, My grandfather says: "Ma Gioacchino, chill po' se n'anna jì a Ammereca" *'nzomm dice.* "Papà, ma se non imparano, vanno in America comm duje crepettiell... *E non vogliamo mandare in America duje crepett. Dobbiamo mandare in America ragazzini che sanno agire, capire.... E allora ognuno di loro ha avuto modo di creare in noi la personalità che abbiamo. Una zia che ci sbaciucchiava tutti i giorni, un'altra che ci dava... Dovevamo essere ossequiosi and rispettosi. Un'altra che ci dava i soldi, "Ije vulev 'u gelat" "E accattat 'u gelat, va" Anyway, poi facevamo i birichini al bar quando c'era mio nonno al bar "O no' ije vògghju 'u pasticciotto" *Dicev iss.* "Ma va' a casa va', ca tua mamma t ra 'e sord p'o pasticciotto" "Ma 'o no' ije vògghju 'o pasticciotto mo." *Lo martorizzavamo a chillu pover vecchio, 'nzomm, chell cento lire ca tenev, c'e jiev a accattà a nuje 'e dolcett. E però è stata per noi una grande gioia. Arrivati in America, questo ci è valso molto because bisogna avere una certa personalità di poter amare... a tutt chist person che abbiamo conosciuto.* And so we brought a very nice style. We felt comfortable. We felt comfortable.*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

19:54

*Quindi per me il paese è stata una grande cosa... Arrivata qua a quattordici anni ero abbastanza diligente e ossequiosa in tutti i modi, che per me è stato facile... to blend in, to merge... E ci tenevamo tanto a fare una bella figura because era già stato dall'Italia così.*

But anyway... *posso dire che tutti questi anni in America ho imparato tante cose, soprattutto però* the big learning for me has been from my children. My children have been  
20:39

I have I cannot begin each and every one is so special that I listen to them because they're very, very in-depth. They've educated. I have a son that, he teaches me so much: more about art, museums. The middle daughter, the teacher, she's just all heart, Teresa. *E gli voglio un bene da matti proprio. Poi c'è la piccola*, and she is unbelievable, e *purtroppo però* all her beautiful lifestyle she has in Seattle. She came down with cancer. Stage three. So now, we're going on the fifth year. It came back after three years but we're on the... where we're hoping for the best. And so and when I told her, I said, "I'm so proud that you're really handling this". So she just said, "Look at me. You're my mirror. How do you think I was gonna handle this? You are my mirror."

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

21:45

I said "Well, Maria, I can tell you how much I think you're brave". "Unfortunately," she says, "Mom I have everything. Does it mean that somebody that doesn't have anything should have cancer and not me. I'll take it. We're learning from this. My children are learning My husband is learning". I said, "Well, you're a smart woman and that's why you can handle it this way. I know. Some people might not have been able to be so strong but you have been very good". So anyway so we can have the good or the bad. But everything it's been on the up and up we have a lot to thank for this has been a great country. So I'm very patriotic I love this country, and my grandchildren now are the second generation and they are making us proud. *E questa è la storia degli emigranti*. My children love being Italian. They love the food because I kept the customs going. Christmas, of course... *qua Natale* is Italian and the so my children love food. I love the, My son just sent me something about *'a livella cantata*, you know? *Di Giggino*... something... He says, "Mom, enjoy this". So my children, yeah they're very Italian.

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

23:19

Do they speak Italian?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

23:20

*Sì, perché sono stati in Italia... Uno e rimasto lì per due mesi e le altre sono stati un'intera estate. Anyway, poi... No, i miei figli amano la vita italiana, amano l'Italia e perché il padre gli parlava in napoletano. Il padre gli parlava in napoletano... Il giorno che si è sposata mia figlia... esce da qui, entra in salotto col vestito bianco... and he starts crying... and I said to him, Paolo today it's not the day you cry, this is a day to be happy because she's marrying a wonderful young man. We're happy for her new life. He says, nun m'a maj ritt "uatt." nun m'a maj ritt "uatt"... Dico, ma che bbuò venì a dicer? Dimmelo. Ha ditt, a quann è nata... mi è sempre ossequiato che dice: *Sì daddy, I'll be right there. Non ha mai detto, "What, daddy?" "What do you want?" You know? You know, nun m'a maj ritt "uatt." Dico, ok è vero, è vero, è così. So I said, p favor, nun t metter a chiagner, nun t metter a chiagner...**



NS

Nicoletta Sorice

24:41

She did her makeup . She wants something special. *Allora tutte le amiche mie che erano qua, pecché chiagn Paolo? È contento che la figlia si sposa... però è una ragazza che gli ha dato molto soddisfazioni. You know... E questa qui è anche la piccola... Sono stati bravi, sono stati bravi... And mio figlio, che non parla molto molto bene il napoletano, ogni tanto says:*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

25:13

*“Ma’ why daddy used to say: Mo bben àgliju cuott?” [laughter] che è un’espressione napoletana, you know, che non ha valore, un aglio cotto già... flush... And so they were raised in an Italian ambience.*

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

25:31

So he spoke Neapolitan to them? And you spoke English?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

25:34

Yes. *E non lo so perché è capitato... I was doing that.... "Come over here." And "don't go out." Mentre lui gli parlava in napoletano... And... un'altra volta va vicino a mia figlia... rice: “Vai abbascio e va’ a piglià ‘a cromatina... [laughter] Allora dice mia figlia:*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

25:54

*“I don't understand what you want, I'm not going down.” He says: “Aggiu ritt, va’ abbascio a piglià ‘a cromatina si no ‘a cap t’a facc a quatt.” So, anyway, he says: “Mum, why is daddy getting so alarmed over... what’s the word? Cromatina? What’s cromatina?” Aggiu ritt, shoe polish! [laughter] You know...*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

26:13

*creolina... ‘a crematina... I don't know. So and it was tough. It was tough, but they loved it. They are very happy to be Italian. Yeah,*

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

26:26

At what point did you begin to assimilate into American society?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

26:33

Within six months, I was already full fledged because I had a private teacher for nine hours a day for six months. And every day her and I we talked about everything: up, down, ceiling, floor, um friends, uh laugh and I had a tremendous accent. You know, my fatherre, my brotherre, my motherre [over-acenuating final r]. And she says, "No, no. fa-ther. Swallow the last letter. Ma-ther. You see how I swallow the r? She was, after 46 years, I want to thank her for being so wonderful. She was saying her prayers, Vespers at 5:30 or something. And I said, "Sister Mercedes, I went to thank you so much. I came for a visit". She says, "You were unbelievable. You caught on, you wanted to learn more. And so after I learned everything, she says you're ready for high school. So that you're now you can blend in with you know, girls your age". It was a private school. A lot of girls were boarding there. They were from South America. They were from different parts.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

27:55

But she says, "that is a school that's going to make you very special". Okay, so I did. And so the diction worked. She wanted me to feel the rule, you know, forget about the arrivederci. Don't don't say that. We don't have that double r sound. So and when you say "tie", "pie", she says, "Only the one vowel says the sound the other just goes away. One keeps on talking and the other keeps on walking: pie, tie". So and then she got the piano metronome, you know the thing, so that I wouldn't talk like this (gesticulates exaggeratedly). Because everything, you know "sisterre", you know. She says, "Put your hands behind you and talk to me". So I said, "Okay", and the hand wanted to come out. She said, "No, just talk". So finally that was done. And I went to high school and now was really regular work. Check all languages, I took Latin for three or four years. Latin. French. what else? I took everything that they offered, because that's how you finish a good, it's like a finishing school.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

29:17

And then I went to New York, and I was taking credit here and a credit there in a different uh,... The NYU had a special program in the evening. Because taxation and finance I needed the background of bookkeeping, so I took some credits there. Then St John's, which is in Queens, I was taking other little history - enhancement courses that would make me happy going. So I've always been in the academic world without any really results. But I wanted to learn. Learn, and learn, and learn I did. So that's what I did when I came. I merged immediately.

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

30:03

And what's your relationship with dialect? Because we noticed while you were talking you switched from English to dialect. So how do you feel about...?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

30:12

Very, it comes easy because when I was younger, I was sent to visit an aunt in Cremona and I had to let the dialect go and accept the Italian. And so *mia dice*: “*Non ti permettere... titi...tata... sto saglienn, sto scennenn...*”

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

30:30

Don't do that. So, *allora mia zia mi parlava sempre in italiano e quindi ritornando al paese, in quei tempi... from... 1948 [millenovecentoquarantotto], 1948-49 [nineteen-forty eight, nineteen-forty nine] ti facevano quasi... ti sbeffano se tu non parlavi il dialetto, you have to...* So, *però questo italiano mi è stato sempre molto utile, perché ho letto molto, ho ricevuto riviste dall'Italia, insomma è stato sempre... Ho letto quasi tutti i romanzi italiani, you know... Alessandro Volta... tutti questi che è molto importante, more than anything. I switch... inglese... napoletano e italiano con facilità veramente, not too much hardship, and I like that, you know.*

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

31:25

This is very interesting and do you feel there is an emotional difference for you? What does the dialects represent? Is it the language of rage, of love?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

31:35

*Sicuramente! Si mi faji senti na canzun napulitan...* I mean... I go crazy! Because my soul wakes up, you know... *E spesso Bob* tells me like: “Oh, I have never done that!” I say, why would you do it the way I would do it, Bob, you're seventh generation of American *che evan distrà tutt cos 'e tutt quant, you know Scottish, English...*

*Noi siamo italiani che bbulimm fà 'o favor, bbulimm fà... essere piuttosto alla buona. We don't know how to be in any other way but that way. Quello è rimasto, you know.*

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

32:12

Do you feel Italian, American or Italian-American? And if so, what what does this mean to you?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

32:19

Okay? A pride that I have as an individual today is to be an American. Because America has taught me many things and my children are part of this country. *Essere italiana, of course, I love it, però mi sento più americana italiana, che italiana americana a questo punto, perché sono già settant'anni quasi...* I mean, 69 years... *sessantanove anni purtroppo...* I switched... You know... *Non che l'Italia non rappresenta... diciamo la bellezza dell'Italia* is enormous for me, and I have my pride there too, *però mi sento più americana.*

DD

Domenica Diraviam

33:11

I was going to ask if you'll share about your first trip back to Italy once you had settled in the United States.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

33:17

Well, yes 1958. I went back for a visit and of course I was changed already eight years Eight years *sono otto anni* you know... *But, in order to make my grandfather happy and my aunt happy... allora facimm 'a taliana* you know... And... *E là vivono una vita tutta diversa...* They have different things... *E mi hanno fatto fidanzare con mio marito 'a sera p'a matin. 'nzomm... Tenimm a nu giuvinott, e dico no no no no queste cose no, comm s facevano 'n man a mammà. dico no. Dice, no ma chistu e nu giuvinott ca tiene nu buon lavoro e dico, no ma ije vògghju jì in America. poi ritorno a andare a scuola. puo darsi ca m spus uno che fa carriera. Dice, aaah 'a carriera!* You know, *chist t po dà a mangià*, you know.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

34:14

You know, so I married my husband based on these family meeting so *So, il matrimonio è stato portato diciamo. E mio marito arrivato in America non si è trovato a suo agio. Non si è trovato a suo agio*, he found very much hard place. We then had some issues.. *Però lui mi ha dato sempre... Gli piaceva come io guidavo i ragazzi... Non mi ha mai fermato*, you know, private schools, this, that, the other, *eccetera...* So I do have a lot to be thankful for. I had a wonderful husband and love two children and *un lavoratore veramente instancabile e un padre esemplare...* I loved my children *il cento per cento*, one hundred percent, he loved them a million percent.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

35:14

But, we came to Florida we don't know what's going on. So my daughter, "Dad, do you want to drive us to this night spot, right, called Shooter? But we gotta go at 12 o'clock." At 12 o'clock? *Dice mio marito, chill tant accumminciano a ballà*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

35:37

"I take you. I pick you up too." "No, we want to stay until they close. They close at three o'clock or something." I said, "It's out of the question. You are not be going at 12 and then come back at 3." My husband said, *"ma nun so tre ore si vann 'e sette fino 'e dieci... Loro vanno a mezzogiorno..."* I was the disciplinarian and he wanted them to have a good time. But I have to be thankful for this and I've had a good life. I really did. And I think because I'm in this country this happened.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

36:17

I have cousins that live a brilliant life in Italy. That doesn't mean that maybe I wouldn't have had the same life.

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

36:24

Is there there a song, or a motto or a lullaby that you remember?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

36:31

*A dir la verità. io canticchiavo sempre tutte le canzoni napoletane. Il canzoniere per noi..  
Quelle erano 'e lullabies... Quann arrivavan sti... il canzoniere... and ... La canzone  
veramente... direi che è stata... [singing] Partono 'e bastiment p'e terr assaje luntan...  
cantano a burd... song napulitane... eccetera... So... a dodici tredici anni... la canzone a  
ballà, a tenere già qualche pizzico di... Il cuore di svegliava, so... i ragazzini facevamo la  
cucinella... [laughter] Sei ragazze con sei ragazzi facevamo la cucina, ognuno portava una  
cosa, no? Però la mamma dell'amica mia faceva lei la cucina e noi l'aiutavamo and we  
thought we have cooked you know... Invece lei ci voleva vedere felici... E ballavamo con  
questi ragazzi... E la musica per gli italiani e i napoletani è la primma cosa... Come lullaby  
no, perché primm t sculacciano e po' te ne mandano a letto. Chell è 'a lullaby. [laughter]*

VP

Viviana Pezzullo

37:53

And, is there an object that maybe you still have or do not have any more that reminds you of your childhood? Like an object, a physical object?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

38:08

*Sì, perché... durante il periodo che io avevo i miei dodici anni, by the time I was twelve, they  
wanted you to know how to embroidery... E allora andavamo dalle suore... e disse mia  
mamma, perché nun t faje una... Nu lenzuolo... you know... che cosi te lo porti in America.  
E te lo faccio vedere... It's something I did. [she stands up and we all go to her bedroom] Mo  
s'è fatt giallo stu lenzuolo. [noise of footsteps and drawers opening] Aspettate aspettate...  
No, è qua... Ecco qua... Questi sono quelli la che facevano le suore... capolavori... Let's put  
the light over there, capolavori, vedi? Allora, io non potevo fare questo a tredici anni, so...  
Questo qua no... Ecco! Questo è il mio lavoro. Questo.... Sì s'a fatt giallo... I did this.  
[showing the embroidery] A tredici anni mi hanno imparato a fare questo.... E ero fiera di  
portare questo, sai, this is like a...  
Allora questi qua sono quelli di mia mamma che...*

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

39:32

These are gems! *You know... Questo è un altro, guardate che lavoro meraviglioso... Perché per chi sa... la donna quando partorisce, è una femmina. Isn't that gorgeous? So, allora tutti questi ce li ho così che non li ho mai usati. Mai, mai, mai. Ma questo l'ho fatto io! Sheets and two pillow cases. A tredici anni. C'è bbolut nu bell poc e pacienz, perché quann po' faje 'o sfilato, no? Allora vedi, tu prendi... one, po' faje n'ati duje, n'ati tre, e poi sali e prendi tutti e due... It's... è intricate! And... what else? Questo è quello che io ho portato con me. You know, poi mia mamma c'aveva un corredo meraviglioso, I mean, she had many things. I have never used this stuff. [she closes the drawer]*

**VP**

Viviana Pezzullo

40:30

And do you have pictures of your parents or your...

**NS**

Nicoletta Sorice

40:33

Yes I do, I do, e ve li faccio recapitare. Because I have... *Il nonno che io amavo così tanto... You know I'm writing my story... And I'm at the 37th chapter... però... Aspettate, aspettate.... E le foto? Le foto di mio nonno ce le ho qua. Ecco qua. Vi volevo far vedere... chesta ragazzina voleva sempre leggere. [laughter] E allora mia mamma per farmi vedere a mio padre che ero una ragazzina ambiziosa... [laughter] Mio nonno, 'o portalettere ru paese. [image] *Mia mamma, mio fratello ed io* [image] *Poi questo è il mio paese, vedi? La villa! Questa è Roccarainola, dove so' nata. Poi questa è la chiesa dove sono stata battezzata, prima comunione e matrimonio! Don Giovanni Battista. Poi... vedi che c'è... Questa è man mano... Questo è quando sono ritornata in Italia a venti anni. E poi c'è questo... This is this one... Ah! Quando andammo dal console che io ero undernourished mi hanno cancellato [from the passport] e allora solo mia mamma e mio fratello. E poi, per darmi il visa... son venuta sola. You know, un pochino più grassottella. E allora tutte queste cose sono tutte conservate. Questa è la... D'Avanzo Nicoletta, Saturnia. E tien... 'a lista. Vedi... e andavo a 5 10 Louisiana Avenue, Shreveport. Poi mi è stata recapitata... Questo è il vico dove son cresciuta, questo è il portone. Qui sopra la stanza da letto. Questa era la bottega di mio nonno. And... I have all this... la piazza... e po' lu ved... il signor Del Bene, la famiglia era così ricca che tenevan tutt quest, era tutt 'o llor... Piazza San Giovanni... Che altro? Aspetta... Ecco questo è ancora tutto il paese. I'm slowly getting into it... Questa è la scuola dove I went, Saint Vincent Academy, Shreveport, Louisiana. It was a beautiful school. Bella proprio.**

**NS**

Nicoletta Sorice

43:25

It was English. It was a religious... *un andamento tutto religioso e cattolico. Che altro? Questo per me è stato... me l'ha mandato una persona che mi conosceva, "In researching I found how your father came to America." E ha trovato quando lui si è andato a fare il cittadino.* She says: "I was so excited when I found these documents."

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

43:57

*Ecco qua... e guarda qui... my father... mio padre è venuto nascosto... illegal... Però ha fatto il militare in America e gli hanno dato la cittadinanza... the naturalization... And it says, member stowaway on Conte di Savoia. So, però io sono arrivata legale! E mio padre, by the way, conservava anche lui tutto. Quando è morto nessuno sapeva se teneva dieci mogli, venti figli* and when something went bad, I went through his paperwork *e trovo "I was pleased to confirm your recent offer on the employment, a weekly 200, yearly ten thousand four hundred."* *Però questo è nel 68, è di più.* It's about 45/50/60 thousand dollars.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

44:51

So I call this gentleman, it says "If you have any [questions], you can call me." *Mio padre è morto nel 68... Chiamo e dico: Hello, I'm the daughter of the gentleman that you hired. I just saw your number and your name, I was wondering, are there any benefits from his job? He says: "I'll check, just send me the death certificate and I'll check." Allora, gli hanno mandato a mia mamma 30.000 dollari, tre volte ten thousand. Then, I called the government e gli hanno mandato a mia mamma 50.000 dollari, because he had a policy. So, non è che è stato un grande padre per noi, però all'ultimo mia mamma ha avuto il vantaggio di avere tutti questi soldi.* And so, Mr. Joe, *come lo chiamavano*, goes to college. He was a food and beverage preparer. *È stato un grande restaurateur.* So you have to have the background to pass the test. So, Giuseppe Davanzo, short, wisened Italian gentlemen of 59, is this year is attempt by the administration to coordinate college food services into a digestible system. And they were full of praises for him.

DD

Domenica Diraviam

46:05

I wanted to ask you about the difference between living in Shreveport, Louisiana and then moving to New York. how did you adjust to that?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

46:11

Ah, that's a great question - the best! When I arrived, since I was going to a private school, I didn't know how to take a bus. So we had maids, a maid for the restaurant, a maid for the house. So my maid was a large woman black, and she would take me and start teaching me English. But it was Ebonics. And she said, "That that there's theof the

'coal closet', the...(unintelligible)" so you know, "Your father's gonna whoop you" you know, so I go home and I thought I talked like Ada. My father said, "I'm spending too much money for you to be talking like that. So cut it out. Anyway, so I said to Ada, "Ada, why don't we cross the street?" She said, "No ma'am, I can't do that *Lei teneva il tabacco*".

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

47:11

"I can't do that." I said, "Why?" " Because I'm black." *E c'è una targa* for black only *a sinistra e a destra camminano i bianchi*. So I said, "Oh, I'll walk with you". You know. She says, "Well alright. You can walk with me, but you can go on the other side". I said, "No, I walk with you". So I went to tell my father, that's not fair. This woman has to walk on another side. He says, "fair or not. That's what it is. Get used to it". Because he had developed the mentality of a plantation. They were his people. He could mistreat them if you wanted to. And I have come from Italy though.

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

47:58

That's not right. Anyway, I started learning the history of what went on. Today I know very well why they have a chip on the shoulder because they were mistreated. Period. You know, black only. Upstairs to go to the movie theater. They could not drink the water. Water fountain is for black only. So that's the big difference; the colored process. And when I went to New York, you know, is like everybody was okay. So I thought I liked New York better for that because there was none of this distinction. But that was, and by the way I spoke Southern. And whenever you would just say, "Hi y'all" you know everything was a "Hi y'all".

DD

Domenica Diraviam

48:56

But culturally, and big city, small city environment that didn't impact you?

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

49:01

*Quando ero in Italia* most of my summers I spent them in Naples *con mia zia e questa Napoli era una Napoli nuova*, full of activity, *e mia zia...* we were shopping at *Porta Nulana*, *Porta Capuana*, we were all over the place, so, *per me arrivare a Shreveport, che era di 175.000 abitanti*, was not such a bad thing, I mean, *Napoli era grande, affollato, e sapevo prendere i tram, i pullman, bus... ai miei tempi m sapev... tra Vesuviana e tutta 'a litoria là, prendevamo questi pullman. E dal paese andavo sola a Napoli. Mio nonno mi accompagnava alla stazione, "Quand scinn abbascio po' va' a piglia 'o..." si si si... E mia zia mi aspettava alla ferrovia*. So, I like the whole transit of *Napoli*. So, *arrivato in America*, it was not a big shock for me. You know... *Figurati, stavamo sulle spiagge in Italia che già*



andavano mezzo annure... In Italia... Bikinis... E qua andavano ancora modestamente, you know, legs.... Mentre in Italia già co i bikinis... Qualcuno fumava già, e c'era tutto un modo di vivere già molto più moderno. And so, coming to America was not... it was the other way. Erano molto modesti... And my father says that when he went to America many sections did not have light, street lights. Mentre anche in paese c'era qualche... una lampadina, ma era una lampadina, you know! But they had dark roads over here, roads that were not finished, poi there was the depression... La gente stava male...

NS

Nicoletta Sorice

51:10

so this is about my story.

### Transcription of the parts in Italian/dialect

**Plain text:** English

**Italic:** Italian

**Italic underlined:** Neapolitan dialect

1:32: Si tal e qual a paît [laughter] sei proprio come tuo padre

1:40: Ma spero che lei è 'a sorella di mia mamma. Lei ha detto: "E comm no, t'amm venut a piglià"

3:52: My mother says: "Eh, e saluta a papà"

4:15: I said: "No, però... una banana split!"

4:53: Two or three years of these accusations: "Si m pigliav a te, si tu t pigliav a me" [if

16:52 and he just says: "Ma ij teng duje neput" [I have two such amazing grandchildren]

16:56: because, se ne vann l'ann ch bben. [they are going to leave next year]

17:10: and my mother says to my aunt: "Ma che, ate asciut pazz, tutt sti pazziell." E ess, "Eh vabbè, chill po' se ne vann a Amerec" you know "s'anna arrecurdà e pazziell" [But you are insane! Too many toys! And she says: Well, they are going to go to America, they have to remember these toys]

17:42: And everything was that we were... chill po' se n'anna jì a Ammereca [they have to go to America]

18:07: Prima far vedere le lezioni I mean, you know... And he wanted lode, and everytime we had 6 e 7 [C and B] he said "Dove stanno 'e lodi? 8, 9 e 10!" [A-, A and A+]

18:23-19:47: My grandfather says: "Ma Gioacchino, chill po' se n'anna jì a Ammereca" 'nzomm dice. "Papà, ma se non imparano, vanno in America comm duje crepettiell... E non vogliamo mandare in America duje crepett. Dobbiamo mandare in America ragazzini che

sanno agire, capire.... E allora ognuno di loro ha avuto modo di creare in noi la personalità che abbiamo. Una zia che ci sbaciucchiava tutti i giorni, un'altra che ci dava... Dovevamo essere ossequiosi and rispettosi. Un'altra che ci dava i soldi, "Ije vulev 'u gelat" "E accattat 'u gelat. va" Anyway, poi facevamo i birichini al bar quando c'era mio nonno al bar "O no' ije vògghju 'u pasticciotto" Dicev iss, "Ma va' a casa va', ca tua mamma t ra 'e sord p'ò pasticciotto" "Ma 'o no' ije vògghju 'o pasticciotto mo." Lo martorizzavamo a chillu pover vechchio, 'nzomm, chell cento lire ca tenev, c'e jiev a accattà a nuje 'e dolcett. E però è stata per noi una grande gioia. Arrivati in America, questo ci è valso molto because bisogna avere una certa personalità di poter amare... a tutt chist person che abbiamo conosciuto.

**19:54:** Quindi per me il paese è stata una grande cosa... Arrivata qua a quattordici anni ero abbastanza diligente e ossequiosa in tutti i modi, che per me è stato facile... to blend in, to merge... E ci tenevamo tanto a fare una bella figura because era già stato dall'Italia così. But anyway... posso dire che tutti questi anni in America ho imparato tante cose, soprattutto però the big learning for me has been from my children.

**21:05-21:15:** E gli voglio un bene da matti proprio. Poi c'è la piccola, and she is unbelievable, e purtroppo però all her beautiful lifestyle she has in Seattle...

**22:45:** E questa è la storia degli emigranti.

**22:55:** Christmas of course... qua Natale is Italian.

**23:05:** My son just sent me something about 'a livella cantata, you know? Di Giggino... something...

**23:20:** Interviewer: Do they speak Italian?

NDA: Sì, perché sono stati in Italia... Uno e rimasto lì per due mesi e le altre sono stati un'intera estate.

**23:31:** Anyway, poi... No, i miei figli amano la vita italiana, amano l'Italia e perché il padre gli parlava in napoletano. Il padre gli parlava in napoletano... Il giorno che si è sposata mia figlia... esce da qui, entra in salotto col vestito bianco... and he starts crying... and I said to him, Paolo today it's not the day you cry, this is a day to be happy.

**24:08:** He says, nun m'a maj ritt "uatt." nun m'a maj ritt "uatt"... Dico, ma che bbuò venì a dicer? Dimmelo. Ha ditt, a quann è nata... mi è sempre ossequiato che dice: Sì daddy, l'll be right there. Non ha mai detto, "What, daddy?" "What do you want?" You know? You know, nun m'a maj ritt "uatt." Dico, ok è vero, è vero, è così. So I said, p favor, nun t metter a chiagner, nun t metter a chiagner...

**24:45:** Allora tutte le amiche mie che erano qua, pecché chiagn Paolo? È contento che la figlia si sposa... però è una ragazza che gli ha dato molto soddisfazioni. You know... E questa qui è anche la piccola... Sono stati bravi, sono stati bravi...

**25:08:** And mio figlio, che non parla molto molto bene il napoletano, ogni tanto says: "Ma' why daddy used to say: Mo bben àgliju cuott?" [laughter] che è un'espressione napoletana, you know, che non ha valore, un aglio cotto già... flush...

**25:36:** E non lo so perché è capitato... I was doing that...

**25:43-26:16:** Mentre lui gli parlava in napoletano... And... un'altra volta va vicino a mia figlia... rice: "Vai abbascio e va' a piglià 'a cromatina..." [laughter] Allora dice mia figlia: "I don't understand what you want, I'm not going down." He says: "Aggiu ritt, va' abbascio a piglià 'a cromatina si no 'a cap t'a facc a quatt." So, anyway, he says: "Mum, why is daddy getting so alarmed over... what's the word? Cromatina? What's cromatina?" Aggiu ritt, shoe polish! [laughter] You know... creolina... 'a crematina... I don't know...

**30:25:** And so mia dice: "Non ti permettere... titi...tata... sto saglienn, sto scennenn..." don't do that! So, allora mia zia mi parlava sempre in italiano e quindi ritornando al paese, in quei tempi... from... 1948 [millenovecentoquarantotto], 1948-49 [nineteen-forty eight, nineteen-forty nine] ti facevano quasi... ti sbeffano se tu non parlavi il dialetto, you have to... So, però questo italiano mi è stato sempre molto utile, perché ho letto molto, ho ricevuto riviste dall'Italia, insomma è stato sempre... Ho letto quasi tutti i romanzi italiani, you know... Alessandro Volta... tutti questi che è molto importante, more than anything. I switch... inglese... napoletano e italiano con facilità veramente, not too much hardship, and I like that, you know.

**31:34:** Sicuramente! Si mi faij senti na canzun napulitan... I mean... I go crazy! Because my soul wakes up, you know... E spesso Bob tells me like: "Oh, I have never done that!" I say, why would you do it the way I would do it, Bob, you're seventh generation of American che evan distrà tutt cos 'e tutt quant, you know Scottish, English...

Noi siamo italiani che bbulimm fà 'o favor, bbulimm fà... essere piuttosto alla buona. We don't know how to be in any other way but that way. Quello è rimasto, you know.

**32:35:** Essere italiana, of course, I love it, però mi sento più americana italiana, che italiana americana a questo punto, perché sono già settant'anni quasi... I mean, 69 years... sessantanove anni purtroppo... I switched... You know... Non che l'Italia non rappresenta... diciamo la bellezza dell'Italia is enormous for me, and I have my pride there too, però mi sento più americana.

**33:25-34:16:** Eight years sono otto anni you know... But, in order to make my grandfather happy and my aunt happy... allora facimm 'a taliana you know... And... E là vivono una vita tutta diversa... They have different things... E mi hanno fatto fidanzare con mio marito 'a sera p'a matin, 'nzomm... Tenimm a nu giuvinott, e dico no no no queste cose no, comm s facevano 'n man a mammà, dico no. Dice, no ma chistu e nu giuvinott ca tiene nu buon

lavoro e dico, no ma ije vògghju jì in America, poi ritorno a andare a scuola, puo darsi ca m spus uno che fa carriera. Dice, aaah 'a carriera! You know, chist t po dà a mangià, you know.

**34:20-34:54:** So, il matrimonio è stato portato diciamo. E mio marito arrivato in America non si è trovato a suo agio. Non si è trovato a suo agio, he found very much hard place. We then had some issues.. Però lui mi ha dato sempre... Gli piaceva come io guidavo i ragazzi... Non mi ha mai fermato, you know, private schools, this, that, the other, eccetera... So I do have

**35:01-35:15:** And un lavoratore veramente instancabile e un padre esemplare... I loved my children il cento per cento, one hundred percent, he loved them a million percent.

**35:34-35:36:** Dice mio marito, chill tant accumminciano a ballà

**35:48-35:59:** You are not to be being going at twelve and then come back at tre. And he says, ma nun so tre ore si vann 'e sette fino 'e dieci... Loro vanno a mezzogiorno...

[laughter]

**36:31-37:59:** A dir la verità. io canticchiavo sempre tutte le canzoni napoletane. Il canzoniere per noi.. Quelle erano 'e lullabies... Quann arrivavan sti... il canzoniere... and ... La canzone veramente... direi che è stata... [singing] Partono 'e bastiment p'e terr assaje luntan... cantano a burd... song napulitane... eccetera... So... a dodici tredici anni... la canzone a ballà, a tenere già qualche pizzico di... Il cuore di svegliava, so... i ragazzini facevamo la cucinella... [laughter] Sei ragazze con sei ragazzi facevamo la cucina, ognuno portava una cosa, no? Però la mamma dell'amica mia faceva lei la cucina e noi l'aiutavamo and we thought we have cooked you know... Invece lei ci voleva vedere felici... E ballavamo con questi ragazzi... E la musica per gli italiani e i napoletani è la primma cosa... Come lullaby no, perché primm t sculacciano e po' te ne mandano a letto. Chell è 'a lullaby.

[laughter]

**38:08-45:49:** Sì, perché... durante il periodo che io avevo i miei dodici anni, by the time I was twelve, they wanted you to know how to embroidery... E allora andavamo dalle suore... e disse mia mamma, perché nun t faje una.... Nu lenzuolo... you know... che così te lo porti in America. E te lo faccio vedere... It's something I did. [she stands up and we all go to her bedroom] Mo s'è fatt giallo stu lenzuolo. [noise of footsteps and drawers opening] Aspettate aspettate... No, è qua... Ecco qua... Questi sono quelli la che facevano le suore... capolavori... Let's put the light over there, capolavori, vedi? Allora, io non potevo fare questo a tredici anni, so... Questo qua no... Ecco! Questo è il mio lavoro. Questo.... Sì s'a fatt giallo... I did this. [showing the embroidery] A tredici anni mi hanno imparato a fare questo.... E ero fiera di portare questo, sai, this is like a...

Allora questi qua sono quelli di mia mamma che... These are gems! You know... Questo è un altro, guardate che lavoro meraviglioso... Perché per chi sa... la donna quando partorisce, è una femmina. Isn't that gorgeous? So, allora tutti questi ce li ho così che non li ho mai usati. Mai, mai, mai. Ma questo l'ho fatto io! Sheets and two pillow cases. A tredici anni. C'è bbolut nu bell poc e pacienz, perché quann po' faje 'o sfilato, no? Allora vedi, tu prendi... one, po' faje n'ati duje, n'ati tre, e poi sali e prendi tutti e due... It's... è intricate! And... what else? Questo è quello che io ho portato con me. You know, poi mia mamma c'aveva un corredo meraviglioso, I mean, she had many things. I have never used this stuff. [she closes the drawer]

Interviewer: And do you have pictures of your parents?

NDA: Yes I do, I do, e ve li faccio recapitare. Because I have... *Il nonno che io amavo così tanto...* You know I'm writing my story... And I'm at the 37th chapter... *però... Aspettate, aspettate.... E le foto? Le foto di mio nonno ce le ho qua. Ecco qua. Vi volevo far vedere... chesta ragazzina voleva sempre leggere. [laughter] E allora mia mamma per farmi vedere a mio padre che ero una ragazzina ambiziosa... [laughter] Mio nonno, 'o portalettere ru paese. [image] Mia mamma, mio fratello ed io [image] Poi questo è il mio paese, vedi? La villa! Questa è Roccarainola, dove so' nata. Poi questa è la chiesa dove sono stata battezzata, prima comunione e matrimonio! Don Giovanni Battista. Poi... vedi che c'è... Questa è man mano... Questo è quando sono ritornata in Italia a venti anni. E poi c'è questo... This is this one... Ah! Quando andammo dal console che io ero undernourished mi hanno cancellato [from the passport] e allora solo mia mamma e mio fratello. E poi, per darmi il visa... son venuta sola. You know, un pochino più grassottella. E allora tutte queste cose sono tutte conservate. Questa è la... D'Avanzo Nicoletta, Saturnia. E tien... 'a lista. Vedi... e andavo a 5 10 Louisiana Avenue, Shreveport. Poi mi è stata recapitata... Questo è il vico dove son cresciuta, questo è il portone. Qui sopra la stanza da letto. Questa era la bottega di mio nonno. And... I have all this... la piazza... e po' lu ved... il signor Del Bene, la famiglia era così ricca che tenevan tutt quest, era tutt 'o llor... Piazza San Giovanni... Che altro? Aspetta... Ecco questo è ancora tutto il paese. I'm slowly getting into it... Questa è la scuola dove I went, Saint Vincent Academy, Shreveport, Louisiana. It was a beautiful school. Bella proprio. It was English. It was a religious... *un andamento tutto religioso e cattolico.* Che altro? Questo per me è stato... *me l'ha mandato una persona che mi conosceva,* "In researching I found how your father came to America." *E ha trovato quando lui si è andato a fare il cittadino.* She says: "I was so excited when I found these documents." Ecco qua... e guarda qui... *my father... mio padre è venuto nascosto... illegal... Però ha fatto il militare in America e gli hanno dato la cittadinanza... the naturalization... And it says, member**

stowaway on Conte di Savoia. So, *però io sono arrivata legale! E mio padre, by the way, conservava anche lui tutto. Quando è morto nessuno sapeva se teneva dieci mogli, venti figli* and when something went bad, I went through his paperwork e *trovo* "I was pleased to confirm your recent offert on the employment, a weekly 200, yearly ten thousand four hundred." *Però questo è nel 68, è di piu.* It's about 45/50/60 thousand dollars. So I call this gentleman, it says "If you have any [questions], you can call me." *Mio padre è morto nel 68...* *Chiamo e dico:* Hello, I'm the daughter of the gentleman that you hired. I just saw your number and your name, I was wondering, are there any benefits from his job? He says: "I'll check, just send me the death certificate and I'll check." *Allora, gli hanno mandato a mia mamma 30.000 dollari, tre volte ten thousand.* Then, I called the government e gli hanno mandato a mia mamma 50.000 dollari, because he had a policy. So, *non è che è stato un grande padre per noi, però all'ultimo mia mamma ha avuto il vantaggio di avere tutti questi soldi.* And so, Mr. Joe, *come lo chiamavano,* goes to college. He was a food and beverage preparer. *È stato un grande restaurateur.* So you have to have the background to pass the test, so...

**47:09-47:11:** *Lei teneva il tabacco*

**47:17-47:24:** *E c'è una targa for black only a sinistra e a destra camminano i bianchi.*

**49:05:** *Quando ero in Italia most of my summers I spent them in Naples con mia zia e questa Napoli era una Napoli nuova, full of activity, e mia zia... we were shopping at Porta Nulana, Porta Capuana, we were all over the place, so, per me arrivare a Shreveport, che era di 175.000 abitanti, was not such a bad thing, I mean, Napoli era grande, affollato, e sapevo prendere i tram, i pullman, bus... ai miei timp m sapev... tra Vesuviana e tutta a litoria là, prendevamo questi pullman. E dal paese andavo sola a Napoli. Mio nonno mi accompagnava alla stazione, "Quand scinn abbascio po' va' a piglia 'o..." si si si... E mia zia mi aspettava alla ferrovia. So, I like the whole transit of Napoli. So, arrivato in America, it was not a big shock for me. You know... *Figurati, stavamo sulle spiagge in Italia che già andavano mezzo annure... In Italia... Bikinis... E qua andavano ancora modestamente, you know, legs.... Mentre in Italia già co i bikinis... Qualcuno fumava già, e c'era tutto un modo di vivere già molto più moderno.* And so, coming to America was not... it was the other way. *Erano molto modesti...* And my father says that when he went to America many sections did not have light, street lights. *Mentre anche in paese c'era qualche... una lampadina, ma era una lampadina, you know! But they had dark roads over here, roads that were not finished, poi there was the depression... La gente stava male...* So, this is about my story.*