

Tacoma Community History Project
University of Washington Tacoma Library

Embrahimi

May 1, 2020

FILE NAME: chp2020-03_interview2.wav

[Shadyar Omrani].: This is Shadyar Omrani and it's Friday, May 15 2020. I'm interviewing Mrs. Embraimi. Mrs. Embraimi, how are you?

00:00:13.590

[Embraimi].: Good. Thank you so much. How are you?

00:00:16.199

[Shadyar]: I'm fine. Would you give me your consent to be recorded and the transcript of our interview to be published within University of Washington?

00:00:29.490

[Embraimi]: Sure, yes!

00:00:33.000

[Shadyar]: So, let's go to your background and would you please introduce yourself, tell me your name, your age, your marital status and how do you define yourself?

00:00:52.230

[Embraimi]: My name is Ebrahimiy. I am almost 52 years old and I'm married. I'm a mom. And how do I explain myself?

00:01:13.980

[Shadyar]: Do you work?

00:01:15.330

[Embraimi]: Yes, I, I work for Uber but after Covid-19 and I'm doing delivery.

00:01:25.830

[Shadyar]: Nice! Let's go to your background and where you come from, as far as I know you are an immigrant in the United States, and I'd really like to know from your hometown. And where were you born and to what type of family were you born?

00:01:54.300

[Embraimi]: I was born in Tehran, the capital of Iran, but I don't understand what type of family, will you please explain?

00:02:02.760

[Shadyar]: Tell me about your, your family, your father, your mother. Where are they from or where were they from?

00:02:15.210

[Embrahimi]: My mom and dad both of them are from Chahar Mahal Bakhtiari. One of the, I think west province of Iran, but both of them immigrated to Tehran when they were very young. And my dad was an engineer who was working for Halliburton Company and before revolution and my mom was a housewife.

00:02:46.440

[Shadyar]: Why did he move to Tehran and when did he do that?

00:02:50.850

[Embrahimi]: Okay. My dad moved to Tehran, I think when he was about 12 with his family, you know, I think in that time, or maybe nowadays because many facilities are concentrated in Teheran as capital. So when families have chances. They like to move there so my family, my father's family did Dad and my dad was about 12 or 14 I'm not sure, but my mom's moved there when she was three with her family again because of that reason.

00:03:32.580

[Shadyar]: And they came, they went to Tehran, the capital. Where did they land which part of the Tehran did they go to reside?

[Embrahimi]: I'm not sure for my dad's family but I know that my mom's family were in there about West of Tehran, It's called Narmak.

[Shadyar]: So, from there they got educated. Did they enjoy the life in Tehran better than where they were from or not?

00:04:56.160

[Embrahimi]: My dad is passed away, unfortunately. But I remember that she he would love to go to a more peaceful and, you know, cozy small place after his retirement.

00:05:21.450

[Shadyar]: They got married in Tehran. How did that happen. Did they get married because they knew each other.

00:05:29.520

[Embrahimi]: They were relatives. So they knew each other from childhood.

46

00:05:35.400

[Shadyar]: And how many siblings do you have?

00:05:39.930

[Embrahimi]: I have two brothers and three sisters?

00:05:45.540

[Shadyar]: Are you the eldest?

00:05:47.850

[Embrahimi]: Yes, I am. The oldest one.

00:05:53.400

[Shadyar]: Let's go to the time you were born as the first child to that marriage. When we're what. How old were you when the revolution happened?

00:06:07.470

[Embrahimi]: I was about 10.

00:06:13.740

[Shadyar]: Can you tell me about your experience at that time?

00:06:16.950

[Embrahimi]: It was very exciting because I was a child, and I see the people are in the street. I didn't know about anything, but I liked to be with the people [who were] in the street and do some protests. I always liked to go and join them, although I didn't know what's going on. And my dad didn't like me to join them because he was against them and you know he was working for an American company and he liked that government, but he didn't do anything, not [neither] for that, not [nor] against that. He was not a political man. But I was enjoying. I didn't know what's going on. But my school was closed and at that time, I liked that because as a child I thought it's an exciting activity.

00:07:16.920

[Shadyar]: That then just about few months the worse are that. How did that affect you? You were old enough to remember.

00:07:25.170

[Embrahimi]: Yes, I remember that. Actually, it was really bad, but it didn't influence my life a lot because my family, try to not to listen to news a lot. Try to make support us but be very engaged because, for example, some of my uncles were soldiers, you know, they were at the age that they should go to the war so it was not good, but I was, you know, I was not in a family that engage with that things a lot because my family, try to not to you know, convert the information or talking about a lot, but I remember some things and then it was at the first years but when after some years that they try to bombing Tehran, it was not good. It was a little scary, but my mom's always try to make a joke, you know, try hey you should go to the downstairs. And they try to tell jokes to us and they invite one of our neighbors there. They have children the same as our age and they tried to speak and laugh. So it's maybe strange, but I have some good memories that time. But you know when it you know whether it's bombing. You know, it was not good. It was very scary that you know what happened for the people. But, you know, they try to mix it up and concentrate on other things. So I don't suffer as much as I should do because of my family.

00:09:18.240

[Shadyar]: And the bombardment of Tehran specifically happened in later years of the war, the war took like eight years, but you know it started to be dangerous living in Tehran, like in 1983 84. And it went on to the very last days of war. That was your almost teenage time. When you look back and now you compare with today and the way that your kids are enjoying life. Where the things that you think you were deprived from because of the war those days? any special incidents that really affected you emotionally?

00:10:19.560

[Embrahimi]: Actually no, because we had all our activities, just like before. And you know, when we were not at school and my mom's took us to different cities, one of my uncle's was he works for army and they were living south. It was near to the first step of the war, but because they have never attached was by the Iraq his army because of this their situation home. So, we were very safe there, we play. And really, I didn't engage a lot. And one reason is I don't know, but I'm intentionally I'm a person that forget the bad memory, maybe one of the reasons that I don't remember it's because of my personality. Maybe there are more things, but I don't. Because I try to concentrate on happiness, try to not to remember the bad memories. Maybe it's one of the reasons.

00:11:32.220

[Shadyar]: You remember good memories, for example, people getting together in shelters playing.

00:11:44.130

[Embrahimi]: Yes, yes, because I remember even in school, I was at high school, went Tehran was bombard and I just remember, I was very excited event there we talk some girls try to cry and oh my gosh, our family my dad is at work, but we try and me and my friends try to say, Don't worry, you don't know what's happened. We try and we were scary, but I remember that something happened. We were scared, but we were laughing because something's happened. A friend tell something and I didn't know. But I remembered that as a not just, you know, scared. Very bad. But when I was at university, I remember some of my friends who came from the other cities like Kermanshah or maybe some cities of Khuzestan that they were very, very involved. They had a very, very bad memories and then they talk about war and I didn't feel like them but it was very, very scary and bad and scary.

93

00:13:02.610

[Shadyar]: When did you go to university?

94

00:13:05.370

[Embrahimi]: I went to Qazvin.

95

00:13:08.160

[Shadyar]: When was that?

00:13:25.950

[Embrahimi]: It was 1989. Just exactly a year after the war between Iran and Iraq was finished. Actually ended with with no victory.

[Shadyar]: Oh, that's, that's an important day and you remember when Khomeini died. Did you have a special experience. You were student at the time?

00:14:43.980

[Embrahimi]: Yes, I was a tire school and was very weird because you know all this Media TV, radio, you know, concentrating on that. It's just liked a disaster happened. It was weird for me because some people were very, very sad and crying, just like they lose their dad, and some people were very happy. And, you know, my family they don't care about that. I went to school and I didn't know it's happened, and I found that because of his desk. The school is closed. I was coming back to home to say that. And I remember that TV was talking about that and why that was singing a song. It was just laughing and singing. It's funny for me.

00:16:03.480

[Shadyar]: Do you remember much of the music and the culture that we had, post revolution during the war time and what type of music digital them because you said that your dad when singing. Could you elaborate more on that?

[Embrahimi]: As you know people didn't care about them, you know, in our houses we had them music that be used to listen before revolution, and even the new one that artists, make it out of the country and send it to Iran and also some artists that make it on lawful. It says underground music. So, we used to use to listen to that. And actually, my mom was a person when they get up the first thing before brushing his teeth. It was turning on a music and we used to use to listen to the music that we used to listen before the revolution and my friends,

and other people that I know they used to use the friend music that they like, they don't care about the government in in house it's, you know, as long as the sounds are not out as long as your neighbors. You know, it's not a big deal in Iran, the people used to used to listen to music that they like in their house. They used to not to have Hijab in their house. They used to have parties and many things that the government's don't let them to do in public.

00:18:09.900

[Shadyar]: But things. I'm sure was different at the school at university. You went to University of Qazvin. What did you study and tell me about your experience there.

00:18:23.820

[Embrahimi]: Can I not talk about my, you know, major.

00:18:29.040

[Shadyar]: It's okay, whatever you want to talk about. I just want to know the experience you had in your university.

00:18:40.800

[Embrahimi]: Experience about what?

00:18:45.090

[Shadyar]: Your educational experience.

00:18:47.910

[Embrahimi]: Oh my gosh, it was amazing, you know, my family and I am very grateful to grown up in this family because in Iranians culture maybe they don't like to, you know, they, they would love to have their daughters near to themselves, you know, at least, and before graduation. You know, before you know maybe 22 or something. But my mom's encouraged me, you shouldn't go to Tehran, because you have to try single life. And if you don't go to other cities, you don't have such a life that you can try single life in Iran. So because of that, I decided to go to Qazvin that it was not very far from my family and I could live with my friends, you know, with the girls as my age in dormitory. And it was great because I, you know, we were the girls at the same age in a dormitory, about three girls in a room. So we study together. We laugh together. We cry together we travel when we had time and before the semesters because we became close friends in dormitory. I think we have about seven close friend that we traveled to different cities together in between semesters almost was for amazing we share the activities you know all the things. the house one people cooked, one people go to shop and another one cleaning so we I've got, you know, I had an amazing experience in that four years. It was great.

00:20:46.110

[Shadyar]: Whell, we are talking about 30 years ago.

00:20:48.630

[Embrahimi]: Yes, my God. Yes 30 years ago.

00:20:52.680

[Shadyar]: That's awesome.

00:20:54.240

[Embrahimi]: Yes, it was awesome. It was great and I really appreciate my mom to force me to do that, actually, because I love to be at home, not be, you know, it was very easy. And I, I love Tehran but my mom told me no, you should go to another city, you will love it and I did.

00:21:15.960

[Shadyar]: Mrs Ebrahimi, you graduated and what happened next?

00:21:22.770

[Embrahimi]: Okay. After my graduation I tried to find a job. And unfortunately, finding job was not easy. So at first I saw an advertisement...I became a teacher and because that was not a good job for me, you know, I'm very, very responsible. So being a teacher. It was overwhelming for me because during the hours of classes I always try to, you know, be very active and very responsible for the children and it was very hard for me. And I decided I found that it's not, you know, it's not a good job for me. I saw an advertisement and they they're hiring you know they want to hire first train and then hire the hostess, and I, I love travel so I decided to go for that my family was they were not agree because they couldn't, you know, we couldn't rely on the airport, you know, transportation system, especially you know airplane or something because of sanction. And at first they said no because it's not safe. But I like that I did take I took the exam I passed. I went to the classes. It was very nice. What when I finished that my mom's, you know, my mom thought maybe I will give up during the training, but I didn't. But when it's been as my dad, my mom told me if you want to kill me go for it. My mom never stand in front of my you know choices. But at this time she told me we want to keep because I, I cannot sleep every night. You go for it and you know it's not safe. It's not safe. And I decided to give up. And after that one of my friends told me a company, they're working with importing and exporting in cars tires and I start to work for them. The name was Kian tire. And I like that it was it was nice. It was a, you know, it's a big company. Many people didn't like that, but I, you know, every situation that I entered it's like experience I have never faced people that they don't like me. I've never faced people that I cannot you know, have a good communication with them and in the export department that I started to work we were just about four people. It was not big because you know in this company it doesn't have a lot of exports you know just maybe some little countries in the I remember in the East Europe, and it was it was not serious. And so in that department, we were just four. And I remember the people, lady worked before me had a problem with one of them. But when I entered, I start to have good connection with that guy and start to teach him English and try to help him. So it was the only person that maybe you didn't feel you know, good to work with and but I had a very good communication with him, you know, and I didn't have any problems. So I enjoy and it was very nice be worked. You know, we try to did our responsibilities and I had lunch time. It was great because at lunchtime there, you know, some ladies from, you know, in lunchtime. We have different salons for ladies and gentlemen and in ladies salon. The ladies was there. We had about 45 minutes they gave us the food. It was great and we talk, we laugh You know we chitchat and after that I went back to my work and I like it was nice.

00:26:38.880

[Shadyar]: But we are now in 1990s. I want to ask you about more personal question here. When did you get married?

00:27:32.730

[Embrahimi]: I think maybe 1995 it was because [my daughter] was born 1997.

00:27:38.670

[Shadyar]: Okay, you're talking about your daughter.

00:27:41.220

[Shadyar]: Yes. Okay. So how did you meet your husband and what happened?

00:27:47.370

[Embrahimi]: Oh, he was one of my friend's relative and we know each other through her and decided to get married.

00:28:09.060

[Shadyar]: Do you know about your husband's background also?

00:28:14.850

[Embrahimi]: Yes, he born in Hamadan one of the West cities of Iran. And he moved to Tehran when he was about nine years old.

00:28:31.980

[Shadyar]: Both your husband and your family were immigrants to Tehran so when you got married to your husband? Did you have some special experience of living as an immigrant to Tehran to share? Or were you already assimilated in Tehran's culture and situation.

00:29:13.980

[Embrahimi]: Actually, I think the second one.

00:29:22.530

[Shadyar]: You didn't have any special problem as someone who is not originally from Tehran? You weren't judged because you weren't from Tehran originally?

00:29:38.040

[Embrahimi]: No, I always from childhood when somebody asked me where you're from. I've never said that I'm from Tehran because I believe that originally, I'm from Chahar Mahal Bakhtiari. So, I always told them I born in Tehran, but I'm from Chahar Mahal Bakhtiari, because both of my parents, you know, are from there. But I think because most of the people I don't believe that I'm from Tehran. In my culture, maybe in in US. I think That people when they live, even they live in a city they said, I'm from Seattle, or originally from Virginia. But in Iran when you say you know you're born and grown up in a place and maybe many people don't say, I'm from there. They said the place that they father's the parents are from originally, I think so. So, I think most of the people from Tehran they're not from Tehran. So, I and I never thought, I'm from Tehran and I don't care about that. It's not a big deal for me.

00:30:47.340

[Shadyar]: So, after you got married, did you continue going to work. I know you have two bachelor's degrees at least a s far as I know.

00:31:04.710

Mrs. E: No, no, no, no, I have just one bachelor's degree what I get some license and commerce. There were some, you know, when I employed by the Kian Tire I started to work in export they sent me to...I don't remember School, but it was it was the commercial school that but it was not the university. It was just some training by past some courses there and I became familiar on and you know many people when they're studying the different majors at university, but they want to work for commercial company. It was very popular and it was very, you know, the certification was accepted by all the companies.

00:32:03.240

[Shadyar]: Okay, so I repeat my question. Did you continue working after your marriage?

00:32:11.550

Yes.

00:32:13.410

[Shadyar]: How was it like how different it from was being married, working and...

00:32:19.260

[Embrahimi]: It was very difficult more difficult because before marriage when I went home I just go to my room, you know, take a shower. The tea was ready. The dinner was ready. It was great. But after marriage It was very, you know, oh my goodness, and when I came back from home, I should go, you know, just go straight in the kitchen to cook dinner and then maybe we'll have time make tea, you know, try to serve me and

my husband because my husband unfortunately just like many men in Iran they don't know how to do the housework, you know, the first thing that my mother in law told me it was the man doesn't work in our family unfortunately, I said. She was very proud of that.

00:33:18.120

[Shadyar]: I see. Then you got pregnant and had your first child, the only child.

00:33:27.360

[Embrahimi]: They only child. Yes.

00:33:29.340

[Shadyar]: Tell me about that experience married working with a husband who doesn't even do the dishes. Now you have a kid and tell me about that experience and that was 1997 you said.

00:33:58.890

[Embrahimi]: Yes, yes it was 1997. It was an amazing experience, you know, being a mom from the, you know, from the first step being pregnant, you know, it was great. It was a great feeling. But it was not easy. You know, because you should handle everything after that I get enrolled for one year, but after that I went back to my work. So it was not easy to handle that.

00:34:35.070

[Shadyar]: Because you had a maternity leave for a whole year.

00:34:41.340

[Embrahimi]: But without any salary.

00:34:43.980

[Embrahimi]: Because my, my boss was a very nice guy and I, you know, all my coworker liked me so I just asked for one year without salary and they accept that and my coworker tried to do that, you know, it depends on your and departments. If they don't like me maybe I didn't do that because usually you could have three months and after that you could have some hours for milking your child [breastfeeding to the child], but my boss, you know, in our department and he accepted to accept my request and my coworkers did my job, you know, because of that, and actually I told you we didn't have a lot of job because we didn't have a lot of export.

[Shadyar]: So, then you decided to immigrate. Why did you immigrate and how did you do that?

00:36:21.870

[Embrahimi]: My husband was a citizen of America before I married. He was here and he was young and after his graduation went back to Iran and started his life. And when my daughter grown up and he was thinking about immigration because of her future. I was not agree because I thought it's a very difficult process. I would love to get green card for my daughter, but my suggestion was, she can come after her graduation, because she was accepted in one of the good University in Tehran and honestly I didn't want to be involved in such a difficult, you know, it's such a difficult transfer, but at least I should accept because of my daughter. So we started that.

00:37:36.900

[Shadyar]: Your husband said that, and I and you know you really hear it a lot from Iranians that he wanted to immigrate back to the United States. Actually, he was at the time an Iranian American, he was citizen. So, it was his country, though he wanted to come back here because of how much he cared about your daughter's future. Why? what was wrong with bringing up a girl in Iran and staying there and about what would have happened to her as her future which worried him?

00:38:27.870

[Embrahimi]: Actually, it's because of the many things, you know, Iran doesn't have a good economy. Iran doesn't have a clear future even you graduated from a good university, maybe you won't have a good job, maybe you will lose your job, you know, because of sanction because of the government that cannot, you know, do his job good so, and the young people have difficulties, although some people, you know, now I don't I don't know what's going on now, I've heard a lot of changes now after me left there and it's worse more worse. But when I lived there many people live their life but you couldn't get your, you know, if you work a lot if you studied a lot, but maybe you couldn't have a good future. It depends, you know,

00:39:43.980

[Shadyar]: So, he convinced you to come?

00:39:50.580

He forced.

00:39:53.760

[Shadyar]: It couldn't be force. Force you know is a big word to say.

00:39:56.790

[Embrahimi]: It was it was it

00:39:58.200

[Shadyar]: Tell me about it.

00:40:00.510

[Embrahimi]: Because I tried to talk to my husband, you know, first doesn't involve my daughter. I tried to convince her that we can give her opportunity to come here after getting her green card to his father and he came back to Iran and graduate after you know it can come back after but I think my husband's would love to come and live here too. And he told me...

00:40:44.640

[Shadyar]: He likes his nationality As an American too?

00:40:45.900

[Embrahimi]: Yes he does he appreciate the American culture and, you know, he would love to live here. And one of the reason that he came back to Iran was his mom because he was the last child and all the child was leaving, you know, moms. They were with their family and two of them were living in United States. So he felt that he cannot leave his mom alone, but it was happening together. My mother in law's died unfortunately, almost one year before my daughter's graduate from high school and my daughter was 18 so it was a good time for my husband to go back to his favorite country.

00:41:45.810

[Embrahimi]: I see.

00:41:48.180

[Shadyar]: I really like to hear that from him was like to have two nationalities, but I'm asking you about the process. You said that you worried about the process of just moving here. How hard was it regarding that you are now married to an American?

00:42:13.560

[Embrahimi]: You know the process that getting green card. It was not difficult as a citizen, you can bring in that time, you could bring your family easy here. It was just a waiting list and you should wait for the cancels to invite you for interview and it was it, it was very easy. But for me, I would love to live here. I would love to experience different culture. I didn't have chance to have that in Iran, but starting life at my age was difficult. My English was not as good as enough to have a good job and I didn't have, you know, a major that I can you know with my English that I can find a job here and for covering all the expense I didn't have chance to go back to school because I should cover all the expense, you know, and because my husband is a disabled person. So one person work for three so I knew that, for me, it's better to live there. I know, and it was difficult.

00:43:32.610

[Shadyar]: Where you also the head of the household. Let's say in Iran as well?

00:43:43.470

[Embrahimi]: You know, actually it was not just my income because, you know, my husband had some money that we could use it and you know so and we had some fortunate from our, you know, we're saving it was very, it was good. It was good. We were medium [middle] class family, but it was very, it was good, nice one. But here we spent a lot of money when we entered because we settled in a hotel for about a month to find an apartment, you know.

00:44:34.530

[Shadyar]: Let's go to the very beginning, the first day that you entered

00:44:39.240

[Embrahimi]: On my gosh.

00:44:44.340

[Embrahimi]: You know, I knew that what's what I'm going to see because of internet I studied a lot, and I've never been in United State, it was my first experience, but because I studied or try to find information on the Internet. So I found some Iranian weblogs that explain about their first experience, but they enter two different states and you know it was interesting that I choose Seattle you know between that information and I studied some website that the Americans put their review on them and they moved in between different states. So I knew almost what I'm going to see. I'm not shocked when I talked to some people, they have some shock because they thought that, for example, they're going to one of the best so it should be very modern everything, but I knew that I, for example, I read in one of the weblogs that the lady told that when I came to United States, Oh my gosh, I want to rent a building or so old and you know the elevator everything was old. So when I read that weblog I was ready to face with everything you know so when I see that you know when you enter the Seattle airport when you came from other countries. I don't mean the main, you know, airports salon. It's very dark very, you know, the cement, then you know you're going...if you don't study before that, if you don't have any, you know, talk to anybody. You talk, oh, I'm going to America would be a very great airport. I've heard from many people that when they enter the Seattle airport there was just shocked oh is it is it America. Is it the airport? because you know when you entered in that part of the airport, it's it doesn't have a good shape, you know, and but I knew that I didn't shock because I you know I talked to many people, even I call to my friends, some people one of my high school friend or university or emigrated that so I didn't shocked. I knew that, but I was very anxious.

00:47:27.390

[Shadyar]: When was that the date?

00:47:30.360

[Embrahimi]: I think was 2016.

00:47:33.990

[Shadyar]: Which month?

00:47:35.520

[Embrahimi]: Oh, my goodness. Before the Persian New Year. It was near the march 20th I think 10 days I think March eighth, yes, it was March eight.

00:47:45.900

[Shadyar]: It was March 8th. So, it was raining?

00:47:53.250

[Embrahimi]: It was raining on that year conflict up to end of, I think, at the middle of a previous it was raining continuously, but I knew that because I studied, I knew that I didn't, you know, surprise, because I knew where I'm going to I choose Seattle. So, I studied about Seattle a lot so I knew that what some what I'm going to face. I didn't surprise.

00:48:21.300

[Shadyar]: Did you have any place to go?

00:48:24.420

[Embrahimi]: Pardon?

00:48:25.230

[Shadyar]: Did you have any place to go, or did you have anybody to stay with until you find some place?

00:48:30.510

[Embrahimi]: No, because we didn't have anyone in Seattle. I reserved the hotel. And we went to the hotel straight from the airport and I tried to, you know, look for suitable apartments, for us, but I could find after almost one month.

00:48:54.780

[Shadyar]: Was it easy to get a place to land?

00:49:00.180

[Embrahimi]: It was difficult because we didn't have any, you know, we didn't live here. So we didn't have any credit. We didn't have any you know any past landlord. So they didn't trust us, and I couldn't find any apartment because of that it was one of the problem. At least I offer the landlord that we will pay this the whole six months first and he was nice that except that it was one of the problem.

00:49:32.880

[Shadyar]: Which city did you rent a home?

00:49:35.970

[Embrahimi]: I because I would love to start to live in Kirkland but I couldn't find any, you know, places, and I want to move from hotel. As soon as I can. And so I found that apartment in Lynwood. It was a nice neighborhood Lynwood 200 Southwest.

00:50:00.210

[Shadyar]: Now, tell me about your daughter, what happened to her? Did she have to go back to school here or could she easily go to college?

00:50:11.970

She started to study English first because she had to wait one year for became in the States to have, you know, more convenience tuition. So, she didn't go to the college for the first year after the first year, she started to take the credits and start college.

00:50:43.980

[Embrahimi]: And how different was it for you to bring up a very young adults teenager, let's say, girl, you know you are moving from a conservative country, now coming to the United States, were there any problems there that you face? How different was a to raise a child here?

00:51:23.880

[Embrahimi]: There was nothing that worrying me. I feel very safe. I feel very safe, everything was good but when I moved to Kirkland and I like it more and more. You know, I feel more safe and I didn't have any concern because I feel the community is very safe. The people are very nice. I didn't see anything that make me worry.

00:52:03.840

[Shadyar]: You had to go to work and your husband is disabled. Could he register for any disability compensation?

00:52:15.720

[Embrahimi]: He couldn't because we bring with us about \$60,000 so we had money. And after that, you know, I started work and with my income again and he was not eligible to use that.

00:52:42.270

[Shadyar]: What did you do?

00:52:44.820

[Embrahimi]: I, at first I started to work for QFC because I thought I should have, you know, we had money in the bank. So we were spending that money or savings and I thought I should have a job that the income should cover all the expense and working in QFC, the income was not enough and I, when I was in Iran I was thinking, without passing any you know, license or college what can I do and I found that Uber is one of the choices, but I knew that I should wait one year for my driving license to start that job. So I started to work in QFC in after one year, exactly after one year, so toward for Uber to cover the expense.

00:54:01.560

[Shadyar]: So, let's go back to QFC and tell me the experience you had as an immigrant. You were not very comfortable that your English is good enough to join any office job. So, what was it like to work for QFC?

00:54:26.040

[Embrahimi]: You know, again, my personality is just like before, in Iran, I start to talk to every people I knew. After about almost maybe one month I knew all the people who work in QFC and I say hello to them, talk to them. I knew their names and you know I start to talk to everyone. I think it's because of my personality, although my English was not good but I speak and the people at least most of them were very nice to you know patient and nice and I had a good communication with all of them. I liked them and they're my friends now.

00:55:16.860

[Shadyar]: So, you made up your social capital here, you have American friends?

00:55:23.490

[Embrahimi]: Yes, I have actually maybe we don't have enough time to see each other but I texted them. I invited them to my house. They might be. And, you know, maybe It's not often, but maybe one or two times a year, but we are in touch in Facebook.

00:55:56.430

[Shadyar]: Do you find anything that you miss from home or do you still prefer to go back home or your rather stay here?

00:56:08.940

[Embrahimi]: If I could have a good job and you know more, the easier job that you know it was the fees or the things just like Uber that you don't have any benefits and, you know, it's, it has some dangerous things in something happened for your car. You know, you would lose your job. And if you were to have money. You don't work. You don't have money. I would love to stay here, but I would love to stay the place that I can leave easier.

00:56:55.590

[Shadyar]: I think so, from QFC, then you started to a work for the gig company, for Uber. Tell me about the experience of driving in Seattle. And also please elaborate because I know that that happened after Obama's administration was over, and then the Trump administration started. So, did that affect you, too? And, tell me about your experience?

00:57:37.170

[Embrahimi]: Before I start Uber once before that I started to go to Seattle and the weekends when it's the traffic is slow to became familiar with the because I was driving just in Kirkland and or maybe Bellevue, or Seattle see at the places that you know I wanted to go. I didn't drive in the downtown. So, For a month for weekend I went there and drive and we went downtime, you know, try to became familiar and I started to work at first it was a little stressful because I was not familiar roots, but because I started driving in Iran. You know, I had my driver license, but I had driving when I was about 26 so I didn't have any problem with driving, but because of a different...not became familiar with neighborhood. And when I started to drive It was not as cool but I'm a very careful.

00:59:39.630

[Shadyar]: Let's go back to how your life was changed after the election and the travel ban. Has it affected you too?

00:59:53.760

[Embrahimi]: It isn't affected me directly, because I didn't have any people in process of immigration, but I've heard many people was hurt by that because some people who were waiting for their background check. I knew an American guy who he was a bank guard. The bank that I used to go to do my stuff and we became friends. He knew that I am Persian I'm Iranian and he told me I married an Iranian girl, and I'm going to bring my wife here, but they were in the process after travel ban. I saw him and he told me I cannot, my wife and they came because they need to go to Turkey and Just happened future.

01:02:38.280

[Shadyar]: Okay, now the pandemic happens you're already doing Uber and before the pandemic I know that you are recovered from a serious illness. Could you talk about that?

01:02:54.480

[Embrahimi]: Yes, I need to have a checkout for my mammogram and then became suspicious and after sonography and biopsy they told me that I have a breast cancer, and I should do surgery as soon as possible. And I did that I did mastectomy. And I go to after my surgery I go to... Oh my god, I forget the English name. What was that it was the chemotherapy. The other one I forget about their name and it's true. I forget, I go to my...

01:03:58.620

[Shadyar]: Okay, you don't need to go to that details. Just I want to know, have you recovered?

01:04:08.670

[Embrahimi]: I guess I should go every six months to check out and I'm taking the medication, I should take the medication for five years. Hopefully it won't back again, you know, for breast cancer there are chances to go back. So we should be careful. You know, follow the progress, all the checks the mission and, you know, changing the lifestyle to prevent to come back again.

01:04:45.420

[Shadyar]: Could you change your lifestyle?

01:04:47.760

[Embrahimi]: Before pandemic I could change it or I try to spend time for my, you know, for having a healthy more healthy foods more rest go to gym. But after pandemic I have to do delivery and delivery stuff. I don't you know, I can't do that.

01:05:26.550

[Shadyar]: I think that your immune system is also your concern now especially because of the coronavirus affecting people with the history of cancer. So, is it your concern now and how hard is it for you to be working and being in contact with people and worrying also about your health?

01:05:49.350

[Embrahimi]: You know I have to work to cover the expense. So I don't have hands on. If I want to apply for unemployment, it was not with us just I'm a person who are working, you know, to cover all the expense. It's not enough for me to cover this. I know some drivers, you know, they it's maybe it's a good choice because you know it's your health, it's your life, it's better to get unemployment and try to stay at home, take your family to not to be infected by the virus, but I had to go to work, because I cannot pay the rent, you know, pay the bills, just like electricity, cell phone, insurance and many things. So I had to work. I tried to follow social distancing use mask, use gloves, try to not to talk to less than 60 and I don't happen.

01:07:14.970

[Shadyar]: Okay, thank you so very much for being one of the front liners these days.

01:07:22.980

[Embrahimi]: Oh, I'm not proud of that because I have to do that. It's a shame on me. [If] I don't have to do that, maybe I didn't.

01:07:48.330

[Shadyar]: There's only one last question, and it's about your future. How do you see your future as the pandemic is still on. We don't know when it's gone go away. All the time seems and stay at home thing as well as the matter of Ubering which was fruitful to your life and it's now not available as before, so what do you see for your future?

01:08:27.270

[Embrahimi]: I think act to, you know, the life that we had. It is a long process because for the people, safety, the into the country state by native later even they try to, they have to because people safety to follow the Michelle the stance in in different