

dindria barrow (00:00):

Okay, we're gonna start. Okay.

Nala (00:06):

Hello, my name is Nala, n a l a. Today is April 27th, 2022. Now we are in the Tacoma Community House.

dindria barrow (00:28):

Nala, where are you from?

Nala Yu (00:31):

I come from China.

dindria barrow (00:33):

And, um, can you tell us about China? Where you're from? What part of China?

Nala Yu (00:39):

Uh, it is eastern China, close to Shanghai. My hometown name is Nanning, N A N G I N G. It's an ancient city. Mm. Yeah. It's also a big city, but not bigger than Shanghai. I think Shanghai is very famous in all of the world. Right.

dindria barrow (01:02):

I think I've heard of Nanning.

Nala Yu (01:04):

Oh, great.

dindria barrow (01:05):

Um, and, and Shanghai. Um, but I don't know what, what is the city like, what is Nanning?

Nala Yu (01:14):

Like? Yeah. It's very ancient city and, uh, it's also, it was then capital of old China. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> in the past time. Uh, yes. Like now our capital is Beijing in the new China. Uh, like, uh, in the past time, in Ming dynasty, like some one dynasty or some old dynasty Yes. Nanning was the capital of the ancient China. Oh.

dindria barrow (01:49):

See, that means in the United States, we don't have a city like that because we're so new. Right? Yeah. Yeah. Um, who is your family and describe them for us. You can tell a story about your family or you can talk about your favorite uncle or <laugh>. Who is your family?

Nala Yu (02:09):

Um, my husband name is Yeng, Y E N G. And, uh, he is almost 50 years old right now. And, uh, he works in China, but sometime he fly to America and stay here for one or two months for his vacation, and then he will return back to China for working. And, uh, but during the pandemic time, he just can come here one time, one year. But right now he is here also <laugh>. Oh, good. Yeah. Yeah.

dindria barrow (02:45):

Maybe we should interview him. Is he here right now?

Nala Yu (02:47):

Yeah, he, he's in the English level three class with Diane. Teacher Dan. Okay. <laugh>. But his English not good. Oh, <laugh>.

dindria barrow (02:58):

Because we, we are doing, um, five, six class. Right? You're in the ELA five six class?

Nala Yu (03:03):

Yes. Five, six. Yes. With Christian. Teacher Christian, yeah. Oh,

dindria barrow (03:08):

Teacher Christian.

Nala Yu (03:09):

Yes. Yeah. And uh, I have two kids. Yeah. Uh, one is a son. He is 19 years old, and, uh, he's in the UW Tacoma. He's a freshman this year. And, uh, I have also have a little girl. She's just, uh, seven years old. Oh. She's in the second grade in the central Tacoma.

dindria barrow (03:31):

<laugh>. That's so fabulous. You have like two different lives going on, right. Because he is trying to be a grownup and she is. I'm just trying to play <laugh>. Yes, yes. That's beautiful. Um, thank you. How did you get to Tacoma, Washington? Why did you come here?

Nala Yu (03:54):

Uh, last summer we moved from Pennsylvania to Washington State because my son was accepted by the UW Tacoma, so we decided to move to Washington state together because I also love this state. And, uh, Tacoma is also very beautiful and city. And, uh, it's, uh, I think the transportation is very, uh, convenient. And because my husband works in China and he can fly here directly and just airport. Right. 10 or 11 hours he can fly here and easier, easier Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania. Yeah. Correct.

dindria barrow (04:38):

What did you think about Pennsylvania?

Nala Yu (04:41):

Uh, it's also a great, um, uh, state. Uh, we were in a small town in central, um, Pennsylvania. It cause, um, state college, do you know Penn State University? Yeah. Is located, uh, located there? Yeah, because I have a friend live lives there, so we visited her like eight years ago, and then we found there is very safe and very quiet and, uh, very nice small town. And, uh, we think, uh, we, we love there. Uh, eight years ago we decided to move to United States from China. Mm. Yeah, because I think, uh, we want to give my kids at that time, uh, I, I, I just, uh, have one son, right. And give, give, give him a good education. And, uh, we want to change our life. And, uh, I think United States is a very free and, uh, liberty country. Yes.

dindria barrow (05:47):

Yeah. Yes. So I noticed that, you know, when people come from other places, they come to the United States for certain things, right? Yeah. And so you wanted to change the way that you were living in China to the United States. Yes. Because of the freedom.

Nala Yu (06:06):

Yes.

dindria barrow (06:06):

Yeah. Um, I would love to talk more about that. So if you want to share more, let us know. You know, um, because what is the difference between living in China and living in the United States? You know, but you think about it, <laugh> Okay. I give you a hard question. Yeah.

Nala Yu (06:25):

Hard

dindria barrow (06:26):

Question. <laugh>. We go back to the script. Okay. Okay. I come back to that one. Um, what did you think the United States would be like when you first came and how, how in your mind did you think the United States would be and how was it different?

Nala Yu (06:41):

Um, okay. Um, before I come here, I thought, um, United States would be like a very modern city, very high building. <laugh>. Yeah.

dindria barrow (06:55):

Everywhere, right? Yeah.

Nala Yu (06:57):

Everywhere are new. Mm. But when I come here, it's not like very new, especially in the New York cities. Some like subway and very old <laugh> that's very old and dark <laugh>. Not, not like China. Okay. Uh, we, we have all new, uh, like, um, subway and the transportation high, uh, highway. Um, not highway. Um, high speed train. That's right. Very fast. Not like here.

dindria barrow (07:26):

Yeah. That's why I was wondering about the transportation, how you feel between China and United States because, um, some people think that here in Tacoma, Washington, everyone drives cars. No Subway, no train, little bit bus, you know, and, um, some people think it's a problem, but we don't know how to fix it. <laugh>.

Nala Yu (07:51):

Yeah. Oh, and different and, uh, different with China, it's, there are many bicycle in China, and, uh, but here, no. Uh, people don't use bicycle to, to like go to the, or go to work, go to the school. And, uh, like for the transportation vehicle, they don't use bicycle. It's just they use bicycle for exercise.

dindria barrow (08:16):

Right. The, the whole still bicycle. Right. <laugh>. Um, what was your first American experience? So the first time that you said, oh, this is American, what is happening? Yeah,

Nala Yu (08:32):

But I feel people are all very nice in the polite, friendly and all say hello to me. And, uh, even some do the like cleaning work in people in the hotel, they all very happy. Uh, this is, um, good thing for me. I think everyone are happy and, uh, they don't need to worry about something and uh, I feel this is very equal and social. Like.

dindria barrow (09:07):

That's interesting.

Nala Yu (09:08):

Yeah. Yeah. Can you understand, because my English not good, I have not very much vocabulary to describe these

dindria barrow (09:18):

Things. Yes. And I wish that I knew your language. What language do you speak?

Nala Yu (09:22):

Uh, Chinese.

dindria barrow (09:23):

Chinese? Yeah. So is it Mandarin?

Nala Yu (09:25):

Yeah, Mandarin. Yeah.

dindria barrow (09:27):

Um, I don't know any mandarin, so I can't imagine trying to speak in another language. You're doing fabulous. Um, you know, sometimes we think that there are a lot of problems in the United States, but when you tell me that people here feel more happy and that they are nicer, um, and that everything feels more equal, that's a good lesson for me to hear <laugh>. Yeah.

Nala Yu (10:00):

And then they are confident.

dindria barrow (10:04):

<laugh>, American <laugh>. Yeah.

Nala Yu (10:07):

This is a good thing.

dindria barrow (10:08):

Yeah. Yeah. I like this. I like that. I like that. All right. Um, now we get to the fun questions. What food do you enjoy?

Nala Yu (10:18):

Oh, I like Chinese food. <laugh>. <laugh>. And uh, good thing is, uh, like in Seattle area. Yes. There are a lot of good Chinese restaurant. Yeah. Yeah. More than central Pennsylvania. <laugh>. Yeah. Because there are a lot of Chinese people Yeah. Living here.

dindria barrow (10:38):

Yes. And, um, I'm getting hungry right now, <laugh> just thinking about it. But what is your favorite dish?

Nala Yu (10:47):

You mean Chinese food? Yeah. Hot pot. <laugh>.

dindria barrow (10:52):

Hot pot. Okay. All right. We'll move on. What is your favorite music or song?

Nala Yu (10:59):

Hmm. I don't listen to the American song. That's okay. Um, I listen to the Chinese song, popular song. Yeah. Uh, but I don't like the rock and the, like that how, how to say

dindria barrow (11:17):

Rock. Yeah. Rock and Roll.

Nala Yu (11:18):

Rock and a roll. Yeah. I, I I don't like that. I like popular.

dindria barrow (11:21):

It's too fast, right? Yeah.

Nala Yu (11:23):

<laugh>. Yeah. Yeah. Relax.

dindria barrow (11:25):

You love the soothing music. Okay. Yeah. We call it, um, what would we call it? Um, new age maybe? Yeah, maybe new age music or maybe, um, contemporary music or Pop you said, right? Yeah, like pop music, pop some pop

Nala Yu (11:44):

<laugh>. Oh, not hot pop.

dindria barrow (11:46):

No, no, no, no, no, no. Hot pop.

Nala Yu (11:48):

<laugh>

dindria barrow (11:49):

<laugh>. Just the calm, relaxing music. Yeah. Relax. Um, I think a lot about K-pop.

Nala Yu (11:58):

Hmm.

dindria barrow (11:58):

Maybe young, but that's Korean. Yeah. Oh,

Nala Yu (12:01):

Oh yeah. The young people like that.

dindria barrow (12:03):

Yeah. Yeah. <laugh> <laugh>. You're like, I'm not the young one. <laugh> <laugh>. Um, Nala, what, why do you wanna share your story?

Nala Yu (12:17):

Uh, share a story in America?

dindria barrow (12:20):

Yeah. Like why do you wanna share on the radio or on the oral history right now?

Nala Yu (12:25):

Oh, okay. I'm, I want to, um, let many people to recognize this is a very freedom free country and a very, um, equal country. And, uh, people are nice, are friendly. Yeah. I want to let, um, many immigrant new immigrants to know that.

dindria barrow (12:58):

Right on.

Nala Yu (12:58):

Yeah. And, uh, I like this, um, not very big city, right? Uh, Tacoma, but very, I think it's, it's safe city. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and um, um, and a very beautiful, there are many beaches here and uh, uh, and my husband likes fishing <laugh>.

dindria barrow (13:22):

Oh yes.

Nala Yu (13:22):

Yeah. In the summertime he can go to the beach and uh, he can cat, uh, catch some crabs. Yes. And shrimps here.

dindria barrow (13:32):

Yeah. And then, um, jellyfish.

Nala Yu (13:35):

Yeah,

dindria barrow (13:36):

Jellyfish. Not jellyfish.

Nala Yu (13:37):

Squid. Oh, squid. Oh

dindria barrow (13:38):

Yeah. And then, um, what else? Crab, squid, fish. Um, shrimp. I was just thinking what I forget. Sorry, what? It's called <laugh>. Um, but I see them on, um, the waterfront in Tacoma. Um, and at night Yeah. With the big lights. Yeah. Yeah. <laugh>.

Nala Yu (14:01):

There is a public pier. Yeah. Yeah. And then we went there.

dindria barrow (14:06):

<laugh>. Um, okay, one last question. Okay. What do you hope for your future?

Nala Yu (14:14):

Hmm. I hope I can find a good job and, uh, my kids can learn, um, much, um, knowledge. Yeah.

dindria barrow (14:28):

Yeah. Right on. That's good.

Nala Yu (14:30):

Thank you.

dindria barrow (14:31):

Thank you so much.