

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript

Shaporda, Petro. Interview date: 05/04/2022.

dindria: [00:01](#) Okay. Hello. Please say your name.

Petro Shaporda: [00:04](#) Mm, hello. My name is Petro.

dindria: [00:07](#) And the date,

Petro Shaporda: [00:09](#) Um, may 4, uh, 2022 is, uh, today's date. Uh, I'm in the Tacoma community House. Uh, is, uh, we are

dindria: [00:21](#) Perfect. Number one. Where are you from?

Petro Shaporda: [00:27](#) I'm from Ukraine.

dindria: [00:30](#) Tell us about Ukraine.

Petro Shaporda: [00:32](#) Ah, Ukraine is, uh, my, uh, my country Where, uh, where uh, I born. Uh, I like Ukraine, uh, because I have many, uh, good people, uh, good friends in my country. I, uh, I got, uh, mm, I got many, uh, experience for my life, for my job, for my connection with people in my country. It's, I like, uh, it's important for me. Uh, now, uh, we have this, uh, situation. I, I am in usa.

dindria: [01:18](#) Yes,

Petro Shaporda: [01:18](#) I like in Ukraine, uh, uh, forest, many forest, uh, here my, uh, country, uh, heres my country. And, uh, I like, uh, fishing. I like hunting. It's my country, uh, was, uh, very good.

dindria: [01:36](#) Yes, What, do you do that here? Because we have some forests in Washington. Do you go, do you go fishing and hunting here?

Petro Shaporda: [01:43](#) Yeah. Very like, I very like fishing. Yes. But I, uh, now I don't understand how I can hunting. Maybe later.

dindria: [01:51](#) Maybe later. Yeah. Because you have to get the licenses,

Petro Shaporda: [01:53](#) So Yeah, yeah, yeah. <laugh>, I, I, I, I, I have license Oh, okay. To Washington state now? Yeah. Oh, good. Because I want, uh, go to fishing next time.

dindria: [02:02](#) Okay. Because I heard that the fishing and the hunting are two different license.

Petro Shaporda: [02:06](#) No, I, is it different? Yeah, I know. I know. Oh, okay. Different. Different.

dindria: [02:10](#) Yeah. Different. Okay. Alright. Um, who is your family? Describe them.

Petro Shaporda: [02:17](#) Uh, my family is, um, my, my family. This might gold <laugh>. It's my, uh, I have wife Axana. Uh, I have, uh, five daughters. Yeah. Uh, Daniella of Ladislava vi, uh, uh, Carolina Mil. Beautiful. All my family, uh, in USA now. Yeah. With me. Um, um, my, uh, oh, my wife, uh, have appointment today, uh, for driver license permit. For permit.

dindria: [02:57](#) Oh Okay. Impressive!

Petro Shaporda: [02:59](#) Very hard for, for your <laugh>. Yeah. Maybe.

dindria: [03:03](#) I know when I was driving, I had trouble parking. Yeah. Is, that's the hardest part for me.

Petro Shaporda: [03:09](#) No, maybe. Yeah, because I, I have driver license of, of Washington State now.

dindria: [03:15](#) Oh, good. Yeah. Okay. You've got all your licenses. <laugh>,

Petro Shaporda: [03:19](#) Yeah. Two Ukraine and American license.

dindria: [03:22](#) Yeah. You have both. Um, how did you get here to Tacoma, Washington?

Petro Shaporda: [03:29](#) Um, uh, after New Year, um, uh, I saw, uh, vote, uh, Russia once, uh, once, uh, war with our, our country. I think, um, I think, uh, I need, uh, um, I need, uh, do protection for my family, uh, and IVs my family go to, but not all family because, uh, my wife and, uh, three and four daughters have a visa

dindria: [04:13](#) Okay.

Petro Shaporda: [04:14](#) To USA. And my, my wife and, uh, four daughters, uh, go to USA on airplane. Yeah. Uh, I, and, uh, my daughter, uh, uh, daughter who don't have visa, we go to Mexico.

dindria: [04:34](#) Oh interesting.

Petro Shaporda: [04:34](#) Yeah. We go to Mexico and, um, before, one month before war, uh, we go to Mexico and we have, uh, contact with, um, border, Border, uh, uh, police officer. We ask, uh, political asylum. Oh, yeah. Yes. I was, uh, two days in, uh, a boat. Uh, after, uh, after, uh, we go to San Diego. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, we're from San Diego on airplane. We, uh, we go to Tacoma. Yeah. And, uh, and, and here, my wife and for daughters wait me.

dindria: [05:19](#) Yeah. So you all met together?

Petro Shaporda: [05:21](#) Yeah. Yeah. Now we, we are together. We are happy.

dindria: [05:25](#) Oh, that's so good.

Petro Shaporda: [05:25](#) But we, we worry, uh, about, uh, uh, our people in Ukraine because my mothers live in Ukraine. And, um, in Ukraine, uh, live, uh, my brother's family and many friends. Yeah. Yeah. Here, they, they have very big, um,

dindria: [05:46](#) Are you able to keep in touch on the phone? With them?

Petro Shaporda: [05:51](#) Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Every day, every night. More every night. Because in Ukraine, they, uh, we here, uh, in USA Night, every night, I call this <laugh>, this

dindria: [06:02](#) Other side of the world.

Petro Shaporda: [06:03](#) Yeah. Yeah.

dindria: [06:04](#) Yeah. Okay. Um, what did you think the United States would be like?

Petro Shaporda: [06:11](#) Um, uh, I like, um, United States because this country have, uh, uh, much of freedom. Yes. You know, all people can, uh, say what you think. Uh, um, all people, um, more, uh, can open skills. Yes. Yeah. I like America. But, um, I like America because, uh, Washington state, uh, have, uh,

has many mountains. Pacific Ocean. Yes. Many, uh, river lakes. Very like a forest. Yeah. Yeah. Very beautiful. In Washington state.

- dindria: [06:59](#) I love hearing about our, um, Washington state and how beautiful it is. Is it as beautiful as Ukraine?
- Petro Shaporda: [07:06](#) Uh, Ukraine more beautiful. Yeah. <laugh> because, uh, <laugh> Ukraine is my country. <laugh>. Yeah.
- dindria: [07:14](#) Yeah. Um, what food do you like to eat?
- Petro Shaporda: [07:20](#) Uh, in, in usa?
- dindria: [07:22](#) Yeah. Or, or,
- Petro Shaporda: [07:23](#) I like, uh, barbecue. Yes.
- dindria: [07:26](#) Oh, yeah. You like ribs?
- Petro Shaporda: [07:27](#) Beef, ribs, beef, beef,
- dindria: [07:28](#) Beef, ribs,
- Petro Shaporda: [07:29](#) Beef. Yeah. Maybe shrimps. Yeah. Do I
- dindria: [07:32](#) Like, oh, yeah. Shrimp. Shrimp.
- Petro Shaporda: [07:33](#) I love shrimp. Yeah.
- dindria: [07:34](#) Shrimp. Um, I'm getting hungry, so I'm sorry if you can hear my tummy, but like, I'm, every time I ask each person for food, I'm like, oh, I should eat that. I should eat that. <laugh>. What is your favorite music or song?
- Petro Shaporda: [07:49](#) Oh, I like, um, I like, uh, listen, uh, Christian music. Yes. Because I am a ch- Christian man. Uh, Pentecostal. Yeah. Yeah. But, um, but I like, uh, in America, um, music. Jesus country. Yeah. Oh, I, yeah, I know. Yeah. On, on English. Jesus. Country, uh, this team from USA, I think. Yeah. Um, in, uh, I, I, I like, uh, I like, uh, Ukrainian Christian music, uh, from church,
- dindria: [08:26](#) Of course. <laugh>.

Petro Shaporda: [08:27](#) Yeah. I, I, I listen all time. Uh, I listen all time. Christian music. Yeah.

dindria: [08:33](#) Right on. We have a lot of interesting, um, bands that are coming up in the Christian music field because they have different kinds of Christian music. Sometimes rap, sometimes rock, sometimes soft music or classical. Right.

Petro Shaporda: [08:51](#) Oh, I like more classical music.

dindria: [08:53](#) More classical. Okay. Why do you want to tell your story today? So why do you want to share your, your story today?

Petro Shaporda: [09:05](#) Today? Mm-hmm.

dindria: [09:06](#) <affirmative>? Yeah. Like right now?

Petro Shaporda: [09:07](#) Right now?

dindria: [09:08](#) Yeah. Like why, why are you telling us right now? Mm. Let me fix

Petro Shaporda: [09:16](#) Story. Uh, last time or today?

dindria: [09:18](#) Today. Today. Um, all of these questions. Why do you want to answer these questions today?

Petro Shaporda: [09:24](#) Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, just a moment.

dindria: [09:29](#) That's okay.

Petro Shaporda: [09:38](#) Uh, because I, I want, um, know more, uh, um, more, uh, health, uh, connection, uh, speak with, uh, people from Ukraine. Uh, from usa. Yeah. I, I like, uh, study in Tacoma community house because I understand when I, uh, I, I am in USA or, um, English language for me, number one, <laugh> because we need English. I like, uh, people who are teaching me here, uh, I can speak with them. Uh, I can ask, uh, them, uh, any question. This, uh, very like for me.

dindria: [10:23](#) Oh, thank you. Yeah. I'm glad that Tacoma Community House does good work. Right?

Petro Shaporda: [10:27](#) Yeah. <laugh>. Good. Good. I won't, uh, start, I won't learn. Maybe, uh, start morning, finished, uh, evening <laugh>, half day's a little bit for me.

dindria: [10:40](#) Yeah. You're just like, let's keep going. I want more. I want more

Petro Shaporda: [10:41](#) <laugh>. Yeah. Because we practice.

dindria: [10:46](#) Yeah. Do you use the, um, there are different ways to practice English by yourself? Like a computer program? like Rosetta Stone. Mm-hmm. or Duolingo. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. Have you heard of them? Yes

Petro Shaporda: [10:59](#) Yeah. Every day. I have couple classes on YouTube.

dindria: [11:04](#) Oh

Petro Shaporda: [11:05](#) My goodness. Because

dindria: [11:06](#) You have like three classes. <laugh>. Oh

Petro Shaporda: [11:08](#) Yeah. <laugh> need three classes.

dindria: [11:10](#) Right on. Um, next question. Um, what do you hope for your future?

Petro Shaporda: [11:19](#) Uh, I need, uh, I think about my future. Uh, I want, um, I want have, uh, good time in usa. Maybe I want, uh, have work next time in usa Yeah. After when, uh, when we will, uh, when I will can help to my country. From, from, from here? Uh, because, uh, uh, when, uh, when, uh, my country finished, uh, war with Russia, so I don't know what, uh, what will, uh, what will I do? Um, because, uh, uh, maybe, uh, we, uh, speak with my family if we will be help to our country.

dindria: [12:14](#) Ah, okay. Yes.

Petro Shaporda: [12:15](#) But now I won't, uh, uh, um, my kids, uh, uh, my kids study in, uh, in usa. My kids are, um, have time, uh, in church, Christian Church more because, uh, God help for everyone, you know, in, in <inaudible> life after, I dunno, maybe.

dindria: [12:46](#) Yeah. Yeah. It's hard to know the future, like what is gonna happen, <laugh>. Yeah. But those are good plans. I really appreciate you sharing that. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, that's the end.

Petro Shaporda: [12:58](#) Okay. So

dindria: [12:59](#) We are done.

Petro Shaporda: [12:59](#) Thank you.

dindria: [13:00](#) Thank you so much for sharing your story,

Petro Shaporda: [13:03](#) Petra. Thank you. Thank you.