

Craig Iorizzo

Me: Please state your full name and please spell your full name

Adelgisa: Adelgisa Maria Santoro Iorizzo

Me: Where and when (in which year, if you feel comfortable to share it) were you born?

Adelgisa: December 1, 1964, Brooklyn New York Methodist hospital.

Me: What is your current occupation?

Adelgisa: I working for the Smithtown School District. I am staff support

Me: What is your educational background? No College?

Adelgisa: I graduated High school, No college

Me: Please tell me about your parents: where were they born? What did/do they do for a living? What was/is their educational background?

Adelgisa: Both my parents were born In Italy, Palermo Italy. My mom was a piece worker which means she sewed pieces of clothing and got paid by the amount of clothing she sewed my father was jeweler My mother went to 4th grade and had to quit to help support her family, and my father finished school.

Me: Now, please tell me how many brothers and sisters you have? Where are they living and what do they do?

Adelgisa: I am 1 of 7 kids 6 girls and 1 boy, my oldest sister Vincenza lives in florida as a grandmother, my brother luigi is retired he lives in staten island, my sister Josiphina lives in nassau she works for a department like sanitation, my sister mary never worked, my sister Clotilda drives a bus, and myself I am an aide for the school, and my younger sister has her own cleaning business Elvira.

Part II: Migration and Settlement of the Original Immigrant Generation

It might be that your interviewee(s) can't answer some of the following questions, and it is totally fine. They can answer "I don't know" if they don't have the information.

It is also totally fine that your interviewee(s) don't feel comfortable answering certain questions, and it is totally fine, too. You can just skip them, or your interviewee(s) can say: "I prefer not to answer."

Me: Why did your parents and/or grand-parents come to the US?

Adelgisa: My father and mother lived in Italy for many years and wanted a better life for us. I was told my father wanted us to live in America, the land of the free.

Me: Who made the decision to immigrate?

Adelgisa: My father

Me: Did they travel together as a family or separately? Did someone in the family come earlier than the others?

Adelgisa: They traveled together as a family on a boat. All at the same time.

Me: Where did they go and live once they arrived?

Adelgisa: They moved to brooklyn they stayed with a friend until my father and mother got an apartment

Me: What were their financial resources like when they arrived?

Adelgisa: My father was a jeweler so it was easy for him to get a job. My mother was a piece maker it was a little more difficult for her to get a job right away but when she got a job right away.

Me: Did they immediately find housing to rent or buy?

Adelgisa: no they stayed with a friend and then they rented.

Me: What was their neighborhood like?

Adelgisa: they lived in brooklyn which was a very italian neighborhood. A lot of immigrants that came to America lived there. Very friendly

Me: How did they get along with their neighbors and the community?

Adelgisa: very well it was an all italian immigrant neighborhood so everyone helped each other

Me: Did they find a job immediately? Was there a job waiting for them?

Adelgisa: my father was a jeweler so it was easy for him to get a job right away because he was already a citizen. My mom it was a little bit difficult but once she had a job it was fine.

Me: What happened to the rest of your family?

Adelgisa: most of my family lives in Palermo, Italy we were the only ones that came to America

Me: Do they live close to other family members?

Adelgisa: yes, we all growing up lived within blocks of each other as we got older and started our own family maybe a half hour or an hour from each other.

Me: What about your family in Italy? Do they all live close to each other?

Adelgisa: Very close.

Part III: Identity, Traditions, Food, and the Future (about the interviewee)

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Me: What did you see as your "identity"? For example, did they see themselves as Italian American, as simply Italian, or some other identities?

Adelgisa: Italian american and very proud of it

Me: What kinds of family traditions and practices did you keep?

Adelgisa: I tried to keep as many as possible growing up like easter, easter sunday, having the family over eggs, halloween, apple picking, pumpkin picking, sunday dinner wichch we don't get to do as much anymore so we changed that from sundays to saturdays.

Me: Do you and your family continue to practice these traditions and customs? Why?

Adelgisa: Absolutely as often as possible because family is everything and traditions are everything and are important to carry on to the next generation.

Me: Which did you decide to change or stop practicing, if any?

Adelgisa:I didn't even stop. I changed Sunday dinner to Saturday dinner because everyone works has different schedules and Saturdays seem to be the easiest day for everyone.

Me: Do you eat Italian cuisine at home? If not, what kind of cuisine do you usually eat at home?

Adelgisa: Yes, we eat italian almost every night. *laughing*

Me: Where do you buy your products? Do you have a garden?

Adelgisa: I buy my products everywhere but I do like Uncle Gusipes. And I had a garden for many years but this will be the third year with not garnered but we do have our fig tree.

Me: Do you cook from scratch? What do you usually prepare and eat at home?

Adelgisa: I try to cook from scratch as much as often as I can because my daughter is very finicky eater cannot have fried food so we bake mostly everything. A common meal in my house that is a big favorite is chicken cutlets.

Me: What kind of dishes are part of your family tradition? Who does prepare them? When do you usually eat them?

Adelgisa: We eat a lot of chicken, pastas, lentils, lasagna and we eat them everyday, holidays and I prepare them and cook everything myself.

Me: Do you share family meals every weekend? If yes, what do you usually eat?

Adelgisa: Yes, as I said before Saturday is our Sunday dinner so it would be a pasta, a meat, a soup, an antipasto, anything that the kids want salad.

Me: What kind of holidays do you celebrate with your family? What do you eat during these celebrations?

Adelgisa: Well I'll just say, Christmas, we do all holidays but Christmas I would say is the biggest. The seven fishes even though the younger generation doesn't appreciate the fish my brothers and sisters enjoy. And that can be calamari, fish calamari and a whole bunch of different things.

Me: If you go out to eat, which restaurants do you like to go to? What do you like to eat there?

Adelgisa: If I'm going out to eat with my family it's not going to be Italian. We will probably go to a steakhouse. Steak.

Me: How does food inform your identity?

Adelgisa: It informs everyone's identity if you're Italian because your life is based on eating the best food, the most variety and how family gets together.

Me: What did you see as your "place" in American society?

Adelgisa: I am an Italian American living my best life in America, the land of the free.

Me: What was the most important and meaningful event or experience in your life?

Adelgisa: Events that my family came here from Palermo to give us a better life. My father is not around and I hope I made them all proud living in this beautiful world.

Me: What was the happiest moment in your life?

Adelgisa: I would have to say giving birth to my two beautiful children

Me: What are your dreams and visions for the future?

Adelgisa: My dreams are to watch my kids make wonderful lives for themselves, have their own family, continue the tradition and be happy.

Me: Is there anything you would like to add to the interview?

Adelgisa: No, but thank you.

Abstract:

This interview covered information about Adelgisa and her family. We spoke about topics that discussed her heritage, upbringings, and even her dreams. The first set of questions were basic Biographical. Data Part II asked about Migration and Settlement of the Original Immigrant Generation. Part III asked about things such as Identity, Traditions, Food, and the Future. Central questions addressed her siblings, family, and traditions in her life. This is where she provided the most information. One thing I already knew, thanks to the class I am taking, is the answers to why did your parents move here? Adelgisa answers quickly, talking about how her father wants a better life for his kids. This seems to be a common theme throughout the class and what we spoke about during Deliza readings. The goal of this interview was to learn about Adelgisa's life and about Italian heritage along with culture. This is worth mentioning so we can further understand concepts covered in class and connect them to people today. The method I used in this interview was to talk slowly and clearly. I wanted to take my time and to ensure I understood the questions I printed them out as well and I read them over. The main findings of this interview was life after arriving in America. Adelgisa shares many of the real struggles she faces like housing, and getting a job. In addition to this there was a lot about family and traditions. It was seen Adelgisa's upbringings impact the traditions she practices today. Overall, the significance of this interview was to allow for deeper understanding of Italian culture and tie the Italian cuisine learned in class to explain how important they all are to an individual.