

# UC Santa Cruz

## Oral History Collaborations

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Frank Madalora interviewed by Olivia Sawi

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### Authors

Madalora, Frank

Sawi, Olivia

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## Frank Madalora interviewed by Olivia Sawi

**Speakers:** Frank Madalora and Olivia Sawi

**Date:** May 4, 2021

**Scope and Contents:** In this interview, originally recorded over Zoom, Frank Madalora speaks with Watsonville is in the Heart team member, Olivia Sawi. Frank discusses his parents, Santiago Madalora and Apolonia Sagaysay and both of their families' origins in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He describes Santiago's immigration to Hawai'i to work in the plantations followed by his migration to Watsonville, California where he worked as a migrant agricultural laborer. Frank discusses how his parents' met while Santiago was serving in the army during World War II. Frank also describes his own experiences as a young child in Bacarra before immigrating to the United States with his mother in 1957. Throughout the interview, Frank provides memories of the leisure and labor he and his family participated in while living in Pajaro, CA; his family's dynamic including the challenges that his parents faced in their marriage; and his own experiences navigating class and racial stratification in the Pajaro Valley region. Finally, Frank speaks about his educational journey and his various careers.

**Olivia Sawi 00:00**

All right. Good morning, Frank. My name is—

**Olivia Sawi 00:01**

Hi, yeah. My name is Olivia Sawi and I am interviewing Frank Madalora, who will introduce himself for the Watsonville is in the Heart project. So, Hi Frank. Thank you for taking the time to share your story with the Watsonville is in the Heart Oral History Project. Watsonville—

**Frank Madalora 00:01**

Hi.

**Frank Madalora 00:05**

Oh, yes.

**Olivia Sawi 00:07**

Yay. Watsonville is in the Heart is a community-initiated project seeking to uplift the stories of Filipino families that have lived and worked in the city of Watsonville and in the greater Pajaro Valley. The project team is composed of faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students affiliated with the University of California, Santa Cruz, Roy Recio, The Tobera Project and Amanda Gamban of The United Way. Our ultimate goal is to document your story, to preserve it, and to someday share it so that others may learn about local Filipino history. We also hope that scholars may rely on your story to write richer histories of the Filipino

experience in the Pajaro Valley. In the future, we also plan to have an art exhibit that will feature some of the oral history material that we're collecting. So I've [unintelligible] I've provided a consent form for you to sign. Did you get that Frank? The the consent form?

**Frank Madalora** 01:19

You know what, I actually can't recall. But yeah, if I need to sign one just send it again and I'll sign it and send it back?

**Olivia Sawi** 01:26

Sure, absolutely. I'll send that I'll send that again for you. Um, that consents to participation in this project. This also acknowledges your oral history as a gift to the regional history project of the university library of UC Santa Cruz. The interview should take no more than two hours and you should feel free to take breaks, stretch, and refresh yourself as you need. I'm recording on Zoom and if I have to I'll record on my phone as well, so you should feel free to discuss your concerns in detail with me so that you can come to an informed decision before the interview begins, which you've already done. You are within your rights to ask questions, including what steps you have been made— what steps have been made to minimize the risk of physical, psychological, social or economic harm to you. You will have the opportunity to review the recording. I will share a copy of it within a week of this interview through a Google Drive Folder. You may take as long as you need to review the recording, we want to ensure that you feel comfortable with the content of it. You may request to delete or remove any portion of it, and you can also choose to withdraw from the project at any point in time, even after the material is made publicly available. You may also request confidentiality and we can ensure your anonymity before our recording is preserved in the library. How does that all sound Frank?

**Frank Madalora** 02:52

That sounds fine.

**Olivia Sawi** 02:53

Alright. So, let's get started. So, what is your full name?

**Frank Madalora** 03:00

My full name is Francisco Louis Madalora, and people call me Frank.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:09

Okay, Frank. Awesome. Does your family call you Frank as well?

**Frank Madalora** 03:14

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:15

Okay, cool.

**Frank Madalora** 03:16

And let me see my grandparents used to call me Ico. I, C, O.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:22

Ahh.

**Frank Madalora** 03:23

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:24

What does that mean?

**Frank Madalora** 03:26

It's just the last part of Francisco.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:28

Oh, I love it.

**Frank Madalora** 03:29

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:30

Of course, right.

**Frank Madalora** 03:32

I was gonna tell you that [unintelligible] probably do it over and over again, but I should have really listened to my my father when he told stories. He was a great storyteller and there's a whole story behind my name and and how, you know, you're called Ico when you're first born and then Francisco as you're growing older and all of that. It was just wonderful stuff. Like I said, I wish I had a tape recorder back then.

**Olivia Sawi** 03:58

Oh, man. Wouldn't that be amazing? Oh, [unintelligible].

**Frank Madalora** 04:02

Yeah. No, yeah. No, all sorts of great stories. He was a great storyteller.

**Olivia Sawi** 04:06

All right. So, okay, our next question. Where were you born?

**Frank Madalora** 04:11

I was born in Ilocos Norte, Bacarra. Ilocos Norte Province, Bacarra in the northern Philippines.

**Olivia Sawi** 04:23

Okay. [unintelligible] Philippines. So where are your parents from?

**Frank Madalora** 04:28

Now, they're both from from Bacarra as well. My father's name was Santiago Madalora and his parents names were his father was Basil Madalora and his mother—Basil Madalora, Madalora and his mother's name was Andrea Madrid. And— but I actually grew up with my maternal grandparents and their names were— my grandfather was Doroteo Sagaysay and my grandmother was Leona Sagisi.

**Olivia Sawi** 05:08

Hmm. Those are beautiful names.

**Frank Madalora** 05:11

Yeah, it's like sad, S, A,— S, A, G the first three letters on my maternal side and M, A, D on my paternal site.

**Olivia Sawi** 05:20

Huh, I love that. Alright.

**Frank Madalora** 05:23

The Mads and the Sags.

**Olivia Sawi** 05:24

I love it. So, Frank do you have any siblings?

**Frank Madalora** 05:29

Yeah, I have one sister. Her name is Veronica and she was born in 1958, here in the United States.

**Olivia Sawi** 05:37

Okay.

**Frank Madalora** 05:38

Following year— the year after my mom and I immigrated to Watsonville. And I— the story behind that is my father came to the United States when he was 16, in 1926. He was from a big family and he volunteered to come to America to make money and send it back, and eventually when he became rich to go back and and settle down in the Philippines. Of course, that never happened. He wound up working for a while. I guess it was in in the sugarcane plantations, but then he came over with his cousin. His cousin decided to stay in Hawai'i. My father came to the United States, and took [unintelligible] California. And again, this is where I wish I'd asked more questions as to when he left, and why he left, and why his cousin decided to stay. Because his cousin stayed and got into the automotive repair business and he wound up actually owning his own Toyota dealership in Hawai'i. And my father wound up becoming a farm worker in California.

**Olivia Sawi** 06:53

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 06:53

So you know that's fate for you.

**Olivia Sawi** 06:57

So— So your father went to Hawai'i first? Is that what I'm hearing?

**Frank Madalora** 07:00

Yeah, he went Hawai'i first [unintelligible] a year to, I'm not certain, but then he decided to come to the mainland, settled down in Watsonville, worked in the fields. And then when World War Two broke out he joined because they offered, you know, citizenship. And I didn't discover until later that they also allowed him to marry.

**Olivia Sawi** 07:25

Ah.

**Frank Madalora** 07:26

And bring back— yeah and bring back his bride, but my grandparents didn't allow that.

**Olivia Sawi** 07:34

Oh.

**Frank Madalora** 07:35

So he left and then came back in 1952, and then that's when I was born and they still wouldn't let us go back with them, until 1957.

**Olivia Sawi** 07:47

Wow. Okay. So, where your mom and dad together when he went to Hawai'i then is that? Were they?

**Frank Madalora** 07:54

No, no, they weren't married. He he was single. He went to Hawai'i with his cousin. They were both in their teens. This is what's remarkable to me. You know, when I think of myself back in high school I could never see myself going to another country, not knowing anybody. Not knowing how to speak the language and all of that. Him and his cousin did that. And then he went to uh he joined the army. And then as a part of fighting in the Philippines, I guess I skipped that part. He came back to the Philippines and that's how he met my mom. And it was an arranged marriage. He was actually 15 years older than my mom.

**Olivia Sawi** 08:36

Wow. How did that get arranged though? How did how did that happen?

**Frank Madalora** 08:41

Well, I guess my grandparents, maternal— uh paternal grandparents knew each other. They were from the same town. Maybe he remembered her, you know, when he was growing up in the— in Bacarra. And then when he came back, I guess that's that's when they rediscover each other.

**Olivia Sawi** 09:01

Ah.

**Frank Madalora** 09:02

Although, I don't think she really wanted to marry him.

**Olivia Sawi** 09:05

Oh no.

**Frank Madalora** 09:06

Yeah, in fact, you know, she— and I should have followed up with her too. I think she already had a boyfriend and everything but, you know, that's the way things go.

**Olivia Sawi** 09:18

Oh, so okay, so, how old were you when you moved to Watsonville?

**Frank Madalora** 09:23

I was actually exactly five years old because I I landed in the United States on August 25. My birthday in 1957.

**Olivia Sawi** 09:33

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 09:34

Yeah, and it's [unintelligible] Oh, go on. Go see Leo. We have a neighborhood dog over. Oh okay, so where was I? They got married and he came back in '52 and we went over in '57

**Olivia Sawi** 09:59

Alright. Alright, so how would you describe your family when you were a child growing up?

**Frank Madalora** 10:09

Well, when I was growing up it was me and my mom living with my maternal grandparents, and her siblings, my mom's siblings. A brother a young— all of them are younger I think she was the second to the oldest, but I think the oldest was killed in the war.

**Olivia Sawi** 10:30

Hmm.

**Frank Madalora** 10:30

And maybe that was one of the reasons they didn't want her to go as well. So, I grew up with them and was pretty well taken care of. Had a lot of people watching over me and to tell you the truth, I was pretty spoiled as the first grandson, only grandson. And I think my mom was pretty spoiled too.

**Olivia Sawi** 10:51

Ahh.

**Frank Madalora** 10:51

Because she didn't go very far in school. She said she just didn't feel like it, so she didn't go. So she never went further than like the second or third grade.

**Olivia Sawi** 11:01

Oh okay, didn't feel— don't feel like it.

**Frank Madalora** 11:05

And my father was the same way, although he couldn't go to school because he made— he was the one of the younger kids in the family and they just couldn't afford it. He actually I think qualified to to go to the United States to ease the burden on his family.

**Olivia Sawi** 11:20

Ah, so— so, that was—you're describing living with your the— your maternal side of your family in the Philippines. How would you describe when you were growing up in Watsonville?

**Frank Madalora** 11:32

Oh, okay. It was, it was very different. My father, of course, he had been a bachelor all his life, so, it was a real tough adjustment for him. And to be honest with you, he drank a lot, as a result. So that added to a lot of the tensions and then my mom being the spoiled kid that she was, wanted to run things, and he wanted to, and they had a lot of fights. But we we had some people here that we knew. And you know, whether they were actually related or not, they were always referred to as uncles or grandparents or whatever and especially if they came from the same town. So, we met people from Bacarra. There weren't too many families, maybe a dozen I would say, in the Watsonville area. We'd often go visit others like in Capitola, but not too many of them. We had a relative in town who was from Bacarra, him and his his wife, who was a a nurse and they kind of helped us along. When my parents fought and she actually left him— my father. We went to go stay with them for a while and they helped mend things.

**Olivia Sawi** 12:51

What types of things would they fight about?

**Frank Madalora** 12:53

Well, one of the things was, of course, her leaving her parents. They didn't want her to. She didn't want want to leave also— well she did. And I think my parents felt that it was better for our family to be intact, that's why they finally relented. But she felt guilty about it, and had never gone back and when they both passed away she got severely depressed. And it got to the point— and luckily for us, we had a doctor, a Japanese doctor, Dr. Takimoto, who kind of figured it all out and talked to her and talked to her in the you know, getting back to being a parent again, because she had dropped all that. And that was why it was helpful to staying with with my— what he said— what she said was her uncle. And so he said, you know you got, you got to get out of this depression because you got two kids, you got to take care of. Think of them instead of yourself. So that was one of the problems. She wanted to see her parents, she felt bad about it, and then they died.

**Olivia Sawi** 14:03

Did they die close to each other like did they [inaudible] in time?

**Frank Madalora** 14:07

Yeah, I think so. You know, it's been a pattern that I've seen. Couples have been together, you know, for decades, 30, 40 years. Once one passes away the other one I think died within a year or two.

**Olivia Sawi** 14:23

Hmm. That sounds very difficult.

**Frank Madalora** 14:26

Yeah, and she— we didn't have the means for her to go back and, and all that. So she felt very bad about that. And then of course they they fought about his drinking and, you know, strange things happening like some of his girlfriend's coming home with him. [inaudible]

**Olivia Sawi** 14:42

Of course.

**Frank Madalora** 14:47

So, that was that and money was just really scarce. I think he had 20 dollars in his pocket when we landed, and the season was just about the end. So we were stuck with, you know, no money and and winter coming. So he got a job being a dishwasher at a local restaurant. And one of the things I remember about that is he used to bring food home from the restaurant. The waitstaff and the cooks knew that he had a family that he couldn't quite support. So we'd eat a lot of leftovers from the restaurant and that's how we got through the winter.

**Olivia Sawi** 15:25

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 15:26

Yeah, and my mom had just a difficult time adjusting. One of the stories I remember is her going in the store and wanting— not wanting to but couldn't afford to buy a dozen eggs. So she tried to buy two or three. Tried to—

**Olivia Sawi** 15:43

Yeah.

**Frank Madalora** 15:43

Tried to haggle with the um with the shop owner to see if she can have them lower the price. So yeah, it was kind of like that and she took in laundry. My father was not quite a foreman, but leader of a group of men who would go to various places to work. And so they would bring food and help us out as well. So that was our kind of social network. It helped us adjust. And

interestingly enough, that's what I wanted to study and was studying in graduate school at Berkeley. How these circles, concentric circles of relatives and people you know, who help others settle into a community.

**Olivia Sawi** 16:31

That's well, that's actually what was what my next question was. How did your family find this community? You said that you had folks from from Bacarra and you found them and all these other people in the community came to support you. How did you find and build this community?

**Frank Madalora** 16:52

Well, they found this basically through my my father's work because he worked with a lot of them. And then, of course, my mom was told by by my grandparents, of course, of people that they knew in the area. But that's one of the things that I wanted to look into, is why did my father decide to come over here? And why is there such a large concentration of Ilocanos? Especially from our area. And there was— I also remember going to meetings. They call themselves The Bacarrenos. People from Bacarra, who would get together here in the United States and various locations. I know we went to Stockton one time and then went down to, oh god where is it, down [unintelligible] Santa Maria. All these various places.

**Olivia Sawi** 17:48

How did how did your father hear of or find Watsonville?

**Frank Madalora** 17:53

That's one of the questions I really wanted to ask him. Maybe through his contacts, people that he he got to know in Hawai'i when he was wearing— uh working in the plantation. He found out about it and came over here.

**Olivia Sawi** 18:08

Wow.

**Frank Madalora** 18:10

Yeah, but that's again, that's what things I really want to know. And he came here in the he came the mainland in the early 30s, late 20s. And so one of the things I wanted to ask him about too was if he knew about the the 1930 race riots, where Fermin Tobera was killed.

**Olivia Sawi** 18:33

Yeah, what was your—

**Frank Madalora** 18:34

But I never found out about that.

**Olivia Sawi** 18:37

So, you know, so you didn't really hear. So did you hear much about the that racial violence back in that time?

**Frank Madalora** 18:46

No. Not too much. You know, he didn't talk too much about unpleasant stuff. He's talked about the war, but not you know, not the gory details, more of the camaraderie and things of that sort of people— with the people that he was with in the army. And and nothing really about, you know, any discrimination he faced. He was kind of like with them, just the way things were they and they pretty much accepted it.

**Frank Madalora** 19:14

I do remember one time though. We went we were going to a a Bacarrenos meeting, I think it was in Santa Maria. And we stopped off at this diner to try to pick up something to eat. And we got into the diner, there was hardly anybody there, and we waited and waited, but you know, the waitstaff and the people never acknowledge— acknowledged us. And so my aunt just said it's best for us to leave and we left. And when I realized what had gone on, it was just it was one of those those big moments in my life where, you know, I had come to the United States believing and, you know, all men are created equal and people are treated the same. You know, that's kind of like where I discovered all of that isn't necessarily true.

**Olivia Sawi** 20:13

How did that affect your your outlook from then on?

**Frank Madalora** 20:18

Well from then, then I was uh uh kind of more cautious. You know, I wasn't too open to a lot of people. And I remember one time, I was at a fire station and kind of looking up at the flag. A fireman, I guess, saw me doing that and he sprayed me with a hose.

**Olivia Sawi** 20:43

Woah.

**Frank Madalora** 20:44

Yeah. So, you know, I was kind of cautious about about white people after that. And of course, that was reinforced with my mom, you know, from my mom. It was kind of like, you know, hang in there, but be careful. Not everybody is welcoming.

**Olivia Sawi** 21:03

So you said that your mom—your mom reinforced it? And how—How was that? How did she come to those to those conclusions for herself?

**Frank Madalora** 21:12

Well, you know, as an adult I'm sure she saw all all that stuff. But that, you know, Filipinos were treated differently and and that we should be cautious. You know, now with I think all in the end saying don't wind up wearing— uh marrying a white woman. Cause they're gonna treat you different because you are different. So yeah, that had a big effect on me.

**Olivia Sawi** 21:43

So it sounds like your mom gave you a more cautious outlook than your your dad did. Why do you think—

**Frank Madalora** 21:52

Oh, yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 21:52

Why do you think that was?

**Frank Madalora** 21:55

Well, because she was new. A new immigrant, and and and fearful of being deported. Which is something my mom— my dad always used to tell you, if you don't behave, you know, kick you out. My father had been here quite a while and kind of knew the system and people knew him, so, I think he was more comfortable with it, having been here a while.

**Olivia Sawi** 22:19

So what were some lessons— other lessons about that that you learned from your father?

**Frank Madalora** 22:27

You know, he didn't talk too much about race relations other than, you know, he was just really into work hard, study hard and become a part of the culture and be— and that was his his definition of success is fitting in and and, you know, making it in the United States, I guess. And for him and my mom that was a big thing because, like I said, both of them had low education levels, but they managed to do their work to save their money and eventually, we were able to buy a house across the county line across the river in the poor side of town. There's Watsonville and then across the river is Pajaro. In northern or North Monterey County. Kind of like a stepchild that didn't get a whole lot of resources from the county, especially when the county had as its center Salinas and then a lot of wealth in in the Monterey Peninsula.

**Olivia Sawi** 23:40

Huh. Yeah, I want to go back to your I do want to talk about you growing up in Pajaro. But I wanted to follow up about these lessons that your parents taught you. How did that affect you? You said the work hard study hard, be a part of the cul- become a part of the culture. How did that affect you growing up?

**Frank Madalora** 24:02

Well, there was an immense push to become acculturated assimilated. And it started with learning English. I didn't know any English and they didn't speak English really well, but what really helped accelerate all that is we got a TV. So, I learned— I learned how to speak English. and pretty much learned about the culture from TV. Which I then applied at school. At school, of course, I was the only Filipino. I don't remember a whole lot of my friends from back then, but I think they were— they weren't, they weren't white for sure. And I don't know I kind of lost track but I have a follow up question or something.

**Olivia Sawi** 24:59

Oh, yeah, um, I wanted to know what TV shows you learned from? That's that part is interesting to me.

**Frank Madalora** 25:06

Yeah. You know, I can't remember a whole lot of TV shows other than like they were westerns, you know, like yeah, Guns Smokin. What else did I watch? Situation comedies, I still love situation comedies. I remember watching Leave It to Beaver and all those. And in a way, those had cultural lessons as well. As well as lessons about growing up in in the United States. And so I went from that, not speaking English— I wasn't even wearing shoes, shoes or regular underwear. I was just like the kid from the street and so I had to learn all of that kind of stuff. And then I learned English so well that I started losing my ability to speak Ilokano. Although, up, you know, to this day, I could still understand it because that was the way it worked in my household. My parents had asked me questions in Ilokano and I'd answer back in English.

**Olivia Sawi** 26:12

How did that affect your relationship with your parents with losing this ability to speak Ilokano?

**Frank Madalora** 26:17

Oh, wow. Well, my— my relationship with my father was really complex. Of course, he wasn't a father and hadn't been a father and didn't know how to be a father. So it was kind of strange, you know, he didnt give me a whole lot of— a lot of direction, and all that. Other than telling me what to do, and of course, I rebelled. And so we didn't talk too much. But I did listen to him when he was telling the stories to my —to my mom. And so that was kind of strange. And with my mom, she would just—it was like the same pattern we had before. Me being a spoiled child

and her trying her best to to, you know, do what I want but um, you know, of course we were very limited in terms of of money and all of that.

**Olivia Sawi 27:14**

So growing up across the river, in Pajaro, how did that impact your day to day life growing up?

**Frank Madalora 27:25**

I had to— I had to walk to school. And this is when I went to Watsonville High. Pajaro was, you know, low income minority neighborhood. It was mostly Mexicans and what we call Mexicans and Okies. I grew up with Mexicans and Okies. And I kind of fit into that. And educational levels weren't a big thing, in fact, when I got to high school most of my friends— we had a had tracking. I'm not sure if you're familiar with high school tracking methods. Back then, we were divided into into three groups and they were X,Y, and Z. X being, you know, college prep. The Y's were mostly not college prep that, you know, going into in the work related studies. And then the Y's, were folks who had special needs, and maybe weren't as intelligent. I don't know what, what they based all that on. But for me socially, I was in classes and hardly any of my friends were in those same classes. The people who were in those classes were mostly white middle class people. So I didn't have a lot of a lot of friends and I didn't associate with them much.

**Olivia Sawi 29:03**

So tell me how that was your schooling experience with these white middle class— these white middle class kids?

**Frank Madalora 29:08**

I thought it was fairly segregated. We had, you know, the middle class surfer kids, in an area of Watsonville where they they lived. It was uh Martinelli Street was the street where the around— it was the neighborhood where they lived. Houses were quite expensive. And then the surfers were from Aptos and they grew up in similar surroundings. And I just didn't fit in because we didn't have the money and I didn't know know those folks early on. So I was kind of torn going into— out being in high school not being with my friends, but being with a lot of strangers. Which made it tough and, you know, I would do stuff with my friends like ditching school and oh just misbehaving in general drinking and partying, hanging out at the pool hall. So I did— I didn't do very well in school. I think I had, you know, high B average, maybe C. And so I wasn't on the course to go to college, but back then they had a student affirmed— affirmative action. And one of my Filipino friends that I was on the football team with came over with a group and they talked about UC Santa Cruz. Handed out applications and and deferments from application fees. So, I— instead of going out to hang out in the pool hall and smoke and drink with my friends, I decided to go to the meeting. I don't know why I did it, but it was a big turning point in my life because I got one of those packets and I had it filled out. I

had teachers who knew me well and liked me and I had them do recommend— letters of recommendation and I got in.

**Olivia Sawi 31:10**

So tell me— oh, that's amazing. Yeah. Tell me—

**Frank Madalora 31:15**

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi 31:16**

Tell me—tell me about that experience going into— to UC Santa Cruz from from the way that you—

**Frank Madalora 31:24**

From Watsonville?

**Olivia Sawi 31:25**

Yeah.

**Frank Madalora 31:26**

It it— it was different, you know, back then there were no grades and it was just, it was made for me. It was fairly loosely structured, and I— I had a hard time, the first quarter. In fact, I think I was just about ha— I was gonna— I was gonna get thrown out if I didn't pass my final exams. I remember that winter being alone in the dorm studying for my exams, and I made it. I don't know how I just— I just applied myself. And after that, I fit in pretty well. Because I— that's when I started getting into anthropology. That class I couldn't pass was physical anthropology which was a lot more scientific things. But monkeys and bones is what I used to call it. And it had a lot of hard— a lot of hard data to to remember. And that's how come I went into social cultural. Which is more— a lot easier for me to comprehend and to BS my way through basically.

**Olivia Sawi 32:29**

I love it, I love it.

**Frank Madalora 32:33**

And then I got lucky in that I got into that. Met up with a professor there who had studied and lived in the Philippines and it was his specialty. Excuse me. He did a letter of recommendation. And then also, in my senior year I think it was, we had a visiting professor from Berkeley, who concentrated on kinship. And that fit into my my interest in in how concentric groups of relatives and strangers help people settle in. So, I did really well in his class. I think I got the

top grade on the test and all of that and pretty much impressed him. I still don't know how I did it. But because of the professor that I knew there already and the visiting professor who was in Berkeley. And then I had another professor who was in the social change. She was a social cultural anthropologist too. I did my my senior thesis under her with, you know, starting out those cons— with those concepts. And those three helped me get into Berkeley. Which astounded everybody because that was I think, one of the one or two— either with the top of the second to the top graduate program in anthropology at the time. I think the other one was in Chicago and I was going to apply but I knew I couldnt survive a Chicago winter so—

**Olivia Sawi** 34:04

[unintelligible]

**Frank Madalora** 34:05

Luckily, well yeah I also got accepted to uh what's that school in New York? Anyway, there and Northern Iowa and somewhere else, but I chose Berkeley, of course, because it was so close to home.

**Olivia Sawi** 34:26

How did your family—

**Frank Madalora** 34:28

Oh, Cornell. I got into Cornell.

**Olivia Sawi** 34:29

Cornell. Yes, yes.

**Frank Madalora** 34:30

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 34:31

How did your family not just your parents, but your like you said your concentric circles. How did they react? How did they— what was what were— what did they think about you doing this academic route?

**Frank Madalora** 34:47

Oh, oh, they were they were quite proud. My [unintelligible] my mom told me stories of how every time I got into it into a different college, he would run over to the labor camp and tell everybody. Yeah, and then my mom, of course, it was just what she expected. She expected no less. When I finally— when I finally left Berkeley and got my master's, I left it with her

because I really thought it belonged to her more than anybody else because she pushed me the whole time.

**Olivia Sawi** 35:23

Oh, fantastic. [unintelligible]

**Frank Madalora** 35:24

Well, she didn't know what it was. She just knew it was a good thing.

**Olivia Sawi** 35:29

In what ways did your mom push you? I mean, there's different ways that parents push us, right. So how did your mom push you?

**Frank Madalora** 35:37

It was always, you know, you got it— you gotta go as far as you can in school. Watch, look what happened to me, I decided not to go and I could have done so much more with my life. That was her whole thing, you know, she was involved in a lot of uh community groups, especially the Filipino Community, because she never felt she had the educational levels as the other women in there. So, that that played a lot to her pushing me as well. She didn't want to see me excluded because of, you know, low education levels.

**Olivia Sawi** 36:13

How did that affect you though? Seeing your mom not want to go to these these types of events because she felt that her education was not up to par? How did that make—How did that affect you, you think?

**Frank Madalora** 36:26

Yeah, I didn't like it I didn't even want to be put in that position also. But you know, I don't know how she felt about it—about being excluded like that. I think she excluded herself more than them excluding her. But I always thought too— that she kind of used that as an excuse for not being more involved and not doing more things in the in the community. She was more a homebody and liked working rather than socializing. But we did a lot of socializing anyway because we'd have —we just had—we'd have like people over just about every weekend. My father's friends and relatives people visiting. We'd do things like well, you know, Pajaro was fairly fairly rural. We had a big backyard. We moved into a neighborhood where there were a lot of other Filipino families.

**Frank Madalora** 37:29

Almost all of them had chicken coops in the backyards for their fighting [unintelligible] fighting roosters. My father wasn't into that I had never been to a chicken fight—cockfight. But we did

have plenty room in the backyard. We'd slaughter, you know, pigs and goats in the backyard for for get togethers. I remember one time it was I think it was my my daughter's first birthday. They had strung up a pig in the backyard and it's squealing away. And some Filipino man gives me a knife and says, As the father of the honoree here, you know, its your privilege to slit its throat so we can render the blood for for a blood pudding. I said—

**Olivia Sawi 38:20**

For dinuguan. For dinuguan, Huh.

**Frank Madalora 38:23**

Yeah, I kind of politely said no, I can't do that. He kind of looked at me strange and did it himself. So, that was some of my experience there in Pajaro growing up.

**Olivia Sawi 38:37**

Ah. So what kinds of— you're telling me about your daughter's first birthday. What— What other types of celebrations did you enjoy back then? And what other celebrations did you look forward to?

**Frank Madalora 38:51**

Well, they were always like christenings. I went to catechism did the whole route. So every step along the way where, you know, there was communion and confirmation and all that. Same thing with my sister. And then other people that we knew we'd go to their christenings and church events.

**Olivia Sawi 39:14**

Huh. So, in Watsonville, where where were places that you felt like you belonged?

**Frank Madalora 39:25**

Well, we didn't feel— I didn't feel like we belonged that much in Watsonville. There was like, again, more the Pajaro community where we belonged. My mom, of course, went to the Filipino Community gatherings and she was a member of the Filipino Catholic Association. Which is really big over there. And they— they invited her to do a lot of the social stuff. Getting parties together and decorating the church and things of that sort. So yeah, we didn't feel— we didn't have that many places where we felt we belonged in Watsonville.

**Olivia Sawi 40:11**

So it was more Pajaro that you felt like you belonged.

**Frank Madalora 40:14**

Yeah, that was more our community. And it stayed that way. You know, even when my father— after my father died we moved back into Wats— or my mom moved back to Watsonville.

**Olivia Sawi** 40:29

So when did your —when did your father passed away?

**Frank Madalora** 40:32

He passed away my second year in graduate school at Berkeley in 1976. My sister was living at home still, it was her senior year in high school and she was planning on going to Pomona College. But of course, she couldn't, unless I, you know, came back and stayed with my mom because my mom couldn't be by herself. So, I took a leave of absence from Berkeley and she went off to Pomona. And even after she finished, I didn't really want to go back. I was at the stage where I had passed my masters oral exams, had gotten my bibliography together for my field study, I was all set to go back to the Philippines and and study the Ifugao. A group of Filipinos, more rural and not as as —not like in the situation or the area where I grew up. But then that's when martial law hit. And there would be a chance that if I left, I wouldn't be able to get out. A friend of mine had gone there and she was detained for a whole week with no charges or anything. And then they finally let her go, but that pretty much scared me I didn't want to go back.

**Olivia Sawi** 42:03

Oh. So what did you do instead?

**Frank Madalora** 42:06

I started working for this— uh well it was through this Employment Development Program. It's basically [unintelligible] work. It was called CETA. Have you ever heard of uh—

**Olivia Sawi** 42:17

I don't think so.

**Frank Madalora** 42:18

Yeah, it was Employment Training Administration and to pump up the economy they gave people jobs, like me. Who, you know, after I got out of graduate school I spent like six months looking for work and of course, I was overqualified for most stuff. And I couldn't find anything entry level. So, I got a job through CETA to work for this nonprofit organization that was helping farmworkers establish strawberry cooperatives. I did the research and grant grant writing and and managed the programs that did reports and things of that sort. So, I did that for about about four or five years and got pretty good at it. And then I saw that they were recruiting for the National Rural Fellows Program. Have you heard of national, uh National Urban Fellows?

**Olivia Sawi** 43:16

I think I have I don't know, I don't remember much about them. But—

**Frank Madalora** 43:19

They're a pretty successful program. What they did was they'd get management people from community organizations, give them training on organizing— community organizing, but more than more important than that they got us into the into universities where we got— where they got master's in urban planning. We got master's in regional planning. Landscape architecture and regional planning is where I got my second degree.

**Olivia Sawi** 43:50

So when you're when you were doing this employment development training, what what —which communities were you working with?

**Frank Madalora** 44:01

Well, it's basically uh Hispanic, Latino people and not Filipinos. Hadn't really gone into the their cooperative train of thought, you know, owning own businesses and things of that sort. Most of the Filipinos in agriculture were, were called sharecroppers who didn't own the land. So that, you know, I didn't really do work with the Filipino community. But after I left, what I tried to do when I got out, I got a job for a brief spell with the Filipino community of Salinas Valley. And I tried to organize credit unions. But again, Filipinos werent into the cooperative mentality and there were of course, a lot of— especially when you're dealing with people's money— suspicions. And people who knew people back when they did this and they did that. So, it didn't work out very well. I wound— yeah, I wound up leaving and started working with seniors.

**Olivia Sawi** 45:18

I do want to talk more about this, but I want to go back. You talked a little bit about your sister how— how was your relationship with your sister?

**Frank Madalora** 45:27

Oh, we're very close. She went off to school, got her degree, I forgot what it was in. When she came back and she was in San Jose definitely didn't want to come back and live in Watsonville with my mom. It was her chance to get out and become independent. So she got into uh was it Simulink? And and they were, excuse me— got the coffee here. Well, they were in to the— to the whole Silicon Valley thing and she said— A funny story with her is that she went for an interview as a secretary for one of these companies. And you know, what they used to tell us to succeed in terms of getting a job is once you get an interview, good thing to do is to write them a letter thanking you for the interview and reminding them of who you were. And as it was, she didn't get the job. But the person who did get the job, for some reason didn't show up

the first day. So, they got her letter, got her phone number, gave her a call and that's how she got her first job.

**Olivia Sawi 46:48**

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora 46:49**

She rose through the ranks, eventually becoming a manager for the for the company.

**Frank Madalora 46:53**

Wow.

**Frank Madalora 46:56**

But then sh— you know, the uh she had— the layoffs came and she had to layoff people and she didn't like that one bit. So after she'd done a round of layoffs, there were two more that had to be done. So, she she laid off one person who was going to leave anyway. She couldn't think of anybody else so she laid yourself off and left.

**Frank Madalora 47:17**

And she hadn't been back since. She married a guy who's an engineer. He had his PhD in astrophysics and couldn't really find a job because that's when they were— there was a downturn in space program. And so, he started working in whatever it was at Simulink and that's how they met. And he was really good. In fact, he he does— he does those codes and all of that. And he's still working for— he's working for LinkedIn now.

**Olivia Sawi 47:17**

Oh.

**Olivia Sawi 47:53**

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora 47:54**

Yeah. So he's just— he's just a really good engineer. Just really smart guy. One of the smartest people I know.

**Olivia Sawi 48:02**

I love it. Did did you notice— Did you notice any differences in the way that your sister or you were treated growing up?

**Frank Madalora 48:12**

Ah, you know, things rolled off her back pretty well and she had her friends, mostly Japanese friends. As were mine. I had a lot of Japanese friends too. But you know, we didn't really —uh she assimilated better with people in Watsonville, than I did.

**Olivia Sawi** 48:32

Huh. Why do you think that is?

**Frank Madalora** 48:36

She was born here, she knew people, you know, she grew up with them. I missed the first five years. I didn't even go to kindergarten. I wound up being put in the first grade. So, I think it was because she grew up with people here.

**Olivia Sawi** 48:56

Did that— did that affect your relationship at all that that aspect of her assimilating a little bit better, you think?

**Frank Madalora** 49:04

No, not really. She had her friends. I had my friends. I don't I don't think it affected at all that much.

**Olivia Sawi** 49:14

So I'm going to ask you about, what were some places that you hung out?

**Frank Madalora** 49:21

Well, let's see. Mostly Pajaro— hung out. My friends and I would cruise around the fields. We knew all the fields. We'd go there at night and party. And there's a lot of stuff happening at the junior high, Pajaro junior high. There'd be skating— roller skating and dances and things of that sort. So, we'd stay mostly in in Pajaro. We'd go to Watsonville for the events but, you know, I always had a big Fourth of July celebration in a parade. I joined the band. I was in the junior high band in the high school band and we marched in the parade. And that's pretty much it, I think.

**Olivia Sawi** 50:18

So what what places did you feel were off limits to you?

**Frank Madalora** 50:23

You know, there really no places that were off limits in terms of going there and, you know, experiencing any any violence or any kinda people's attitudes. But, you know, there were certain places in Watsonville, where families just did not go. Like I said, that there was the Martinelli Street area and there was Aptos. Of course, there weren't many Filipinos there

because he couldn't buy into the place. But there were no new places that were being built. And that's where my mom finally moved after my father died because her sister was buying a house.

**Frank Madalora 50:23**

She admits she— we had brought them over. Oh, that's the other thing I kind of glossed over. My parents also brought over their siblings, you know, one at a time and they'd come and live with us for a while until they found a job and could go off and buy their own homes and all of that. So we had my mom, her youngest brother, and two sisters. And then my father brought over my uncle. So, those four stayed with us for a while until they got on their feet, they found a job, found someone to marry.

**Olivia Sawi 51:52**

And do you still have relationships with them?

**Frank Madalora 51:55**

Uh, Yeah, but they're— like I said, my aunt died on Monday.

**Olivia Sawi 52:02**

Thats right.

**Frank Madalora 52:02**

And the man that she married. And they, you know, there was a big age difference. He was in his 80s when she was in her 30s.

**Olivia Sawi 52:11**

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora 52:12**

So he had passed away long before that. My uncle passed away as well. My uncle on my father's side, my father's brother. He had passed away. And then oh, one of the— the other aunt that came over, we had brought her over to live with my aunt, after my father passed away. And they were together for a good five or six years and that she got breast cancer, and she passed away as well. So, all of them are gone except my mother's younger brother and he lives in San Jose with his wife. But he's having the same problems as others relatives in the family and that he has difficulty hearing, but worse than that, he's got dementia and can't remember. And that's that's eventually what my mom died of was dementia.

**Olivia Sawi 53:10**

What was it like to have so many relatives growing up?

**Frank Madalora 53:16**

Oh, I thought it was great. They kind of became my my friends. Kind of like brothers that I never had. And again they were a lot younger, but they— like I said, they eventually left but I enjoyed having them around. I didn't like sharing my rooms with them but I liked having them around. And they— you know, they remind me a lot of my past too and what what I went through in the Philippines. I really don't remember too much because I was so young back then.

**Olivia Sawi 53:53**

So, did you always live in that neighborhood in Pajaro. After you moved to Pajaro, did you always live there?

**Frank Madalora 54:01**

That was the only place that we lived.

**Olivia Sawi 54:07**

And it sounded like you had a great— or you already had a great community there.

**Frank Madalora 54:11**

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi 54:11**

Living there, yeah.

**Frank Madalora 54:11**

Yeah I had a lot of friends too. It was your traditional, you know, neighborhood where all the kids would get together and we'd play and we'd hang out at each other's houses and and have dinners there. In the evenings, we'd shut down the street and everybody would play baseball. And we would all get on our bikes and cruise around the neighborhoods, got to explore. There's a river— Pajaro River, which divides Santa Cruz and Watsonville— or Santa Cruz and and Monterey County's had a levee. And we'd go to the levee and play in the grass, build grass forts, things of that sort and just spend hours and hours out of the house.

**Olivia Sawi 55:00**

Sounds amazing.

**Frank Madalora 55:01**

Yeah, it was, it was a great neighborhood— great place to to grow up. Some of my—some of the people there I still see every now and then on Facebook.

**Olivia Sawi 55:13**

Oh, of course.

**Frank Madalora 55:15**

But thats pretty much all the contact I have with them.

**Olivia Sawi 55:19**

It sounds like you spent a lot of time in your neighborhood and it sounds like your father was a foreman for agriculture. Did you ever spend time in the agriculture?

**Frank Madalora 55:31**

Oh, yeah, yeah. Every summer when I was going through school I worked with my father sorting beans on a conveyor belt. Hours and hours doing that. And then I worked with— side by side with my mom picking strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, things of that sort. And then in high school, I got a job as a janitor— student janitor. Which was a great program. I would work after school and all summer cleaning— uh cleaning rooms, bathrooms, and things of that sort. And yeah, it was— it allowed me to time off to to do sports. So, I went out for football and wrestling and still managed to keep a job.

**Olivia Sawi 56:28**

Wow.

**Frank Madalora 56:32**

So I worked through out, you know, either in the fields with my mom or or as a student janitor.

**Olivia Sawi 56:42**

Okay, so we're talking about that you have hit all these jobs. So, I want you to think back and can you walk me through like a typical day for you? What would be a typical day for you growing up, let's say in high school. What would be that school day?

**Frank Madalora 56:57**

Oh, in high school okay.

**Olivia Sawi 56:59**

Then we can go back to other— like to middle school, if you remember, but what would what would be what would be a typical day for you in high school?

**Frank Madalora 57:05**

I would get up and I'd walk from Parajo to the to the High School. Which was a good oh, I dont know, a mile or two away and I'd spend the whole day there. It wasn't until I got a car, was able to drive, we'd go off on— during lunch go to local burger joints and things of that sort. I remember during the summers when I worked at the school, at the high school, I'e have my lunch breaks at the local Woolworths and sit at the counter and have a hotdog and felt like I had it made. It was just a good time. And then in the afternoon I'd either go to it— well during the day I'd go to band practice then after school I would go football practice or wrestle.

**Olivia Sawi 57:14**

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora 57:56**

And then I'd get home and that was basically it. That was my day.

**Olivia Sawi 58:15**

Wow. And then you would work after all of that, huh?

**Frank Madalora 58:18**

Yeah. After school, I would work, unless it was football or wrestling season.

**Frank Madalora 58:26**

Okay, wow.

**Frank Madalora 58:27**

Yeah. So, I worked I worked throughout. Remembered making a buck fifty, a dollar fifty an hour.

**Olivia Sawi 58:36**

Wow.

**Frank Madalora 58:37**

Yeah. This is it, if i could ,you know, I could quit school now and I could live off of this. I just didn't realize that, you know, my parents were the ones putting food on the table putting a roof over my head. So, yeah, I wouldn't have made it on my own.

**Olivia Sawi 58:55**

So, we talked about how you you mainly stayed in Pajaro. What was it about—What else about Watsonville made it feel like you didn't want to be there or you like you didn't belong? What else about it?

**Frank Madalora 59:11**

Oh, god. You know, I don't know how pervasive it was but and, you know, how much of it was due to what my mom told me about about white folks— just didn't want us around anyway, you know. And I don't know I just did— There was a big department store in Watsonville at the time, Ford's and we'd go there and I remember going there just to ride the elevator up and down from the first floor, to the second floor it was more for just, you know, hanging out didn't actually buying anything. My parents, of course. didn't shop there unless it was a, you know, a special purchase that they had to make. A present or things of that sort. But yeah, it just— I didn't think we could afford to hangout there either. I remember going to the movies a lot with my friends. And Thursdays, they'd have stores open up until nine o'clock and it became quite a social event, people cruising the streets, hanging out, going to dinner and shopping. That was really nice. I wish it was something that they would bring back because that's when we went to town.

**Olivia Sawi 1:00:39**

So, we talked a lot about your community. So, can you give me an example of a time where your community showed you that they cared about you?

**Frank Madalora 1:00:52**

Oh, wow, that's tough one. I'll have to think about that. Other than coming around a lot, you know, because like I said, my father had a lot of friends who didn't have any family, they might even have left family in the Philippines. So, in a way, we became their family. And I became like a stepchild, they— whenever they'd come over they'd bring me treats, potato chips, ice cream, things of that sort. And I think they just like hanging around our family because it reminded them of the family that didn't— they didn't have or they had left behind. So, I think that was a really big thing and that's why we had people over just about every weekend. Because, you know, there was nobody else to hang out with and no family events, but we were always having a family event because we were we were actually a family. So, I remembered all, you know, I remember a lot of a lot of my my father's friends. I'm still wearing a ring that one of them had given to my mom as collateral for a loan so that he could stay in a poker game.

**Frank Madalora 1:02:13**

Funny thing is he wound up winning and when he paid my mom back he didn't want the ring back. He said, you keep it and so she gave it to me. I put it on my finger and my hands gotten so fat I can't take it off now. But yeah, so, I remember him. I remember him alot. And I had asthma too. The story I like to tell is when we first came over here my— a friend of my father came over and he saw that I was— I had an attack, an asthma attack. And back in the Philippines, all you could do is just kind of wait it out, and hope that the doctor who, you know, used to go from town to town, village to village came around to give me an injection. In fact,

there's a spot where there's an indentation where he used to give me the shots all the time to get me to start breathing. So, he saw me there laboring, you know, they just said, Oh, well, we'll just wait and see if we could go when the doctor comes around. He said, you got to take him to the doctor. They couldn't afford it. But he had a what do you call a nebulizer an inhaler—

**Olivia Sawi** 1:02:13

Oh no.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:03:27

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 1:03:27

That he gave me and I remember the first time I got the inhaler and took a shot and was able to breathe immediately. That was the biggest thing that, wow, I don't have to suffer through this anymore. So, that was a big thing. That's what they brought to our family.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:03:47

Awesome. So, you told me that you used to do—you used to ride your bike and play baseball, lots of sports. What were some of your hobbies that you had growing up?

**Frank Madalora** 1:04:01

Oh, I used to, in fact, I still need to go through it. I have a great baseball card collection—collected cards—baseball, football. And then I also collected stamps. I have a stamp book. It was that kind of stuff. And what else did I do? Those were pretty much my hobbies. Listen to a lot of a lot of radio rock and roll. My mom bought me a guitar— an electric guitar when I was 12 years old. We had a family friend who played in a band and he helped her get— buy me an amplifier and the guitar. I still have them in they kind of— they're— well they're worth a lot now because they're just so old.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:04:58

What were your favorite rock and roll bands are groups growing up?

**Frank Madalora** 1:05:03

Well, geez. I listened to everybody who was folk and rock. Gosh, of course, the Beatles didn't get much into the Rolling Stones. Dave Clark Five I remember it was that kind of easy listening kind of stuff. Fake— uh folk music, we used to have things called hootenannies and I learned how to do finger picking and things of that sort. And I even formed by own rock and roll band we played at my uncle's wedding. So I did that quite a bit.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:05:38

Who was in your band?

**Frank Madalora** 1:05:40

Oh, it was funny, you'd like them. We used to call ourselves "Three Flips and a Flop" [laughter] because it was three Filipinos and one Mexican guy.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:05:51

Oh my gosh.

**Frank Madalora** 1:05:56

So, people in my neighborhood, people I met in school. We weren't very good, but you know we we really tried. But it was something to do with getting together in the garage and practicing all the time. Even carried that off into college, it was kind of a funny thing we used to do. Little hootenannies in college too, they— but they were more for fun than anything else.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:06:25

We see. So, you said you had a daughter? Tell me how— you how how— how and when you met your, your wife.

**Frank Madalora** 1:06:41

Oh, that's even a better story. Well, I got in, as I said to the Educational Opportunity Program, and she did too. She was from Gilroy. Her mother— raised by a single mother, her father had died when she was four or five I think and with— she had three siblings. So she had a single mother, who raised the four of them and we met in Santa Cruz. All through the same friends, again, Japanese, Asians. She had grown up with someone who was— who became my best friend who eventually became our best man. And so we met— got married 1979. After living together for seven years, three of them we we stayed with my mom and lived rent free and managed to save money so that we could buy our own home because that was something I remembered from my youth. It's best to have kids when, you know, you're pretty stable and you're not moving around. And so after we got our first house, we had a child. And then another one after that and then we bought another house.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:08:12

Hm, So where was where was that first house you bought?

**Frank Madalora** 1:08:17

It was actually you know, three or four blocks away from where my mom lived. And So she would walk over made it really easier— easy for her to take care of our kids. Especially after they they got home from school. And her mom came to live with us as well. But, you know, with three adults and two kids, it got kind of tight. So we wound up moving.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:08:45

So, where was that second house?

**Frank Madalora** 1:08:47

The second house is where we are now and it's in La Selva Beach, which is like five miles outside of Watsonville. Close to the ocean.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:08:57

Wow.

**Frank Madalora** 1:08:58

Yeah, we got this great house. It was it was rundown, pretty much. A family had— families had owned it or co-owned it and used it as a as a summer home. And we needed— well, it started out with us— with her mom wanting to move out she couldn't afford a mobile home, let alone you know the monthly space charge. So, the realtor who was looking for a place for my mother in law found this place that has a huge downstairs and we were able to convert a room into a master bedroom with a master bath. So, she lived down there. And then eventually my wife's brother, who lost his job, went and lived down there and it held all all six of us pretty comfortably and we're still here now, although it's just my wife and I.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:10:03

So what was it like raising your kids there?

**Frank Madalora** 1:10:06

It was really good. It was pretty middle class, it was exactly like the kind of place that we would — me and my parents and my sister would never have been able to to live in. There's a migrant camp down the road. They've improved improved it quite a bit. So, they got to know them by riding the buses with them, but they didn't. It was funny. I wanted my kids who go to Watsonville High to to go to school with people like— people like I grew up with. And when we came here, they were there, but they were from the migrant camp and they didn't get along with them and they wound up getting along better with all the middle class folks at Aptos High School, Aptos Junior High too. Which was, you know, a real nice educational situation because there they had really high levels of teaching and all of that. So they did really well in school. Although they they were picked on a lot by the migrant kids, which kind of surprised me.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:11:20

How did they get picked on by the migrant kids?

**Frank Madalora** 1:11:23

Yeah. Well, they were so different, you know, cuz they looked like them, but they didn't act like them they had different friends. So, I guess maybe they thought they were just acting like, you know, minorities, not really minorities at all. Which kind of was the case because they kind of to really gravitated—got to know the other kids better. Accepted them better. But that helped my you know, my daughter, especially my older daughter do really well at school that she finished like fifth or sixth in her class or something like that.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:12:02

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 1:12:03

Yeah. So, she always wanted to go to Berkeley because that's where I went to school. And I think maybe that was the only place she applied too. That's where she got accepted. So, yeah, she went there and got her bachelor's in social work, and then eventually her master's and then she also got a double major in psychology. So she's now a school social worker and counselor.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:12:30

Oh, wow.

**Frank Madalora** 1:12:31

Yeah, but she had a good experience. She, she worked through that program. I forgot what it's called but they gave her experience working in Chinatown in San Francisco. And in the the— I don't want to call it ghettos, but less uh— In Oakland, she worked a lot in Oakland with a lot of difficult clients. So she, she had got a lot of good experience there for where she is now.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:13:03

How about your other daughter?

**Frank Madalora** 1:13:04

Uh, she went to Sacramento State and she was started working in the office there and she eventually got a job. What is that she does? She helps orient and counsel students, and now— and then she finally wound up getting her master's in education at San Jose State, that's where she's working now. And last I heard, I'm waiting to hear if she has gotten the job as manager of the testing and consulting division. So, she's doing really well there too.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:13:51

That sounds great. Wow.

**Frank Madalora** 1:13:53

Yeah. Yeah. Just all out of me going accidentally to that meeting and going to UC Santa Cruz and meeting your mom?

**Olivia Sawi** 1:14:01

I love that.

**Frank Madalora** 1:14:04

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:14:06

So, okay, I'm going back to a rewinding in your life a little bit. So, how did you find your first— what was your first job again? Was it the was it the janitor or was it the the the the working in the fields with your family? What was your first like, I guess quote unquote, real job?

**Frank Madalora** 1:14:29

Well, of course, I started out, it wasn't a real job, picking berries wit my mom. Pretty much working by by the crate working and sorting beans and things of that sort with my my father, and then working summers and weekends with my mom, and then I got the the job as as a high school janitor. And then when I got out of graduate school, I found a job through CETA and I was working— that was my first formal job. I think it was 80— was it 84? Anyway, I started working there, organizing, and government programs, economic development and all of that, and doing research until I got the my master's in rural planning. I moved in another direction, and started working with seniors.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:15:32

I'm going to talk about that, but I just want to I want you to reminisce, when you were working as a high school janitor. What did you do with your first paycheck?

**Olivia Sawi** 1:15:44

With your with your first paycheck as a high school janitor? What did you— what did you do with that?

**Frank Madalora** 1:15:44

With my what?

**Frank Madalora** 1:15:50

Oh, I always used that money to buy clothes. Yeah. My parents didn't have enough to pay for clothes, at least clothes that that I liked. So yeah, I probably wanted to buy clothes.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:16:06

Very practical. That's pretty good.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:16:09

Yeah. That was extravagant too, because I bought stuff that I really liked, maybe not too practical. But you know, it was great working because it was my choice.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:16:20

Mm hmm.

**Frank Madalora** 1:16:23

And that was a big thing. They didn't have a whole lot of extra money. So, whatever I made, I pretty much was given the decision as to what to do with it.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:16:35

So you said in 1984 you started organizing and working for CETA. Can you tell me about that?

**Frank Madalora** 1:16:45

Yeah, that's what I was doing. I got a job through CETA and I wrote proposals to get programs going. They had a cooperative out in Salinas, but I worked mostly out of Watsonville, we tried to do economic development programs. I remember one specific one where I wrote a grant for a greenhouse and we've— I met this guy who was in this whole cycle of life thing where, you know, you you would get worms, and and from their casting, he would feed chickens, who would then we would use their, their waste to grow the, to grow the worms, all in this greenhouse, that grew vegetables. And so I used economic development administration funds to fund that and document it, and it was supposed to be something that the farmers could use to supplement what they made from the strawberry cooperative. So it was the kind of stuff like that, I would get the proposal, and then I would manage it, do all the reports that were necessary visit with, with staff from the Economic Development Administration, tour them around, and make sure things were running smoothly. And so that was just one of the projects projects, I wrote a lot of other grants, things like for food, they would get food vouchers. And so that's what I did was maintaining writing grants, and maintaining programs to help them.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:18:36

I'm just writing notes. Sorry.

**Frank Madalora** 1:18:39

Oh, that's okay. My, my voice is starting to go and I'm starting to lose thought here.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:18:45

Did you? Well, you know, what we can we can either take a break, or we can pause this and we can we can just schedule another time if you're if you're getting tired. I mean, we've talked a lot already, but our next-

**Olivia Sawi** 1:18:59

Yeah, I just looked at the clock I didn't realize it's been like an hour and a half.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:19:03

I Yeah, yeah, exactly. So I mean, I am more than happy to schedule another time with you and talk more about this. This second phase of your life going into grad school. We can just pick that up at another time. If—

**Frank Madalora** 1:19:19

Yeah that would be really good and I can maybe get more thoughts together for you.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:19:24

Yeah, because I don't want to over stress you and, you know, you had a rough weekend healing and everything so—

**Frank Madalora** 1:19:29

Yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:19:30

Yeah.

**Frank Madalora** 1:19:31

Yeah, when do you want to do i'd be glad to do it that way. I didn't know we have that much time. So yeah.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:19:38

I am— I'm more than willing to talk with you again. This has been really fun. So, yeah.

**Frank Madalora** 1:19:43

Yeah, me too. Yeah, you name the date and the time and I'll go over stuff some more and see if I can remember more stuff.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:19:51

Okay, let's see. um. Why don't we do next week sometime. Let's see. How about um how about how about the same time next Tuesday?

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:03

Alright, the 11th, Tuesday at 10 o'clock.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:08

Yeah, and I'll send you a different layout— I'll call, I'll do the same thing. I'll call you and I'll give you a different code and everything.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:18

Okay.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:21

And I can call you, I'll call you this weekend to remind you as well.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:25

That'll be good.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:26

Okay. So, Frank, thank you so much and I've really enjoyed talking to you and I look forward to talking to you again next Tuesday.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:36

Okay, that sounds good.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:38

Alright.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:39

Alright, Olivia.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:40

Thank you so much. This has been really fun and —

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:42

You're very welcome looking forward to talking to you again.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:45

Alright, Thank you. Have a great day.

**Frank Madalora** 1:20:47

You too. Bye Bye.

**Olivia Sawi** 1:20:49

Bye bye.