

Race and Oral History Project, UC San Diego

Narrator: Frank Gaspar

Interviewer: Akiva Shmalo

Transcribed by: Akiva Shmalo

Location: Castle Park, San Diego

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Length of Interview: 30 minutes

00:00-00:16

A: Testing 123, testing 123. Ok Cool. Let's get started. So, let's start with your full name, and if you can spell it out?

00:16-00:28

F: Frank Jesus Gaspar. J-E-S-U-S G-A-S-P-A-R

00:28-00:30

A: And what are your parents' names?

00:30-00:35

F: Areli Gallegos and Rigoberto Gaspar

00:35-00:37

A: Do you have any siblings?

00:37-00:42

F: I have 3 siblings, 3 sisters

00:42-00:44

A: And are they older or younger?

00:44-00:46

F: I have 1 older 2 younger

00:46-00:55

A: Can you talk about where they are in life, your siblings?

00:55-01:16

F: My sister right now she is to college and my other going 2 sisters 1 is in elementary. The other one is just in preschool right now. 3 of my sisters are doing good in life when they're all being taken good care of by my parents.

01:16-01:23

A: Very cool and your parents can you tell me a little bit more about their background?

01:23-02:03

F: Yeah, both my parents are from Mexico. they came here for a better life and had us four kids they're from Oaxaca. They are Catholic. And my dad he used to play basketball, he used to be one of the best there and my mom, she was pretty good-she was doing really good in school but moving over here she had to leave school to raise us.

02:03-02:07

A: And what about your grandparents did they come over with your parents or are they still there?

02:07-02:11

F: No, my grandparents they are still in Oaxaca.

02:11-02:13

A: And have you have you met them and have you visited?

02:13-02:18

F: I have, I visited them once but they come over here pretty often

02:18-02:20

A: OK very cool and how are they doing

02:20-02:25

F: They're doing really good and health wise they're still very strong at their age

02:25--02:27

A: Amazing fantastic. so, you were born in the US then right

02:27-02:28

F: I was yes

02:28--02:44

A: Do you remember what your like young, sort of like your early years-elementary school, do you remember much about those years

02:44--03:30

F: Yeah, I remember when I was 5 years old that's when they put me into a soccer team and since then I've been in and I love with soccer pretty much, and during that time I didn't really talk to many kids, I was very shy and so I didn't get to make much friends, but like going on through life I was if able to get out of my bubble more so now I'm able to make a lot more friends and during elementary time I was not doing too good in school, I was just putting away my homework and assignments so I could have more fun playing sports but eventually now I'm doing a lot better.

03:30-03:43

A: And the sports thing is that something that you're just into or your whole- I know your father you said he's into basketball but what about your sisters are they into sports as well?

03:43-03:58

F: My dad moving here he got into playing soccer and so he got me into playing soccer and my sisters, all 3 of them they have played soccer for a while but not as long as I have but they still played a while

03:58-04:01

A: Have you played with a team or just pick up games and stuff like that

04:01-04:15

F: Yeah, I play with a team I play with a team called Legends, we joined another team and this team is trying to give us more opportunities to get noticed by colleagues.

04:15-04:19

A: How long have you been with this team?

04:19-04:29

F: I've been with this team for about 5 years but before that I was with a different team.

04:29-04:31

A: What position do you play in the soccer?

04:31-04:39

F: I played center mid but I've been moved around a lot to see like where they need me mostly

04:39-04:56

A: Fun very cool I had roommate that was a goalie-soccer. Did you and your siblings get along growing up? What kind of relationship that you have with your siblings growing up?

04:56-05:35

F: Me and my siblings have always cared about each other a lot we always protect each other but we don't we don't get along much we do argue a better a bit but um when I was younger, my parents told me how my sister was, she had a cancer, so they didn't really have much time for me, so I'm guessing that's what made me feel more left out from my sister but now I'm able to live it

05:35--05:36

A: Did she get better?

05:36--05:38

F: She did get better.

05:38-05:45

A: Good, ok. Fantastic, what are your parents do for work what was that like, were they around a lot or working a lot.

05:45-06:10

F: My mom has always been more around than my dad. He works a lot, almost all day like 5-6 days a week so he wasn't there much. My mom was the one who took me to my games and everything but now that my sisters and I have grown my mom helps out working with my dad so my sister's the one that takes us places now

06:10-06:12

A: OK what is what he does do for work

06:12-06:19

F: He is a chef but also does gardening

06:19-06:34

A: OK very cool. What was, what was what was school like in middle school, the same or different elementary school did you go to the same elementary school as middle school?

06:34-07:10

F: I went to castle park elementary and to castle park middle, and it was quite different in middle school. I started being able to talk more to people and I ended up making lots of friends there. I was able to keep my grades up pretty well, and during that time I did lose some friendships but it was mostly because they moved away but uh losing those friendships wasn't too bad because I noticed that most of them were not as good an influence as I thought they were.

07:10-07:25

A: And do you still do you still keep in touch with some of your friends from back in those days or mostly you have a new or your high school friends

07:25-07:30

F: I did make lots of friends in high school but I still do keep in touch with most of the kids from my elementary.

07:30-07:35

A: Anyone in specific that stands out that is like a good friend still

07:35-07:55

F: Um yeah there is Victor Jamir Daniel Alex, those are mostly stand out the most they have been there with me most of my life and they're very fun to have to be around and they're actually really good influences.

07:55-08:12

A: OK good so staying with that period of time in your life what kind of movies did you guys' watch did you read me books or play any video games this is sort of earlier but they had some games

08:12-08:46

F: I watched a lot of scary movies growing up. There's a thrill watching them would just make me happy really, and video games I played lots of COD video games with my friends I both have played Minecraft that's one of the best games we have to play just hours and hours going by playing that video game and that's the only really good game I could remember.

08:46-08:55

A: OK cool. Do you have, did you have any memorable health problems growing up or are you a generally healthy person

08:55-09:12

F: I am generally a healthy person but I did have problems with my white blood cells that were lower than they should have been but that never stopped me from doing anything I wanted and now it looks like it's all going back to normal.

09:12-09:25

A: Fantastic ok good. Talk about religion growing up, you were saying your family's religion so describe what that's like.

09:25-09:55

F: Being born to a Catholic family is it's honestly not bad at all we do have a religion we will pray a lot we have our customs to do but it is there's nothing but bad about it, it keeps us close together with our family even that lives far away you, just being able to pray to each other helps a lot.

09:55-10:01

A: Did you go to church like regular, every Sunday when you were a kid?

10:01-10:20

F: I used to for a while but then I stopped because of sports I had a lot of priorities with sports, it is what I want to be when I grow up, so that's why we stop going to church but recently we've been trying to go more to church.

10:20-10:30

A: Talk about what your parents taught you growing up what was something they kept telling you. What was part of their...

10:30-10:45

F: They always said to treat others how we want to be treated and to be respectful to adults always and to always take care of each other like my siblings.

10:45-10:51

A: Very cool, no that's great. Do you have any cousins in the US or, uncle's aunt anyone else?



10:51-10:58

F: Yeah, I have 2 cousins over here and both of my uncles.

10:58-11:03

A: Very cool, your family gets together yeah often, sometimes?

11:03-11:06

F: Yeah, sometimes they stay over with u.

11:06-11:08

A: Oh fun, cool. do guys do any trips together?

11:08-11:15

F: Yeah, we have gone to LA we've gone to like rivers to the snow. It's fun

11:15-11:25

A: Really cool. OK yeah, any memorable trip growing up, fun things that you do you remember?

11:25-11:55

F: Yeah, during winter we once went to this river and it was snowing while we were going over there and when we got to the river the water was very cold. We all went into the water and it was fun afterwards we just started cooking up bunch of food and eating for hours and after that we went up to the snow and we were sliding in some plastic bags.

11:55-12:07

A: Awesome, very fun OK. How much you know about your grandparents?

12:07-12:55

F: I don't know much about their background but I do know that my mom's parents they have always been great to my father and my mother and they always take care of us when they come over and my grandmother, she's right now taking care of my grandfather because he had to get his leg amputated but she still takes care of him a lot and they've both still have lots of love for each other. And my dad's parents they passed away a while ago so I didn't get to meet them or know much about them

12:55-12:56

A: They were also from Mexico, right?

12:56-12:58

F: Yeah

12:58-13:25

A: How do you see like the world changing from when you were a kid to now and how do you feel about that what are the big things that you've seen going on in the world, 1 or 2, and how does it make you feel?

13:25-14:00

F: The big thing I've seen is when we were younger everyone was just so much kinder to each other we like we're carefree and we just spend so much time playing outside, sports or anything but now a days I see the kids don't spend as much time outside and they spend more time playing video games and I see the kids nowadays they aren't as close as with each other as like my generation was.

14:00-14:20

A: OK and you wish the people would be more outside you think that would be better

14:20--14:35

F: Spend more time with each other yes instead of just on the Internet or on video games

14:35-15:00

A: Let's talk about for a second covid, can you describe what your life was like when it started and I guess give us a chronology sort of what happened from that point

15:00-16:03

F: So, when it started, we were going out a lot, we didn't think much about it. So, we still hung out with a lot of friends and family but all the time passed in more cases came out and we started getting worried a bit so we kind of shut down and stay indoors most of the time and only when out when we had to. During that time, I really didn't stay in touch much with people and I stayed more just in my room playing video games and not talking to many people so I lost a few friendships during that time. And during that time also in school I wasn't doing too great but now that it's all going back to normal everything is changing. My grades are going back up, I'm making lots more friends and we're spending more time with friends and family.

16:03-16:18

A: Alright fantastic have you ever worked before have you ever had a job. I know you're pretty so it's just curious.

16:18-16:40

F: Yeah, I've worked before. My dad would sometimes take me to do gardening and I would help around as much as I could and I always wanted to do more than I could but he wouldn't really let me because the machines are like dangerous but yeah, he still allowed me to help him.

16:40-16:44

A: What kind of gardening did you, what are you doing?

16:44-16:59

F: I would help like just take out weed or cut grass sometimes like helping carry some stuff maybe I saw that they were too heavy for him. I would help with anything I could really.

16:59-17:02

A: Very cool. And you did you like you enjoyed that time

17:02-17:03

F: Yeah, I enjoyed it.

17:03-17:12

A: What did you want to be when you grew up, when you were young?

17:12-17:35

F: I have always wanted to be a professional soccer player and now I'm at this age I see it's gonna be a lot harder than I expected so I have a few backups which is engineering, architect, or welding so I have quite a few backups.

17:35-17:45

A: OK yeah very cool and cool and why were you drawn to engineering and welding and architecture? It's quite different than Soccer.

17:45-18:03

F: Yeah, it's a lot different. I was drawn to it because I like working with my hands but I don't want to be behind just a computer. And just being able to imagine how things are gonna be built out or workout it just seems fun to me.

18:03-18:23

A: Do you have any role models in life that you look up to, people that you admire.

18:23-19:21

F: Yeah I do, I look up to my dad, he is very hard working and he's been able to by himself take care of our family which is now a big family but I also look up to quite a few professional soccer players always learning how to do skills that they do or shoot in the way they do and I also look up to one of my cousins, his name is we call him Chewe but to me he has always been very kind to everyone and he has always helped around with his family even though he is the youngest of his siblings and right now he's working very hard at school and he might get a scholarship for volleyball there's been a few scouts.

19:21-19:22

A: Where's he going?

19:21-19:26

F: He's right now he lives in the TJ

19:26-19:28

A: Very cool nice, so for volleyball yeah

19:28-19:29

F: Yeah

19:29-19:33

A: What's your favorite team? what's your...

19:33-19:39

F: My favorite team right now is Mexico or I also like Paris

19:39-19:55

A: Cool, very cool. Is there anything that you're struggling with in school or at home at the moment?

19:55-20:15

F: I'm really just struggling with my history class that's about it and at home there isn't really any problems. I have my own room. I just argue with my siblings a bit but there's nothing really big you're going on.

20:15-20:19

A: Is there anything you're looking forward to? What kind of dreams do you have?

20:19-20:35

F: I'm looking forward to going to college, getting a good job, maybe even becoming an actual professional soccer player and I would really like to make a family of my own and take care of them.

20:35-20:38

A: How many how many kids are we thinking?

20:38-20:45

F: Maybe 2-4, not too many.

20:45-21:06

A: OK. Have you thought about like what, I know you said engineering, but if it is there anything that specific that you think you might be interested in working on any specific area? That you've thought about, what kind of what kind of stuff excites you, do you like

bikes or airplanes or what kind of machines get you going?

21:06-21:20

F: I would like to build big machines maybe rockets or airplanes one of those two, or if not, I would just like to build computers as well.

21:20-21:40

A: OK very cool so you like the big and you like the really really small yeah. Got it OK, are there any teachers that you had that had an impact on you growing up?

21:40-22:33

F: I had this one teacher in elementary her name was Miss [Redacted] and she, the way she taught the class was very different than many other teachers she was always was kind with everyone and she would always check in with everyone even if they didn't ask for her and that really helped me a lot because I wasn't good at talking. So, she would come up to me and ask if I needed any help with anything and I would actually need help so that helped me a lot. And after we finished elementary, she still kept in touch with us seeing how we were doing and that helped me a lot.

22:33-22:35

A: What kind of music do you like?

22:35-22:46

F: I like most music maybe some Spanish music or some hip-hop music.

22:46-22:48

A: Any artist in specific?

22:48-23:09

F: I like Eslabon, Marca MP, Frank Ocean is pretty good, Panic at the Disco

23:09-23:15

A: Cool. What's your favorite subject in school right now?

23:15-23:19

F: Probably math

23:19-23:22

A: OK, is there any specific reason? You're just good at it?

23:22-23:41

F: Yes, um yeah that's pretty much I'm just good at it and math is just all about really the equations they give us so being able to remember each equation sometimes easy for me so I like that.

23:41-23:46

A: Do you have a favorite book?

23:46-24:04

F: There is this one book that always stays in mind, the name was Echo it was during the Nazi time and it was just like 4 stories you know about 4 different kids and that was one of my favorite books in elementary.

24:04-24:10

A: Where do you want to live one day.

24:10-24:20

F: I would prefer to stay here in California somewhere where it snows maybe



24:20-24:23

A: Because you like snow sports?

24:23-24:35

F: I enjoy them but I wouldn't want to get too much into them but I do like just being in the snow, the environment seems a lot peaceful.

24:35-24:48

A: Got it, so you you're thinking maybe like northern California like North Star maybe.

24:48-24:49

F: Maybe yeah

24:49-24:59

A: Very cool, is there anything that you've done that...what your proudest moment I would say?

24:59-25:51

F: My proudest moment, that's a hard question but I think in middle school I was very proud of myself because during that time I was not doing to well in school but I still had other things going on for me like in during school I was in the soccer team for that school but I was also on a team outside the school and I was also in a Sunday league so I was playing a lot of soccer and I felt very energetic during that time I had a lot more stamina than I do now really and I was really proud of myself for being able to keep up with those 3 sports, with those 3 teams really.

25:51-25:58

A: Is there anything that you feel like if you just had the power, you would fix, you would change?

25:58-26:32

F: Yeah, I would like to change how people to take care of the environment really. There's a lot of pollution going on and that honestly makes me quite sad. Just seeing how people don't care about what's taking care of us really. we need the environment to like breathe and all that and if we just let it all die then eventually the world is just gonna be a disaster really.

26:32-27:37

A: Very good. Do you have any dream vacation spots that you want to visit or like to check out?

27:37-28:07

F: I would like to go to Hawaii or Dubai. In Dubai there's a lot of fun things you could do like I've seen a lot of ziplining or jumping with parachutes, I would like to try that. And in Hawaii would like to visit the beaches over there, maybe you spend some time in a little cabin.

28:07-28:12

A: Fun now OK yeah Hawaii's a great vacation spot.