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### Sandi Richey

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# Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Sandi Richey

**Interviewer:**

Alicia Lombardo

**Interview Date:**

March 11, 2021

**Interview Location:**

Remotely via Zoom

**Length:**

00:55:50

**Interview Summary completed by:**

Alicia Lombardo, 2021

Makaley Montano, 2023

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**Description:**

Sandra Richey moved to Redlands in 1972, where she had to navigate a wealthy white culture that frequently exposed her to subtle forms of racism and a strong sense of entitlement. She began working as a librarian at the University of Redlands in 1974. Though she had no prior library experience, she believes the University hired her because of ongoing student protests against the University's lack of diversity among faculty. While working at University of Redlands, she also experienced racism, and she speaks eloquently about the difficulties of often being the only Black person in so many spaces, for herself and for Black students at the University. Outside of work, Sandi mentions the importance of Black organizations like the Adrienettes and churches as they were among the only places where she would see other Black people in Redlands. She shares stories of the unequal ways she has seen Black children treated in Redlands schools even up to the present day. While Sandi believes that things have gotten better in some ways, she notes that the town and the University still have a long way to go.

**Subject Topic:**

- Redlands, University of Redlands
- Armacost Library
- Racism within Redlands
- Redlands East Valley High School
- Redlands High School
- Redlands Unified School District
- Education
- Second Baptist Church
- New Hope Church
- Black Friday
- Smiley Library
- Black scholarships

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Sandi's neighborhood/house in 70s	509 West Fern
Gerrard's Market	705 W Cypress Ave, Redlands, CA 92373
Second Baptist Church	420 E Stuart Ave
University of Redlands	1231 E Colton Ave
New Hope Baptist Church	1575 W 17th St, San Bernardino, CA 92411
Redlands Public Library	125 W Vine St, Redlands, CA 92373
Webb's department store	n/a

**Temporal Coverage :**

- 1970s to 2021

**Key Events:**

- Sandi started working at the University of Redlands as a librarian in 1974. Having no prior experience, she thinks they hired her because of the ongoing protests happening at the university because of the lack of diverse faculty.

- During the 1980s when her children were attending school, they experienced microaggressions from teachers and faculty members.
- During the summer months at the University of Redlands, Sandi and her colleagues noticed that most of the employees that were laid off were POC. They called this “Black Friday.”
- Although people were nice to Sandi in the library, faculty members often ignored her when they saw her in public
- Sandi hasn’t noticed a real change in the racial environment at the University of Redlands - many things still need to change.

**Key Organizations:**

- Friends of Redlands Public Library
- Second Baptist Church
- New Hope Church
- Adrienettes: Caesar Hangen Memorial Scholarship

**Interview Index:**

<b>Media Format</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic Discussed</b>
Digital Video	00:04:03.000	Sandi often faced discrimination when visiting grocery stores - employees were hesitant to ask her if she needed help.
Digital Video	00:06:15.000	When Sandi saw people she knew at grocery stores, they often turned the other way and pretended not to know her - even people that worked with her.
Digital Video	00:07:01.000	While Sandi worked at the University of Redlands, herself and her colleagues noticed that everyone that was laid off during the summer months were POC.

Digital Video	00:9:29:00	Student Protests lead to hiring of POC faculty
Digital Video	00:28:22.000	told a story of her daughter receiving unfair criticism from an art teacher because she was black.
Digital Video	00:37:07:00	Advice to future generations

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:02.000] OK, and I'm going to start recording.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:02.000 --> 00:00:17.000] Okay perfect awesome and then I'm also going to record on my phone just in case something happens with the zoom device.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:17.000 --> 00:00:21.000] Okay, awesome.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:21.000 --> 00:00:34.000] Okay so Hi my name is Alicia Lombardo as I previously said, and we are here today interviewing Sandi Richey for the Bridges That Carried Us Over Archive of Black History in the Inland Empire.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:34.000 --> 00:00:35.000]  
And could you please spell your full name for me Sandi?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:00:36.000 → 00:00:43:000]  
Sandra - Sandra Richey.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:00:43.000 --> 00:01:02.000]  
Perfect, thank you so much. And the first question that I'm going to ask you is, What year were you born and where did you spend most of your childhood?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:01:02.000 --> 00:01:06.000]  
I was born in 1944, and my home is Colusa, California. Up North in the valley - I'm a picker. Fruit picker. My father was a farmer.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:01:06.000 --> 00:01:09.000]  
Okay, great. Awesome. Thank you.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:01:09.000 --> 00:01:18.000]  
And can you tell us a little bit about when and how you first moved to the Inland Empire and why did you move and what brought you to the Inland Empire.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:01:18.000 --> 00:01:30.000]

I have a brother, that's in the Marines, that's a Kernel in the Marines, and he was in San Marcos and I, I wanted to be closer to his family and Redlands just happened to be it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:01:30.000 --> 00:01:33.000]

I got a job here so I stayed here.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:01:33.000 --> 00:01:46.000]

Awesome, awesome and was that job working at the University as a librarian or did you have a job before that?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:01:40 → 00:01:46:000] I had a job before that, but it was a small job and then I got this one at the university.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:01:46.000 --> 00:01:49.000]

Oh Okay, awesome.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:01:49.000 --> 00:02:03.000]

And can you tell me a bit more about what the city of Redlands was like back in the day, kind of what do you remember about your neighborhood that you lived in, what would you see as you walked or drove around town, who were some of your neighbors.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:02:03.000 --> 00:02:20.000]

All right, my first house was on 509 West Fern, which is Fern Avenue, and I had great neighbors. In fact, three of my neighbors all worked at the university so I had great neighbors there, and Mr. Ready who lived next door used to play tricks on me so that was also lots of fun.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:02:24.000 --> 00:02:31.000]

And they've all passed away now. But as for-

**Sandi Richey:** [00:02:31.000 --> 00:02:40.000]

It was the snobby people, and it's still like that. We had a department store called Webb's, and I could walk into Webb's and nobody would ever wait on me. And then it got to be fun, because I wanted to see how long I could stay in there before somebody would say, "Can I help you?", and nobody ever did so, sometimes it was 45 minutes, an hour.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:02:51.000 --> 00:03:00.000]

Nobody ever said anything - they just let me wander around. But I, the thing that really got to me is that I knew that I made more money than they did.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:03:00.000 --> 00:03:16.000]

You know, a Webbs Clerk, I know I made more money than they did so it wasn't it wasn't bad. I mean it was - but it got to be really, to see if they would if they would ever wait on you, but Webb's just went out of business so you can't - you can't continue on like that to support the rich of Redlands. And Redlands is a rich town. If you don't believe me you could look around anywhere and you could don't see very many - except for mine - hoopty cars. It's not a poor town.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:03:34.000 --> 00:03:40.000]

And was this department store, was this in Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:03:40.000 → 00: 03: 44:000] Yes. It was called Webb's department store and it was down where - in fact it was where Albertsons is. Yeah, where Albertsons is I think, I think that was it, somewhere in there. A while back.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:03:52.000 --> 00:03:57.000]

I know where that is, that's very interesting.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:03:57.000 --> 00:04:00.000]

And like Gerrard's grocery store,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:04:00.000 --> 00:04:03.000]

Do you know where Gerrard's market is?

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:04:03.000 --> 00:04:04.000]

Yes.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:04:03.000 --> 00:04:15.000]

Well you can go into Gerrard's, and I can go into Gerrard's, and I don't get much help but you will. So if I want something good in Gerrard's I just will get you to buy it.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:04:15.000 --> 00:04:23.000]

And you've still noticed that even today?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:04:20.000 → 00:04:23.000]

Sure, sure it's worse at the university but we'll get on to that later.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:04:23.000 --> 00:04:38.000]



Oh wow. So, were you the first African American female librarian to work at the University of Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:04:38.000 --> 00:04:48.000]

I don't think so. But I don't know. We had a Lucinda that came, and they didn't keep her very long, but she was really nice - she was really good. And you see, the University, even though she was very nice and very good, Now she's, she's a library director at some great college.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:04:48.000 --> 00:04:55.000]

So, they miss out on a lot of people with their snobbery, a lot of good people.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:04:55.000 --> 00:04:59.000]

Oh wow. So what was your experience like working at the University of Redlands as a black woman?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:05:06.000 --> 00:05:08.000]

Most of the students were really nice.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:05:08.000 --> 00:05:21.000]

And all the students were nice, they were nice to my face, they might have said bad things behind my back but I didn't know. My bosses were not nice I had three that were actually really I would say that I had some problems with, but that's okay. I didn't, I didn't care.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:05:27.000 --> 00:05:32.000]

Right, and while you were working at the university, How did things change within the University community when it came to things such as racial justice, since you did work there for 40 years, correct?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:05:45 → 00:05:49.000]

44 years and some months.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:05:49.000 --> 00:06:10.000]

So how did your experience, or how did the community of University of Redlands change over the years and did you notice progress towards racial equality during these years or how did your experience of working as a librarian change?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:10.000 --> 00:06:13.000]

No, I did not, I did not.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:13.000 --> 00:06:15.000]

I did not have any.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:15.000 --> 00:06:28.000]

That didn't work out. No, it didn't change at all. And some of the faculty would come into the library and they'd be super nice to me, but I could see them in the supermarket and they would pretend like they didn't know me, maybe they didn't, but I would you know they would go down the aisle, I would be going down the aisle and they would turn around and go down and get another item.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:32.000 --> 00:06:39.000]

Okay. I mean, you know, it didn't bother me if you don't want to say hi, what can I say.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:39.000 --> 00:06:43.000]

I can't, I mean and it didn't upset me, I just noticed it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:43.000 --> 00:06:47.000]

I said, Okay, I see what kind of person you are.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:47.000 --> 00:06:51.000]

I mean, it doesn't it doesn't hurt to say hello.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:06:51.000 --> 00:06:58.000]

And most of the people that I discovered. A lot of people that were we used to. I don't even know if I should put this on but we used to call it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:01.000 --> 00:07:22.000]

And the first of July is when the salary letters came out, and we used to call it Black Friday, the Friday before that because we knew that most of the people that got fired would be black or some other racial, ethnic, they were. We used to call it Black Friday - we used to laugh and say who's getting them on Black Friday.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:07:22.000 --> 00:07:24.000]

Wow.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:24.000 --> 00:07:35.000]

But it's, it's just, but it's a lot better than it was. I mean, you know, I can't say that it's, it's just moving slow, really slow.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:35.000 --> 00:07:47.000]

I have to say that when I was coming up, you know that in the town I was from it was a country town, black people didn't get hired to do anything except clean houses and work in the field, and that's what I did.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:47.000 --> 00:07:50.000]

I didn't clean houses because I don't clean my own but that's beside the point.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:50.000 --> 00:07:52.000]

But that's what we did.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:07:52.000 --> 00:08:09.000]

We played, you know, bale hay so he drove a truck, a hay truck, because we could not get a job in the Five and Dime. All our friends we had were ushers in the movie theater, tellers in the bank, we didn't- they didn't hire black people.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:08:09.000 --> 00:08:12.000]

I went - I went when I was. Well, I must have been about your age. I was working for the telephone company at the time.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:08:17.000 --> 00:08:19.000]

And I went to the bank.

**Sandi Richey:** 00:08:19.000 --> 00:08:29.000

So I'm just going to give you this, and then you can go on with your thing. I went to the bank, I needed a credit card. And I asked the bank, I went to see the manager they said I had to see the manager and do you know what he said? We don't give credit cards to your kind. I've never banked at Bank of America since then.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:08:35.000 --> 00:08:38.000]

I just- Okay, but now this was this was 40-50 years ago, it's changed. I'm sure the man's dead.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:08:47.000 --> 00:08:55.000]

So, this experience at the bank, was this during the 1960s then?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:08:52.000 → 00:08:55.000]

Yes. Okay. And when did you first move to Redlands, in the, in the 1970s?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:09:03.000 --> 00:09:08.000]

Yes, probably in 72'. I started with the library in 74'.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:09:08.000 --> 00:09:10.000]

Probably 72'.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:09:10.000 --> 00:09:29.000]

Okay. And so while you were working at the University of Redlands, do you have any memories of students at all advocating for racial justice, holding protests or other demonstrations on campus or even within the city of Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:09:29.000 --> 00:09:29.000]

Hmm - Well when I came they were protesting.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:09:29.000 --> 00:10:06.000]

I think we talked about that before. Did we talk about that? They were protesting on the porch on this, on the admin building, about how they didn't have any black people. That's how I got hired, I wouldn't have gotten hired otherwise, because then I went to apply for a job because they had some openings and I wanted to work in the admin building, and they said, we don't have any openings, but you can work in the library. Did I have any library experience? No. And you know they shouldn't have hired me but they did because they needed me to be in the front, but that's, that's okay - good for me.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:10:06.000 --> 00:10:15.000]

Yes definitely. Definitely good for you.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:10:15.000 --> 00:10:25.000]

And so, were you involved in any black social organizations in Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:10:25.000 --> 00:10:26.000]

Oh, well.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:10:26.000 -->00:11:13.000]

Now that you mentioned it, we had one that was called the Adrienettes and there was about, oh maybe 10 black women and most of those guys were more affluent than I was, and they're all passed away, unfortunately, and it was, we established the Caesar Hangen Memorial Scholarship, and you had to be Black in order to get it. And that - that sort of had a protest because you shouldn't have an ethnic group to have a scholarship. So we decided to read it, we read our own -  
Before we gave the scholarship out we read the applicants ourself. So we knew who was Black and who wasn't. Well, that's the way it went. And so, I don't think we have

any more money in the Caesar Hangan and that was, that was many years ago. But that's what we gave it, it was usually for a black, black student of some sort.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:13.000 --> 00:11:26.000]

Didn't matter what the major was.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:11:26.000 --> 00:11:30.000]

Okay and was this scholarship for college students at the University of Redlands or was it for high school students?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:31.000 → 00:11:32.000]

Yeah - anybody.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:11:32.000 → 00:11:33.000]

Okay. And do you remember what year that was founded?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:32.000 --> 00:11:37.000]

It had to be in the beginning of the 80s, because there's 74 -

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:37.000 --> 00:11:47.000]

I probably joined in 85' - I'll have to ask somebody with that, I'll see if I can find, find some of it. I think Vicki is still alive, I probably was the youngest one there.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:47.000 --> 00:11:54.000]

But they seemed to have so much fun. That's why I joined.

**Alicia Lombardo:** 00:11:54.000 --> 00:11:57.000

That's great. And is this scholarship, is it still active today?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:11:57.000 --> 00:12:21.000]

I don't think so, because we didn't put any, the club disbanded, only because most of the members died, and I don't think there's any more money. I mean it was, It was founded by you know by. It was perpetual, you know by interest and all that stuff and I doubt if there's any money in it.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:12:21.000 --> 00:12:26.000]

And do you remember this organization that you were a part of, where did you all meet, and do you remember any stories about specific leaders or members?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:12:34.000 --> 00:12:50.000]

Well, yes, we met at each other's houses, took turns, so if there's ten of you don't have to have your turn. So we only met like once a month and- And what was your other part of that?

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:12:50.000 --> 00:12:58.000]

Do you remember any stories about specific leaders or members of the organization?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:12:58.000 --> 00:13:16.000]

I do but they're mostly dead, they're mostly gone now. Okay. Amos Isaac just passed away and he was a really good leader but he was black, and he was an educator in Redlands and he always ran for the school board but he never won. And that's the truth and, but people like that, there's a lot of them, you know that that tried hard.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:13:16.000 --> 00:14:53.000]

I even volunteered for friends of the library at Redlands at the at the Public Library, and made it on the board. They kept me for about a year and I was, because they did things that they did things that I didn't think were appropriate, such as I give you a for instance, such as in the basement of the Public Library - Have you ever seen the Public Library downtown? Anyway, it's huge, and it's got a big basement downstairs it runs the whole thing.

In fact, if you go down there you almost need breadcrumbs to find your way out. And they would do things like at the community center, and the north side over here at the community center, they wanted to give away encyclopedias, what kid do you know that could do their homework on a 1993 encyclopedia? That's the kind of stuff that again. Well, they have to be grateful to have something.

And I, and I would say, How could you be grateful it's 1993 its 20 years old. Well, it's better than nothing. No, nothing's better. Nothing's better. An encyclopedia that doesn't even tell the countries right. So, those are the kinds of things that Redlands does, they, they think they're helping but they're not. I mean, they're giving you clothes, but they have big holes in them. So they think that, why would you care, because it's a pair of jeans. It's got holes in it. I mean, you know, Give me something nice. Then it's, it's okay. I mean something that you really want me to have but jeez washed out old jeans who wants those? So that's, that's the way it is, in Redlands.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:14:53.000 --> 00:15:11.000] Thank you for sharing about that, about the social organizations, and just moving on to the next question: have you been a member of the local church, any local churches in Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:15:11.000 --> 00:15:34.000]

Well I was, I attend, but not a member of Second Baptist. And sometimes I go to New Hope in San Bernardino which is a great trip. It's huge. New Hope Baptist is pretty big too. Second Baptist is really tiny. They probably have a membership of 20. If they have that many. But anyway, I attend.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:15:34.000 --> 00:15:42.000]

And what made you decide to join those houses of worship.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:15:42.000 --> 00:16:34.000]

Do you really want to know? Because they were all, they all had black people in them and sometimes you just need to see people that look like you. I don't have blonde hair. I don't have them, you're, you have really nice hazel eyes, my eyes don't look like that. And I want to see sometimes people who look like me, you don't have to look all like me but at least comb your hair like that I didn't do but you know you want to see people that look like you.

Doesn't matter. I think if they had any other denomination I probably would have joined that too instead. But sometimes it's just nice and I feel I like if I was Italian I'd probably want to be around Italian people that look like me and who knows what spaghetti is. Who knows what spaghetti is supposed to taste like. Not Ragu on some noodles. That's why I joined.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:16:34.000 --> 00:16:43.000]

Thank you. And so you were talking about Second Baptist Church, where is that located? Has it always been in the same location?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:16:43.000 --> 00:16:59.000]

Yes.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:16:50.000 --> 00:16:59.000]

Okay, and then where is where is that located.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:17:00.000 --> 00:17:09.000]

What is the name of that street? The name of that street that's behind, it's behind The Vons. The Vons the supermarket I think that's 6th Street. So it's by Cuca's. Everybody knows where Cuca's is, it's on that street behind Cuca's, I don't know the name of the street, I can only get you there. But right now there's no church anyway.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:17:09.000 --> 00:17:26.000]

You'd have to look at it on online and since I took so long to get on zoom this time I probably couldn't get on there either. But that's why you just kind of want to be around, sometimes you just want to see a brown face.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:17:26.000 --> 00:17:41.000]

And were there any particular like grocery I know you mentioned a few earlier like particular grocery stores or restaurants that you visited a lot in the city of Redlands or anywhere else in the Inland Empire.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:17:41.000 --> 00:18:08.000]

No, well all the people at restaurants and grocery stores have been very kind. I, they might not like me behind my back but they've been kind to my face. And I used to get extra because I tell him I'm a senior citizen on my last legs and I made this may be my last meal. [laughing] They give me more. Yeah. That's it.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:18:08.000 --> 00:18:15.000]

And so I remember you kind of talking about how you haven't really noticed a change at the University of Redlands advocating for racial justice at all or like the city of Redlands but, were there any other changes that you noticed, within the city over the time that you've lived here?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:18:36.000 --> 00:18:58.000]

Some of the affluent stores have gone out of business, the ones that just cater to the wealthy, and some of the, the, the wealthy, the wealthy have joined more civic groups like not only Friends of the Library, but let's see.. Just more civic groups they've kind of joined in and what is that the people of the Lions Club and all that stuff.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:09.000 --> 00:19:17.000]

And I don't know what would happen if I asked to join one of them, I'm sure they would let me because they would be embarrassed not to.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:17.000 --> 00:19:20.000]

And sometimes they just will be embarrassed not to.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:20.000 --> 00:19:22.000]

I want to ask - Can I ask you one question?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:22.000 --> 00:19:29.000]

Would you feel, would you feel bad if you went to a church, and you were the only white person there?



**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:29.000 --> 00:19:32.000]

And everybody else was black?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:32.000 --> 00:19:35.000]

How would you feel?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:35.000 --> 00:19:48.000]

That's how the black students feel here at Redlands. I mean you look around and you say, there's nobody here that looks like me, and then tell the black students, that's how the black students feel.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:48.000 --> 00:19:50.000]

There's nobody here that looks like me.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:50.000 --> 00:19:53.000]

What can I do?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:53.000 --> 00:19:58.000]

And when I left

**Sandi Richey:** [00:19:58.000 --> 00:20:34.000]

When I, when I left I got a rocking chair, but I asked for that, it's not anything that, I didn't want a party, I just wanted to a rocking chair that said, University of Redlands, and I put it in the, in the corner so nobody would sit in my rocking chair. And that, and that's what I wanted. They're really pretty, they're engraved and they have, a University of Redlands emblem and stuff but answer my question, would you feel bad if you were the only white person in a group of all black people, would you feel uncomfortable?

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:20:34.000 --> 00:20:52.000]

No I don't think so but I definitely understand what you're saying, and I've never I've never really experienced that. And so, I don't think that I could answer that adequately. But I see I see that black people do that do experience that all the time especially at Redlands and so I've really never been put in that situation so I feel as though I can't really answer that because have never been in that situation but

**Sandi Richey:** [00:21:14.000 --> 00:21:30.000]

When Covid is over Alicia, when covid is over we'll go to church together and we'll see how you feel. I think you need to experience that. You might run out. [laughing]

**Sandi Richey:** [00:21:20.000 --> 00:21:30.000]

You'll have fun. We do different things, so you'll have fun but when covid is over you call me up and say Sandi. Let's go to church and I'll take you to church. A black church. A lot of fun. Don't forget. Are you a senior?

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:21:40.000 → 00:21:41.000]

I'm a junior so I'll be around for another year.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:21:41.000 --> 00:21:56.000]

So I have your phone number so I will definitely call you because I think that would be awesome and I've never been to Second Baptist and I think that would be awesome.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:21:56.000 --> 00:21:58.000]

We're not going to Second Baptist, we're going to New Hope. A big church. Where you see a lot of black faces.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:21:58.000 --> 00:22:05.000]

New Hope next one will put you right in the, in the, till you know how it feels.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:22:05.000 --> 00:22:09.000]

There's not enough people at Second Baptist for you to feel uncomfortable.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:22:09.000 --> 00:22:19.000]

And you might not feel uncomfortable in New Hope, but we'll see. Nobody else nobody else that has gone here will be having fun but you.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:22:19.000 --> 00:22:23.000]

You'll say "Oh let me have some people that look like me"

**Sandi Richey:** [00:22:23.000 --> 00:22:28.000]

And I'll laugh.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:22:28.000 --> 00:22:47.000]

So, did you notice? So with these stories. Did you notice that a lot of black students would kind of come to you and tell you these things or is this something kind of that you just noticed on your own, and kind of came to that conclusion on your own?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:22:47.000 --> 00:23:01.000]

Some would come. Some would come and talk to me, and some would you know, but remember, can you hear me?

**Alicia Lombardo:**

Yes yes.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:23:01.000 --> 00:23:14.000]

Okay so when you get to the University of Redlands, as I tell the University of Redlands students, this is my thing to the university, I'll tell them-All right, you're an African American. And if you want to be around African American people there's only one place I know and it's probably defunct as Motown Records, that has all black and Ebony Magazine.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:23:14.000 --> 00:23:21.000]

Now, you have to learn to get along with these people, because as you get higher and higher in the workplace.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:23:21.000 --> 00:23:33.000]

Hardly anybody will be black. They're all white. Go in a bank. I bet he's white. Wherever you go. You go into the lawyers office and everybody's white. Go to jury duty - everybody's white.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:23:33.000 --> 00:23:36.000]

So they have to learn to get along.

**Sandi Richey:**[ 00:23:36.000 --> 00:23:45.000]

And even if they don't like it go to go to church and look at people that look like you. But, yeah, they have to understand that the higher up you get on the scale.

**Sandi Richey** [00:23:45.000 --> 00:23:58.000]

The more educated you are - you're leaving off a lot of people, not only blacks - Hispanics, Asians, no Asians are always doctors and stuff so Asians can- Asians can usually hold their own.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:23:58.000 --> 00:24:02.000]

But, they're always in their own social sector.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:24:02.000 --> 00:24:14.000]

So, you know, I can tell them you know you're not going to be, you're not going to be around these people, these people - that's how it is. You're not going to see people that look like you

**Sandi Richey:** [00:24:14.000 --> 00:24:33.000]

If you're in the world of high finance, that you obviously want to be, since you go to the University of Redlands, other than that, you'd be at Cal State San Bernardino, because it is an elite school

**Sandi Richey:** [00:24:33.000 --> 00:25:06.000]

Who can afford to pay the tuition? Not black people. So, it's a lot - like my children wouldn't go to school there and they get to go for free. They wouldn't go to college there. Because there wasn't any black people. Free is free though. Free is free. They said they didn't want to waste your time. I said okay. But you'll pay for the rest. You'll pay for your own then.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:25:06.000 --> 00:25:09.000]

Where, where did your children end up going to college?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:25:10.000 → 00:25:17.000]

Cal State. Because it's affordable. A few years at Crafton and then Cal State.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:25:17.000 --> 00:25:27.000]

And speaking of your children, what schools did they go to in Redlands?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:25:27.000 --> 00:25:44.000]

Cameron - oldest, Cameron went to RHS and Leah went to REV. We're right on the line of RHS and REV and all Leah's friends were going to REV and all of Cameron's friends were RHS so I told them they could go where they want to as long as they can get in.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:25:44.000 --> 00:25:48.000]

And they seemed to be able to get in.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:25:48.000 --> 00:26:07.000]

And did you notice that there was a disparity of diversity at these schools?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:26:07.000 --> 00:26:20.000]

Sure - all the rich people go to REV and all the poor people go to RHS. And the party people or whenever you want to call it, they go to RHS, because you can tell where the line is, the line comes right out of, out of Crestview, up on the hills and they get all the hill people, all rich hill people go to REV. And you ask me that because you know it's true.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:26:20.000 --> 00:26:35.000]

Is REV Redlands East Valley High School? And then RHS is just Redlands High School?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:26:35.000 --> 00:26:44.000]

Yeah, yeah. And then the other one is Citrus. Citrus Valley. Very pretty.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:26:45.000 --> 00:26:58.000]

Citrus Valley people, they come in from Highland. So that's kind of an affluent school too because most of their, their students come in from Highland because Highland doesn't have a high school and RHS their students come in a lot from Loma Linda.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:27:02.000 --> 00:27:11.000]

Loma Linda doesn't have a high school unless you go to the private one.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:27:11.000 --> 00:27:26.000]

And were your children, were they involved in like any extracurricular activities in high school?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:27:26.000 --> 00:27:37.000]

Cam played football and marching band. Mia played soccer and was in the drama club. That kind of stuff. They had a lot of fun. Mia had a lot of fun with drama cause she's dramatic.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:27:37.000 --> 00:27:52.000]

Did they ever encounter any issues with racism while they were going to high school or what was their experience like going to high school at a predominantly white school?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:27:52.000 --> 00:28:03.000]

They never said, they never complained to me, because I think they didn't because they knew I'd be down at the school, and I think they didn't want me to act crazy.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:28:03.000 --> 00:28:06.000]

So they never said.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:28:06.000 --> 00:28:11.000]

Some of the things they told me bothered me but they told me that it was okay.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:28:11.000 --> 00:28:32.000]

Like, for instance, we had an art teacher. My Mia could draw almost anything she could sit here and draw your face and it would almost look like you so she was really into art.

Really so she drew this kind of an abstract picture and the art teacher said, “Why are you doing that chicken scratch? It's ugly and it's stupid” and she never picked up another pencil, she never drew again.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:28:32.000 --> 00:28:44.000]

And she was really good at it, it was, it was her talent. Instead of encouraging her to, you know, you know, that, that kind of thing.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:28:44.000 --> 00:28:47.000]

I'm sorry, that's so awful.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:28:47.000 --> 00:28:55.000]

And I don't know whether it was because she was black or she says that to all the students or - I mean, you know, I mean, everybody. Everybody's.

**Sandi Richey.** [00:28:55.000 --> 00:29:00.000]

Everybody is, it's all a matter of opinion.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:00.000 --> 00:29:05.000]

Everything is a matter of opinion. Spaghetti, Spaghetti I like it you don't.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:05.000 --> 00:29:07.000]

It's a matter of opinion. It doesn't matter.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:07.000 --> 00:29:11.000]

You know if you treat people bad because they don't like your spaghetti.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:11.000 --> 00:29:19.000]

If you want to use Ragu, that's you. In fact I really like Ragu.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:29:19.000 --> 00:29:34.000]

Yes, that's, that's definitely it's definitely a good way to look at it in that situation.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:34.000 --> 00:29:47.000]

I's just a matter of personal opinion. You don't want to like me, I don't care if you don't like me, but like me because of a reason like I smacked you in the face or something like me because of a reason don't like me because I like Donald Trump, don't dislike me because I like Trump, I don't, by the way, but it, but like me for a real reason.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:29:51.000 --> 00:30:04.000]

It's like me, for real reason, not, not because of my skin color, my politics, my religion. Like me because I slapped you or pushed you down or said something bad, then it'd be all right.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:30:04.000 --> 00:30:12.000]

Right, exactly. That's a very good way to say it.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:30:12.000 --> 00:30:28.000]

So kind of moving on to currently, and just, if you could tell me a little bit about what this current moment of living through the covid 19 pandemic has been like for you for the past year.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:30:28.000 --> 00:30:42.000]

Well, I say this but you already know this, we had covid my son got it and I really should have used the time wisely by cleaning the house and stuff but I didn't. So, it hasn't, because I just retired in January of last year.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:30:42.000 --> 00:30:49.000]

It hasn't been as bad as, as I because I was, I didn't know I was that tired.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:30:49.000 --> 00:31:17.000]

Now, I'm going to. I started, I didn't know what to do with myself. I started to work at Redlands school district. And as a playground aid. Well Mistake number 576. Because the other playground aids were not nice to the black students. So, I'll give you, for instances. I'll give you for instances that really bothered me. This is why one of the reasons why I quit.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:31:17.000 --> 00:31:40.000]

The little girl. She went to the other playground aid, I'm just a temporary right because I'm not, I'm just filling in. So she went to the other playground aid and said, I don't feel good. And I think her name was Veronica but I'm not sure. And she said, Veronica, you don't feel good every day. And she said, You can go play. And when I felt her I said she has a fever. And she said, No, she doesn't.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:31:40.000 --> 00:31:42.000]

She has one every day.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:31:42.000 --> 00:31:48.000]

She has one now. I said, I'll take her to the nurse and she said, No, you won't. I'll do it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:31:48.000 --> 00:31:51.000]

She wasn't even going to send her, and you could see the girl was sick.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:31:51.000 --> 00:32:10.000]

Now, that's one thing. And another thing, girl was black by the way, two kids fell, one of them fell, and the kid that was white he fell and she took him over to the, to the fountain and washed his hands off, and the black girl that fell, she didn't do anything she just said keep playing you're okay.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:32:13.000 --> 00:32:25.000]

I did it myself. I wouldn't have lasted too long and I would have had to, I would have had to have words with a few people.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:32:25.000 --> 00:32:30.000]

That's okay, that's just me, that's a house phone.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:32:32.000 --> 00:32:41.000]

Wow that's so unfortunate I'm so sorry, everything's like that.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:32:41.000 --> 00:33:32.000]

Things like that just happened. And I don't know if people know, I don't know if they know what they're doing. That's the thing. Do you know what you're doing? Do you know that girl was sick? Do you care that she was sick? If she said she was sick. If she said she was sick every day, then you should check her out every day. And her mother came and got her and she was home for three or four days, but I thought you weren't even going to look and the girl had a high fever. You could see by her eyes, I wanted to say, Aren't you a mother? Don't you know when someone's sick? or your roommate or whatever.

So, those are the kinds of I said no we can't do that here. We would have to be fired. I would have had to say something bad to people. Yes, no, it hasn't gotten, but I don't know if people realize what they're doing, and then whether they realize that they're, they're playing favorites like.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:33:32.000 --> 00:33:51.000]

Right. Definitely well that's just so unfortunate, and that is a very good question, knowing whether or not they do understand what they're doing, if they are aware, or if it's just personal biases that they've always had.



**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:33:51.000 --> 00:34:05.000]

Or if it's intentional, and that's why it's like so important to educate the younger generations from a young age. So that the biases aren't present anymore.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:34:05.000 --> 00:34:14.000]

And that's something important that I've learned from taking this class is how important.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:34:14.000 --> 00:34:19.000]

It's okay that's my that's my that's my cell phone it'll stop in a minute.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:34:19.000 --> 00:34:21.000]

Oh okay.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:34:21.000 --> 00:34:28.000]

And so kind of moving on again right now. And just how crazy this past year has been,

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:34:34.000 --> 00:34:44.000]

As you've kind of watched the growing protests for Black Lives Matter, What have you been thinking and feeling and how has that affected you and your family?

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:34:44.000 --> 00:34:51.000]

And have you kind of seen any protests in the city of Redlands or the Inland Empire.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:34:51.000 --> 00:35:01.000]

Oh, I've seen a few but the things that we talked about and. Okay, you remember when the when the people stormed the White House?

**Alicia:** Yes, back in January.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:35:01.000 --> 00:35:41.000]

Yes. Yeah. Now we all know that if that had been Black Lives Matter they would have had machine guns and fired them and brought them all down. They didn't do anything to these people. So those are the kinds of things that we wonder why when it was black lives matter you were trying to shoot him and they were just in the street. And now there's somebody in the White House, you don't do anything, you hardly do anything. You don't even come for three hours. So those are the kinds of things that I think that Afro Americans wonder about. Cause we all know that you would have taken a machine gun and get on top of that white house and mowed everyone down cause that's what you've done in the past.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:35:41.000 --> 00:35:44.000]

And I've heard. I've heard

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:35:46.000 --> 00:36:01.000]

Just many, many people say throughout these months about how unfair it is and that the treatment would not have been the same if it was black people at the White House, which is just so unjust and unfair.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:36:01.000 --> 00:36:10.000]

Yeah. I don't even know if they even have had any of them on trial yet, I haven't watched the news because it was bothering me.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:36:10.000 --> 00:36:21.000]

I think that a lot of them. Last I checked, a lot of them are put on like a no fly list but other than that I really haven't seen much but they definitely should go to jail like it-

**Sandi Richey:** [00:36:21.000 --> 00:36:24.000]

Yeah, we'll see.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:36:24.000 --> 00:36:39.000]

I've heard a lot of other people say these things. And if you could give some advice to the next generation, what would you want to say about -

**Sandi Richey:** [00:36:49.000 --> 00:36:57.000]

I would say hang in there. It'll get better it's been it's not good now, it's not great, but it's better than it was. If you march with Martin Luther King and you saw dogs attacking you and all that stuff. Okay, if you march now dogs wouldn't attack you.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:36:57.000 --> 00:37:07.000]

You might have some other things but you wouldn't you wouldn't get lit tasered shot and things are good things will get better, you just have to, but I would say to the, to the next generation,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:37:07.000 --> 00:37:36.000]

Educate yourself. You know, don't show people that you're silly and ignorant. Educate yourself.

Be, be smart. Because you can be smarter if you want to. You don't have to be dumb. You don't have to sit on the corner and beg for cigarettes. You can you can and school from high school is free and junior college is almost free. You can do it, you know once you have once you have a school ID the bus is free.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:37:36.000 --> 00:37:38.000]

So come on.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:37:38.000 --> 00:37:42.000]

That's what I would say, if you want to get better, you got to be better.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:37:42.000 --> 00:37:48.000]

That's what I would say.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:37:48.000 -->00:38:24.000]

That's a very important viewpoint to have and that's very true and, as I was saying earlier how important education is and... This class has taught me a lot about, so that's been something good to come from this class. And kind of looking back over your life, what do you think helped you thrive and overcome obstacles that you have may have faced just growing up, and while you were working as a librarian or raising a family.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:38:33.000 → 00:39:42.000]

To start off with, we had no black people in our town, so I was the only black person there. Till I got to college, I didn't know how handsome black men could be. But that's beside the point.

We're not talking about that right now. But anyway, so I would say that helped a lot. That helped me to cope with the University of Redlands, because

If you haven't been raised like that. And all my friends were white, it's cool because that's all we had, and they were nice to me, because that's, I mean I was just like one of them. So I think that that's what really helped me to get along and to be able to study and to get with it, and not be a not when, when I'm. When I'm when I, when people actually snub me or nasty me, it doesn't bother me because I don't think they're talking to me. I mean I don't. I feel like they're not.

But, you know, I don't take it personally and I know that that's probably not the right thing to do I don't take it personally I'm not going to jump on you if you call me names right that's your opinion.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:39:42.000 --> 00:39:44.000]

Yeah, definitely.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:39:44.000 --> 00:39:46.000]

Mm hmm.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:39:46.000 --> 00:39:51.000]

And I think that's a very good outlook to have on life.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:39:51.000 --> 00:40:13.000]

Um, did you kind of notice any parallels between the Civil Rights Act of the 1960s to what's going on right now with Black Lives Matter, or any differences or...

**Sandi Richey:** [00:40:13.000 --> 00:40:27.000]

No parallels because, because when in the Civil Rights movement, people were, were - they wanted it to happen. They wanted things to change. Black Lives movement, okay if it changes fine if it doesn't fine, you know they're not they're not as dedicated as the civil rights were in the 60s. The civil rights in the 60s we did, they do anything to help.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:40:28.000 --> 00:40:37.000]

And here they don't really have a few black lives matter okay, but they're not going to end and in the civil rights of the 60s we didn't tear down things.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:40:37.000 --> 00:40:53.000]

We didn't go into and tear down a building or burn up stuff in cars, we didn't do that. We just marched, we refused to ride the bus, that kind of thing. You know we didn't, we didn't, we didn't tear up stuff, just to say, all right, I tore it up. So what?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:40:53.000 --> 00:40:58.000]

What does that prove? Nothing. That you could tear up something. Doesn't prove anything.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:40:58.000 --> 00:41:05.000]

So, I don't think that there's any comparison to tell you the truth.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:05.000 --> 00:41:22.000]

Because the Martin Luther King and company, and everybody else - Coretta and they, they had one purpose in mind, and it was to get the vote, to be able to get a job, to be able to not to sit in the back of the bus, and they had a purpose in mind. What is black

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:22.000 --> 00:41:27.000]

Lives Matter, purpose? Do you know? I don't know.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:27.000 --> 00:41:29.000]

I don't know what their purpose is.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:29.000 --> 00:41:33.000]

They say they have a, an agenda but I've never read it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:33.000 --> 00:41:42.000]

So I don't, I don't know what their purpose is. So I can't really say that it's a comparison of sorts.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:41:42.000 --> 00:41:52.000]

Thank you for sharing your perspective on that. And did you attend any of the marches during the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:41:52.000 --> 00:42:01.000]

No, I went to a few, few rallies, they were, they were in the south. And I wasn't in the South, I was in Colusa.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:42:01.000 --> 00:42:07.000]

Okay. And what was your experience like attending those rallies?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:42:07.000 --> 00:42:17.000]

Well, they were humble, and it was almost like church. They were humble people were really humble and we want to do this. We don't want to sit in the back of the bus anymore.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:42:17.000 --> 00:42:21.000]

They were humble, they wanted, they wanted their rights.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:42:21.000 --> 00:42:26.000]

So, no, it was different, it's, it's not like it is in Black Lives Matter In my opinion anyway.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:42:30.000 --> 00:42:50.000]

Okay, thank you for sharing your perspective, that was, that was great. And just kind of wrapping things up, did you bring any objects or family pictures that were important to you?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:42:50.000 --> 00:42:55.000]

No, I have to find them they're in a box somewhere in the garage and I can't find the box.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:42:55.000 --> 00:43:10.000]

Okay, that's totally, that's totally okay no worries. Um, do you have any early childhood memories that you want to talk about or any, you could just like Do you have any pictures in mind that you could talk about if you don't have them that's okay,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:43:11.000→ 00:43:12.000]

I don't have any in mind.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:43:12.000 --> 00:43:13.000]

Okay, okay. Yeah, no worries at all.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:43:13.000 --> 00:43:30.000]

Do you have any objects in mind that kind of stand out to you that you've had for a while or kind of represent your life?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:43:30.000 --> 00:43:37.000]

No, but I will tell you this, I've been taking this one thing, one of the librarians went to New Orleans for a conference. Do you know what she brought me back as a present? I can go and get it and show it to you. A voodoo doll.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:43:37.000 --> 00:43:40.000]

A black voodoo doll. And I said,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:43:40.000 --> 00:43:56.000]

Oh no you bought me a voodoo doll. She said oh yeah it's good luck. Now that I know of. She said put it under your pillow. I got really scared I started to bury it in the backyard but I left it out anyway, so I should remember that people do give you voodoo dolls.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:43:56.000 --> 00:44:04.000]

I don't know if she meant it for fun or meant it for, you know, wasn't very good for me.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:44:04.000 --> 00:44:08.000]

And how long ago did she give this to you?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:44:08.000 --> 00:44:15.000]

Oh, maybe 10 years, 15 years not that long ago. So I know that you want to see it.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:44:15.000 --> 00:44:45.000]

Sure.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:45:19.000 --> 00:45:23.000]

Stay right there. I'll get it. I'm still zooming.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:45:23.000 --> 00:45:25.000]

Alright Alicia, I'm here.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:45:25.000 --> 00:45:32.000]

I collect, by the way I collect black things, so I'm going to hold this up to you. This is a black voodoo doll.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:45:32.000 --> 00:45:36.000]

Oh ok, ok.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:45:36.000 --> 00:45:49.000]

And it says right there. Look at her hair. It's a great doll.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:45:49.000 --> 00:45:51.000]

And it's from New Orleans?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:45:51.000 --> 00:46:05.000]

So I just wanted you to know that they make stuff like that. But when you go into, when I go shopping, I love looking in antique shops to see, you know, back in the day where they had that black guy that held horses, you know,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:05.000 --> 00:46:15.000]

I like to collect that kind of stuff. See how many things I can find. But she gave me that one.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:15.000 --> 00:46:19.000]

I said okay. Okie dokie.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:19.000 --> 00:46:23.000]

She's supposed to be lucky for money but I don't have any so it didn't work.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:46:23.000 --> 00:46:25.000]

Okay, okay.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:46:25.000 --> 00:46:32.000]

And you said you you collect other things, right?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:32.000 --> 00:46:39.000]

Oh you know I have a salt and pepper shakers and pictures and just things.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:39.000 --> 00:46:42.000]

Black and African art are my thing.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:42.000 --> 00:46:55.000]

I try, but I'm not paying anything for them. I like to find them in junk shops, they're more fun. Because they're old.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:46:55.000 → 00:46:57.000]

And then you tend to find them at like antique stores and Redlands and things or?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:46:57.000 --> 00:47:07.000]

There's not many in Redlands, but you can find them if you just have a day of just antiquing, because that's all I look for.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:07.000 --> 00:47:12.000]

I'll leave her right here so you can see her face.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:12.000 --> 00:47:19.000]

They made her lips red.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:47:19.000 --> 00:47:24.000]

Have you ever been to New Orleans yourself?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:24.000 --> 00:47:27.000]

No, I've never been there.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:27.000 --> 00:47:32.000]

So I said okay doll we'll, we'll keep you.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:47:32.000 --> 00:47:44.000]

Do you travel a lot, or I know during the pandemic things, you know, obviously things are different now but before did you travel a lot, or did you kind of stay in Redlands and the Inland Empire?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:44.000 --> 00:47:48.000]

My sister lives in Sacramento. I could drive interstate five with my eyes shut.



**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:47:48.000 --> 00:47:54.000]

Oh okay.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:47:54.000 --> 00:48:01.000]

Up, all the way, 8 hours, and back. Now that I'm old, I have to stop halfway I can't do it the whole, the whole eight hours. I have to have somebody with me, I can't, I can't do the whole eight hours I'm too tired.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:48:01.000 --> 00:48:10.000]

And so, I usually you know go see my sister but I haven't gone during the pandemic I don't think it's fair. So we just

**Sandi Richey:** [00:48:10.000 --> 00:48:13.000]

Nobody gets to see anybody, I'd look at him.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:48:13.000 --> 00:48:16.000]

We Skype sometimes.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:48:16.000 --> 00:48:19.000]

So it works.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:48:19.000 --> 00:48:21.000]

That's great.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:48:21.000 --> 00:48:42.000]

Well kind of as we're wrapping things up, were there other stories at all from just your experience working at Redlands that you wanted to share or just, you know, having your kids go to Redlands schools or just kind of what made you stay in Redlands,

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:48:42.000 --> 00:48:46.000]

this long and-

**Sandi Richey:** [00:48:46.000 -->00:49:32.000]

I had a job and I had children I had to support. And my husband died. He was changing a car tire and the car fell on him, so he got crushed so I get, I had, where was I gonna go? I mean I had a job, I had friends, and you know guess I could have moved to Sacramento but then I would have had to start all over again and I was kind of settled here and the kids were kids were three and six. They're 31 and 26 now.

And I have to say that Redlands, Redlands, let me raise my children. You know when you have a kid that's in the third grade and he has a play in the middle of the, you know, and he holds a flag up to say you know I am a soldier or something, they let me go. So, that was. You know what my beginning salary was \$2 and 75 cents an hour, and if I was, if I was really good, I got a raise of a quarter so I got to get to \$3 an hour.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:49:32.000 --> 00:49:35.000]

Oh wow, wow,

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:49:35.000 --> 00:49:38.000]

So that was when you first started working in Redlands in the 70s?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:49:38.000 --> 00:49:40.000]

Yep.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:49:40.000 --> 00:49:54.000]

One year they gave me a raise of one cent. So I went down to personnel and said I only got one cent, what are you going to do? He said well you're over the time, you're over the thing that you're supposed to be at you know that whatever you're,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:49:54.000 --> 00:50:06.000]

you're here, in whatever you're supposed to be. I said, I'm not going to take one cent keep it. I mean, what I am going to do with my one cent. So the personnel manager director in those days was really nice.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:50:06.000 --> 00:50:21.000]

So every three times a year, they cut me a check for \$150 to make up for it. And wasn't that nice? They did nice things like that back in the day. And so, but they don't do that so much now I don't cause I don't know what personnel is right now.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:50:22.000 --> 00:50:25.000]

So he would give me a check.

**Sandi Richey:** 00:50:25.000 --> 00:50:28.000

I thought that was really nice. From the university.

**Sandi Richey:** 00:50:28.000 --> 00:50:32.000

Yeah it's better than a penny.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:50:32.000 --> 00:50:45.000]

Yeah, and what year did you stop working at the U of R?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:50:45.000 --> 00:50:57.000]

Okay, what year is this, 2021? 20 was last year I did my income tax, 2019. January of 2019, so I have to figure out what I did with my tax yeah because in January and then I started working at the school, at the playgrounds.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:50:57.000 --> 00:51:09.000]

Right, right, right. And then kind of last question is, is there like kind of like a favorite time period while you were working at Redlands, like your most favorite decade?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:51:09.000 --> 00:51:34.000]

Yes, the 80s. Beginning of the 80s. They had the most fun people there, they had Klaus McMahon and Jean Swanson so we had a lot of fun fun people who did the work, and they weren't they didn't they weren't all about themselves. And when the ones we have now are all about themselves. So, you know, they just have to understand that, you know, anybody can, we can all read. Come on now.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:51:34.000 --> 00:51:43.000]

So, that's it. That was my favorite time. The 80s.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:51:43.000 --> 00:51:54.000]

Yeah, I definitely love the 80s so I can.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:51:43.000 --> 00:51:54.000]

You weren't born in the 80s.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:51:43.000 --> 00:51:54.000]

I know, I was born in 99, but I just love the clothing. It's so fun.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:51:54.000 --> 00:52:06.000]

Yeah it was a fun time, and people were nice, you know, people would let you go first and not crowd in and people were really nice. I enjoyed it. That's why I stayed because it let me raise my children and I and, and they were nice to me.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:06.000 --> 00:52:22.000]

I have to say they were nice, the majority of the people, not everybody but my bosses were nice my last five years the bosses were not nice. They were picky, petty and mean, I have to say that that's true.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:22.000 --> 00:52:34.000]

That's all right, but then remember at the time I was 74, so I could have left anytime.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:34.000 --> 00:52:44.000]

So, you know, I could have left, you know it wasn't a big deal. I mean, I didn't depend on it anymore for my job for my salary, or for my livelihood. I didn't depend on it.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:44.000 --> 00:52:47.000]

So that was okay.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:47.000 --> 00:52:52.000]

That worked. So when you, when you know you have to take it because if you get fired,

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:52.000 --> 00:52:57.000]

You're going to be under the freeway, under one of those freeway things asking for a dollar.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:52:57.000 --> 00:53:07.000]

And it didn't work like it didn't work out like that so that's a blessing.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:53:07.000 --> 00:53:27.000]

Right, right, And that's good. And yeah well it was so nice talking to you I really enjoyed it, I really liked hearing all of your stories that you had and it was really great to just hear your perspective of raising kids in Redlands and just being here for a long time.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:53:27.000 --> 00:53:42.000]

Because I'm pretty new to the Inland Empire, I'm from the Coachella Valley. And so just always hearing about the history of the Inland Empire is always really awesome and interesting to hear about.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:53:27.000 --> 00:53:42.000]

When you go home you bring me back some dates.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:53:44.000 --> 00:53:51.000]

Oh, I will. Have you been to the Coachella Valley before?

**Sandi Richey:** [00:53:51.000 --> 00:53:56.000]

Once. I liked it. It's just hot. It's very hot.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:53:56.000 --> 00:54:09.000]

It gets like 120 degrees in the summer so it's very warm.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:54:09.000 --> 00:54:20.000]

Oh that's awful. Your air conditioner must run 24/7.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:54:20.000 --> 00:54:30.000]

Gee whiz. Well I'm glad you're at the University of Redlands Alicia, and I'm looking forward to church now you know if you say you're not going to do it if you don't do it what will happen to you.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:54:30.000 --> 00:54:49.000]

I definitely will do it after we're both fully vaccinated. I'll definitely talk to Jen, I think Jen would think that would be awesome if I went as well.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:54:49.000 --> 00:54:57.000]

You could come as my guest. That'll be fun. My mother in law will be there. She's going to do whatever she has Monday, you're going to interview her on Monday.

**Alicia Lombardo** [00:54:57.000 --> 00:55:05.000]

Okay, great. That's awesome.

**Sandi Richey:** [00:55:05.000 --> 00:55:35.000]

That's Elaina Richie and Mr. Richey. They're older and they're, they know a lot of people because they go to New Hope.

**Alicia Lombardo:** [00:55:05.000 --> 00:55:35.000]

Okay, okay. Awesome. And yes so this transcript and interview I'll be able to send to you pretty soon so you'll be able to have it. And again it is for the Bridges That Carried Us Over Archive of the Inland Empire, and thank you so much for sharing your stories, it was very nice to meet you and I hope you have a great day.

**End of Interview:**

[00:55:50]