

## Afroditi Ioannidis

Interviewee: Afroditi Ioannidis, Kingston April 29th 2017, Duration: 11:11			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_IOANNIDOU_A_20170429B_KINGSTON_GKATINASAUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:10	Before 1960s	Nea Kerasounta, Preveza, Greece	At this time there was a lot of prejudice for low income families. If someone did not belong to a higher class family their options were limited. People were judged by their occupations – and you could see this prejudice clearly.
1:30	1960s First years in Canada	Montreal, Canada	By the time they moved to Canada they visited the service that assigned the girls to families looking for housekeepers. They would do small interviews to place the girls in houses, asking the girls what types of houses and situations they would want to work in (large families, large house, or small)... Afro was 23 and she was working for a woman who was 28. She had two children. Afro was finished work at 4 every evening, but she didn't know what to do or where to go.
2:43			Afro borrowed 20 dollars to immigrate to Canada. That's what she had when she came here.
2:48			On Wednesdays and Sundays Afro had time off from work. This is in Montreal. She met other people in Saint George church and soon made a circle of friends.
3:34			Canadian families that hired housekeepers like Afro treated their personnel exceptionally good. Life quality improved for these women: in 1963 there was no indoor plumbing system in Greek villages.
5:28			The first family Afro worked for was a Jewish family that treated her very nicely, although there were difficulties in communication due to language differences. Afro had learned English in Athens, but she couldn't have a conversation. She learned proper phrases gradually (formal vs. informal – for example she would say “how do you do” instead of “hi” at first).
5:40			Afro's activities after work included attending gatherings of Greek people. They would help each other.
8:10			After 8 months working for the first family, Afro had a job offer working with fabric but she didn't like it. She found it hard to be in an environment where people didn't speak to each other and were not able to be social (mostly due to language barriers of all the immigrants working there). Thus she tried to find another job. Afro's English level was better compared to other Greeks. She applied to Victoria hospital and worked in the production of special diets. In the main kitchen there were many Greeks working there that immigrated in 1950s and didn't know how to read and write in both Greek and English.
10:20			Greeks didn't always behave very nicely to each other due to jealousy. It saddened Afro because everyone had their own story, journey, etc; they were all in the same place together, and they should be more friendly and helpful.