

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Ayyam P. (Raghu) & Shantha Raghuthaman**

Raghu and Shantha met and married in India in 1972, which was arranged by their families, as was the custom. Both share family stories of growing up in Iran and India, living in England and later immigrating to the U. S. in 1974 for Raghu to practice medicine. Readers will enjoy stories of adjusting to life in Houston and Sugar Land with big cars, western dress and finding vegetarian foods.

31 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

Dr. Ayyam P. Raghuthaman died on February 14, 2016. His obituary may be found at: [http://india-herald.com/obituary-dr-a-p-raghuthaman-p4833-1.htm#.WXdpcji\]21g.email](http://india-herald.com/obituary-dr-a-p-raghuthaman-p4833-1.htm#.WXdpcji]21g.email)

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Dr. Alexian – Shantha’s supervisor

Prabha Bala – friend

Thara Raghuthaman Bala – daughter

Vikram Bala – son in law

Carol & Keith Kostoli – friends

Ramesh Raghuthaman – son

David Wallace – Mayor of Sugar Land

Dr. George Whalen – colleague

Father Zinnamon – Strake Jesuit Priest

Places / Businesses

Abadan, Iran

Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Iran

Asians Against Domestic Abuse

Ben Taub Hospital

Bombay (Mumbai) India

British Petroleum

Chennai, India

Compact/Hewlett-Packard

England

Fort Bend Women’s Center

HEB

Hermann Hospital

Houston

India

M D Anderson Hospital

Madras Christian College

Madras Christian College high school

Madras Medical College

Meenakshi Temple Society (Hindu)

Missouri City

Puna, India

Raphthana – Indian Restaurant

Seria, Brunei

Sugar Creek

Sugar Land

University of Texas Medical School

Youngstown, Ohio

Events

Shantha was born in Iran in 1951 and lived there until age 12 when a revolution forced her family to relocate to India and Brunei. She earned a Bachelor degree in Education.

Raghu was born in 1944 in India where both families knew each other. This led to an arranged marriage that has lasted over 40 years.

After medical school in India and England, Raghu and Shantha moved to Ohio for 2 years before relocating to the warmer climate in Houston, Texas.

It was a difficult transition learning a new culture and food but they both enjoyed meeting people. They looked up Indian names in the phone book and called to meet a new friends.

While Raghu concentrated on his medical practice, Shantha worked until her children were born. Then she volunteered at their schools and got involved in their activities.

Later Shantha volunteered for various non-profit service organizations and started the Asians Against Domestic Abuse (AADA). She was instrumental in helping various organizations understand the needs of Asian immigrants.

They love living in Sugar Creek and enjoy the diverse culture of Sugar Land.